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REPORTS

FROM

COMMISSIONERS, INSPECTORS,

AND OTHERS:

FIFTY-ONE VOLUMES.

—(*33.*)—

CONGESTION IN IRELAND (ROYAL COMMISSION)—
continued.

Session
29 *January* 1908——21 *December* 1908.

VOL. XLIII.

1908.

REPORTS

FROM

COMMISSIONERS, INSPECTORS,

AND OTHERS:

1908.

FIFTY-ONE VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

THIRTY-THIRD VOLUME.

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[Cd. 4098.] First Appendix to the Final Report of the Commissioners. Index to Evidence. p. 1

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

FIRST APPENDIX

TO THE

FINAL REPORT.

INDEX TO EVIDENCE.

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"To inquire into and report upon the operations of the Acts dealing with Congestion in Ireland, the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the Land Commission under these Acts, and the relations of the Board with the Land Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; what areas (if any) outside the districts now scheduled as congested, require to be dealt with as congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas."

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        - Actual working of a scheme sometimes proceeded with when suggested between meetings of Board and witness was certain Board would approve—Witness was personally responsible (H. Plunkett), III., 17904.
        - Instances of working (H. Plunkett). III., 17897, 17900-1.
        - Return concession—Boards consulted in administration of Vote, though Vice-President of Department was responsible for it only to Parliament (H. Plunkett), III., 17870-1.
        - Scheme itself was never stopped—Original authority practically carried Department through (H. Plunkett), III., 17902-3.
- Meetings—Frequency, Convening Authority (H. Plunkett), III., 1783-61, 17898-900 .
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    - Personal Factor, Importance of relations between Vice-President and Board (H. Plunkett), III., 17873.

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- Appointment of, an important factor in ensuring success of work (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19603, 20398.
- County Schemes were too large, and would be more successfully carried out by Local Committees in smaller areas (Rev. T. Finegan), VII., 38947-52, 38954-9, 38970, 38974, 38982.
- *Refer* also to title Parish Committees—Department of Agriculture.

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- Chairman, Selection of (G. Fletcher), IV., 21218-20.
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    - Needs of, not attended to—When controlling authority was drawn from well-to-do districts as well as poor ones the weakest went to the wall (Canon Sweeney), II., 9688-9.
    - Representation of—
        - No indication that they required greater representation (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20402.
        - Poor, and especially remote poor, districts not sufficiently represented on Councils (H. Doran), I., 3393, 3398.
            - No difficulty about representation—If area between Spiddal and Roundstone was not represented the district itself was to blame (H. Murphy), X., 55520, 55526, 55534.
            - Poorer districts did not suffer; their wishes could be, and were, communicated even if they had no direct representative (H. Murphy), X., 55521-3, 55527-9, 55535-7.
- Co-operation of outsiders having special knowledge of Congested Districts, etc. (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20400, 20405, 20415-9; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII, 42620-1, 42630.
- Department not Congested Districts Board acted through Committee (H. Plunkett), III., 18245.
- Development of County Committees' operations advocated (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20386.
- Distinct body from Technical Instruction Committee (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42620.
- Funds, County Councils responsible for supply of (H. Doran), I., 3395-7.
- Initiation of schemes, Functions of Committee in regard to (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42622-5; (J. M. Lyden), X., 52672-8.
    - *Refer also* to title Agricultural Development—Department.
- Nomination of Members by County Council—
    - Approval of Department not required (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10372-4.
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    - Very satisfactory (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19601.
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    - Congested Districts, *see* that sub-heading.
    - People benefited by schemes, representation of (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20412-4.
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  - Scheme of Work—
    - Annual Scheme submitted for approval of Board, particular line of action decided upon in Horse-breeding, etc., and adhered to so far as it was found suitable (T. Porter), III., 13616.
    - Restriction of Schemes to Congested Districts, but not to any particular County, unless it was desired to do something applicable to one district and not to another (T. Porter), III., 13617-20.
  - *Refer also to* sub-headings Authority, Finance, Transfer of Functions, etc., and to names of Schemes.
- County Committees of County Councils, *see* title Agricultural Committees of County Councils.
- Definition of backward districts could be left to Department and specially qualified Committee (Professor Campbell), IV., 20904, 20906-7.
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- Department of Agriculture, Work of—
  - Administration of Schemes—
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    - Local Authority, Administration by, when County was the unit (Professor Campbell), IV., 19601.
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    - Comparison unfair till policy laid down in Mr. Wyndham's memorandum of transferring further funds for Agricultural work had been carried out (Professor Campbell), IV., 20024.

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- Department of Agriculture, Work of—*continued.*
  - Comparative backwardness of work, Reasons for—*continued.*
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    - Time required to accustom people to representative institutions instead of a central department (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021-4, 20386.
  - Cork and Clare excluded from schemes in congested districts, scheduled area being very small in proportion (Professor Campbell), IV., 19587, 20021.
  - County Committees, Relations with, *see* titles Agricultural Committees of County Councils and Donegal County.
  - County Schemes not suited to Congested Districts, *see* sub-heading Poorer Districts.
  - Date of establishment of Branch (Professor Campbell), IV., 19588.
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  - Initiation of Schemes—Functions of Agricultural Committee, etc.—Department's power of rejection (P. J. Hogan), VII., 40743-56; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42622-5; (J. C. Conroy), X., 54869-72.
    - Power for County Committees to prevent injustice when certain parts of schemes were withdrawn (P. J. Hogan), VII., 40746-9, 40752-4.
  - Memorandum on work of Department, IV., Appendix IVA., pp. 179-220.
  - Number of Counties raising rate and appointing Committee for purposes of the Act (Professor Campbell), IV., 19601.
  - Preliminary study of conditions under which Department had to work, Conclusions drawn from (Professor Campbell), IV., 19588.
  - Procedure—A year's work of administration jointly by Local Authorities and Department (Professor Campbell), IV., 19601-3.
    - Congested Districts, System described applicable to (Professor Campbell), IV., 19607-8.
  - Subjects treated (Professor Campbell), IV., 20005.
    - List of Classes of Agricultural work of Department (H. Plunkett), III., 17936.
  - Working of Schemes—
    - Appreciation and development of Schemes shown by increased expenditure of County Committees (Professor Campbell), IV., 19608-9.
    - Complete justification of County Committee system of Administration (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
    - Great deal of good done within last few years (W. R. Bell), VII., 35368.
    - Not satisfactory because there were no Parish Committees, and practically speaking no County Committees (James Marron), II., 10069.
  - *Refer also* to sub-headings Authority, Finance, Supplementary Schemes, etc., and to names of Schemes.
- Finance of Congested Districts Board—Expenditure—
  - Additional Expenditure in event of Agricultural Improvement work being given back to Board, Question of (T. Porter), III., 14102-7
  - Estimate showed proposed Expenditure of £2,757—£2,000 to Department, £300 for Agricultural Shows, and £400 for organising Banks (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4534, 4540, 4554-5.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Transfer of Functions and titles Cattle, Horses, etc.

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- Finance of Department of Agriculture—Expenditure, Funds—
  - About £30,000 per annum should be earmarked for expenditure in backward districts (Professor Campbell), IV., 20903, 20907-13.
  - Additional sum voted by Agricultural Board for current year (Professor Campbell), IV., 20079-80, 20248.
  - Allocation of Funds—
    - Disposition of County Committees to give to localities sums proportionate to rates raised there (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46207-8.
    - Galway (H. Murphy), X., 55519.
  - Annual Expenditure on County Schemes by thirty-three County Committees 1900-1 to 1906-7.—Table IV., App. IVA., p. 202.—Explanation of Table (Professor Campbell), IV., 20166-71.
  - Annual Expenditure on County Schemes by Committees of seven Congested Counties, 1900-1 to 1906-7.—Table IV., App. IVA., p. 202.—Explanation of Table (Professor Campbell), IV., 20166-71.
  - Congested areas of seven Congested Counties, Expenditure in 1904-5 (Professor Campbell), IV., 20085-7.
    - Table IV., App. IVA., p. 202—Comments (Professor Campbell) IV., 20220.
  - Department's Contribution—
    - Adjusting expenditure of Department's Endowment, Question of (Professor Campbell), IV., 19604.
    - Proportion of actual cost of Scheme contributed (Professor Campbell), IV., 16903.
  - Inability of Department to apply funds to Congested Districts under Act of 1899, Unit of rating (Rural District), not co-extensive with unit of Congestion (Electoral Division), (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
    - Act of 1902 enabling County Councils to include all non-congested and exclude all congested electoral divisions from rate—Discontinuance of Contribution by Congested Districts Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1327; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
      - Arrangement made with Congested Districts Board—Board to contribute *pro rata* in respect of congested areas included in district over which rate was raised (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
      - County Councillors from congested rural districts, power to block schemes in non-congested areas (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
    - Complications arising out of various re-arrangements from 1899 onward (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10344-61A; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
    - Removal of Inability by Act of 1903 (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021, 20387.
  - Insufficient funds (Rev. M. Kane), VI., 34890-2; (H. Murphy), X., 55519, 55530, 55547, 55549, 55568.
  - Laboratories and other equipment for Technical and Agricultural Instruction, Expenditure on (H. Plunkett). III., 17926.
  - Local contribution necessary before Department could spend money (Professor Campbell), IV., 20221; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514, 23519, 23534-6.
  - Rate raised by County Council—
    - Amount in the £, amount raised in the various counties, etc. (Professor Campbell), IV., 19601.
    - Could be raised by County Council only (Professor Campbell), IV., 19601.
    - Limit of Rate that could be raised (Professor Campbell), IV., 20242-6.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—*continued.*

Finance of Department of Agriculture—Expenditure, Funds—*continued.*

Rate raised by County Council—*continued.*

Usually transferred to County Committee and applied by them, in some cases amount to be spent on Agriculture and Technical Instruction respectively was specified by County Council (Professor Campbell), IV., 19601.

Total sums allocated for County Schemes for the seven Congested Counties in 1906-7—Table IV., App. IV., p. 202.

Total sums allocated for County Schemes for the thirty-three counties in 1906-7—Table IV., App. IV., p. 202.

Unexpended balances (Professor Campbell), IV., 19610.

Surplus of past years now being drawn on, estimate considerably beyond income (Professor Campbell), IV., 19612.

Uses to which unexpended balances were put (Professor Campbell), IV., 19604-6, 20918.

Refer also to sub-headings Supplementary Work and Transfer of Functions—and to Names of Schemes.

German Colonisation Scheme, Working untenanted estates on lines of, proposed (F. S. Wrench), III., 14481, 14580.

Importance of Agriculture—No industry in Ireland so valuable as the land (J. Keaveny), X., 59007.

Country dependent upon Agriculture—Witness did not admit this, industrial basis required (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49928-38.

Improvement in system of agriculture for small farmers needed (J. Sharkey), X., 59096.

Agricultural development more important than question of compulsion (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49918, 49927, 49941.

Some men had adopted different methods from their forefathers with very good results (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33834.

Initiative—Difficulty in getting people who were used to a spoon-feeding system of administration to take any initiative in matters involving responsibility (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46631.

Loans by Congested Districts Board—

Amount of Loans—Total amount and amount applied to particular objects (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1662, 1666.

Number—Total number and number applied to particular objects (J. R. O'Brien). I., 1662.

Purposes for which Loans were made (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1662, 1674-6.

Rate of Interest charged to Borrowers and Rate paid by Congested Districts Board to Board of Works (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1663, 1670-3.

Repayment of Loans—No difficulty, Period for Repayment (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1663-5, 1682-3, 1685.

Source whence funds were derived (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1667-9.

Local Administration, Question of, *see* sub-heading Central Administration *v.* Administration by Local Authority.

Local effort—reliance on associated local effort should be principle of policy (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48278.

Local opinion as to Local Requirements—

Congested Districts Board should consult Parish Committee (Rev. M. Kane), VI., 34869, 34893.

Not desirable in introducing an educational system to consult those who were submitting to it where the knowledge of its aims was incomplete (P. G. Dallinger), VII., 38755-7.

Overlapping between Board and Department—

Instance in regard to Domestic Economy Schools in Dublin, etc. (T. W. Russell), IX., 51863-8.

Refer also to sub-heading Supplementary Work of Department.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—*continued*:

Poorer Districts scheduled or non-scheduled—Special treatment necessary (H. Doran), I., 3393, 3403; (P. M'Bride), II., 8973-4; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9693; (H. Murphy), X., 55568-71.

Advances by the State at a low rate of interest proposed (P. Treanor), VII., 37463-73, 37492.

Authority to frame schemes for Congested Districts, combined action by Congested Districts Board, Department, and County Council, Congested Districts Board supplying funds—Advantages of scheme (H. Murphy), X., 55558-89.

Committees exclusively for districts which could not join in ordinary County schemes, Opinion in favour of (Rev. F. Laverty), VII., 36360-3.

Congested Districts Board, powers for, *see* Definition—Discretionary Powers.

County Councils had no power to differentiate between different districts of a county (H. Doran), I., 3401-3.

Grants to be made from a central body without encroaching on County funds to meet special requirements of poor areas, administration by County Committee through a Local Committee proposed—

Objections to proposal, wastage involved, etc. (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41125-31.

Opinion in favour of (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46639.

Intensive organisation and additional funds from an external source required (P. G. Dallinger), VII., 38462-5, 38543.

Memorandum, Vol. IV., App. IVA., pp. 213-20.

More help needed than County Committee could give in proportion to rate—Less benefit under County schemes in poor districts than in richer ones (Rev. J. M'Conologue), VII., 38208-9; (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44707-13; (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46205-6, 46209-11.

Not possible perhaps to have a different scheme in each Parish, but special arrangements should be made to suit different districts (Canon Sweeney), II., 9698-701.

Supplemental schemes required in addition to what County Committees could finance (Canon Macken), X., 56246-53.

Time and perseverance required to effect lacking improvements (Professor Campbell), IV., 20919.

Refer also to sub-heading Supplementary Work of Department.

Prizes for Improvement in Agriculture, *see* Prizes for Cottagers.

Rate of progress—Ireland moving twice as quickly as England (W. R. Bell), VII., 35369.

Readiness of the people to profit by help offered (F. S. Wrench), III., 14481.

State Assistance—Assistance given by Foreign Governments. Information collected by Recess Committee (H. Plunkett), III., 17786-7.

Supplementary Work of Department—Schemes for poorer districts (Professor Campbell), IV., 20079; (H. Murphy), X., 55555-7.

County Committees, Attitude of—

As time went on County Committees would insist on taking over Administration (Professor Campbell), IV., 20396, 20919.

No tendency to withhold their full share of funds from poorer districts (Professor Campbell), IV., 20234-7.

Diagrams exhibited (Professor Campbell), IV., 20382-4.

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- Supplementary Work of Department—Schemes for Poorer Districts—*continued.*
  - Expenditure—
    - Details of Cost for 1905-6—Table IV., App. IVa., p. 203.
    - Estimated Cost for 1906-7—Table IV., App. IVa., p. 203.
    - Expenditure on Schemes since 1904—Table IV., App. IVa., p. 202—Explanation (Professor Campbell), IV., 20166-71, 20216-8.
  - Initiated by Department (Professor Campbell), IV., 20232-3.
  - Necessitated by backward condition of certain districts whose needs were very great and which had not yet acquired the habit of referring to a local body (Professor Campbell), IV., 20223-6, 20230-1, 20238-41.
  - Overlapping Question—
    - County Committee Schemes (Professor Campbell), IV., 20079, 20174, 20222-4, 20229, 20387-8, 20396, 20400.
    - Parish Committees (T. W. Russell), IX., 51792-4, 51798.
  - "Poorer parts," Schemes applied in—Test was not whether district was congested, but whether it required special treatment (Professor Campbell), IV., 20171-3, 20227-8.
  - *See also* titles Names of Schemes.
- Transfer from Congested Districts Board to Department—Working Arrangement come to in October, 1903 (W. L. Micks), I., 384-6; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021.
  - Authorities consulted—Sanction of Congested Districts Board, Department and Agricultural Board required (H. Plunkett), III., 18207-8.
  - Check on expenditure in first year after transfer—congested districts could not be brought into current scheme (H. Plunkett), III., 18231.
    - Disastrous, Machinery to a great extent put out of action (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20251.
    - Withdrawal of Money not felt so severely during first year of new arrangement, as many of the Sires provided by Congested Districts Board still remained (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20079.
  - Complaints of the transfer, Desire to see Agricultural Work restored to Board (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4490, 4491, 4493-4, 4521, 4525; (G. L. Young), II., 5848; (Rev. J. Maguire), II., 6142; (J. Doherty), II., 6369; (Monsignor Walker), II., 7222-3; (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7638-42, 7662-7; (Canon M'Fadden), II., 8058; (M. Harkin), II., 8455; (K. J. Brennan), II., 9367-86; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9694; (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10247-51, 10298; (J. Dunleavy), II., 10733-44; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514, 23531-3; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30087; (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 32007; (Rev. J. G. Digges), VI., 34514; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40212-4; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41132-7, 41449; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50346; (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54423-9, 54470-2, 54475; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55866-70, 55958.
    - Amounts voted not used (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514, 23517-8, 23520, 23522-3, 23629-30, 23633-4.
    - Inelasticity and inapplicability of Department's Schemes, whereas Congested Districts Board consulted local requirements (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514, 23528-30, 23532, 23537-8, 23609-10, 23623-7, 23628-35; (Rev. J. G. Digges), VI., 34514.
    - Kerry—No dissatisfaction in (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42634-6.

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- Transfer from Congested Districts Board to Department—*continued.*
  - Complaints of the Transfer—*continued.*
    - Policy of Department controlled by Council of Agriculture, two-thirds of which was appointed by County Councils, which in their turn were dominated by shopkeepers, chiefly publicans (Rev. J. G. Digges), VI., 34514.
  - Connemara—Improvement effected by Department (J. Lyden), X., 52684.
    - Not more done than had been done by C.D.B. (J. Lyden), X., 52587.
  - Date of Transfer (H. Doran), I., 2587.
    - Subsequent to coming into operation of Act of 1903 (H. Plunkett), III., 18209.
  - Defence of Department against Complaints—
    - Complaints attributable to want of Money—Board had been able to spend a much larger sum per head of population in congested districts than Department (H. Plunkett), III., 18194-7, 18228, 18231, 18242a-3, 18247-8; (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19580-4.
    - No direct complaint had been received (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1321.
    - Rapid increase in work (H. Plunkett), III., 18244.
    - Time required—Department had been at work only two years and it was impossible at once to adapt their methods to those to which congested districts were accustomed (H. Plunkett), III., 18244, 18247-8.
    - Work—No worse done than before (J. M'Arthur), II., 6732; (H. Murphy), X., 55531-3.
  - Difference in policy and work of Congested Districts Board and Department (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1328; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514, 23519, 23534-6; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26262.
  - Financial position of Department, Expenditure in Congested Districts, etc.—
    - Additional Expenditure imposed on Department, Amount of (H. Plunkett), III., 18220-2, 18313-4.
    - Additional Funds required (Canon Macken), X., 56165-8.
      - Estimated from the start that £5,000 would be needed in addition to local rate (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20249-50.
      - Funds handed over by Board absolutely insufficient (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20393.
      - Grant of £5,000 sanctioned by Agricultural Board for first year—Claim to be recouped placed on record, deficit should be recouped at earliest moment possible (H. Plunkett), III., 18215.
        - Resolution of Agricultural Board of 19th July, 1906, Claim to be recouped from funds of Congested Districts Board or otherwise (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1333, I., App. II., p. 272—Minute passed at Special Meeting of Congested Districts Board on 28th August, 1906, I., App. II., p. 272.
    - Amount now spent by Department (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60190.
      - Parliament should have given a further grant to Department (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60191-3.
    - Annual sum of £2,000 handed over by Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 962, 1317, 1324; (H. Plunkett), III., 18209; (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20216-7.

Agricultural Development—*continued*:

Transfer from Congested Districts Board to Department—*continued.*

Financial Position of Department—*continued.*

Bargain as understood by the Board was that Department would do for £2,000 the work which had cost the Board £11,000, otherwise the Board would not have consented to transfer (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60185-7.

Department unable to be as bountiful as Congested Districts Board had been (H. Plunkett), III., 18228, 18231.

Prejudice created against Department (H. Plunkett), III., 18242A-3.

Difference between sum transferred and sum previously spent by the Board—Congested Districts neglected (P. Flynn), VI., 33123-35.

Estimate for this year £9,700 as against £2,000 handed over by Board—Impossible for Department to carry on work in congested area (T. W. Russell), IX., 51723, 51759-62, 51789, 51884-5, 51887, 51936.

Large expenditure by Department was only for the current year and had not previously occurred (P. Flynn), VI., 33137-8.

Difference between sum transferred and sum previously spent by Board, Difference diverted to other purposes, practically to Parish Committee Work (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1324, 1342-6; (H. Plunkett), III., 18217, 18222, 18224-6; (P. Flynn), VI., 33123-35.

Agricultural Board had never contemplated diversion to Parish Committees of funds which according to Mr. Wyndham's Minute were to be applied to Land Purchase (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20055-65, 20070-1, 20075-9.

Amount of Money spent by Parish Committees in years preceding 1904 (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20088; (Dr. O'Donnell), IV., 20089.

Amount produced by the Rates and Expenditure by the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1317.

Annual Expenditure of Board prior to handing over work to Department (T. Porter), III., 14101.

Congested Districts Board did not adopt any self-denying ordinance in making compromise with Department, they did not limit themselves as to manner in which funds left to them should be applied (A. MacDonnell), IV., 20066-9, 20072-4, 20075.

Estimates for year 1902-3 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1316-7, App. II., p. 262.

Nature of work of Parish Committees—Temporary nature, Question how far work had to do with agricultural methods, etc. (H. Plunkett), III., 18218, 18240-1.

No such large allocation of additional funds to Parish Committees as was inferred (A. MacDonnell), IV., 20072.

Endowment, Expenditure out of (H. Plunkett), III., 18248-50, 18255-6.

Seed Potatoes Act, Grant under, *see* that sub-heading.

Supplemental Schemes, Expenditure on—Funds came out of Endowment and were administered direct from central office (H. Plunkett), III., 18248-9.

Agricultural Development—*continued*:

Transfer from Congested Districts Board to Department—*continued.*

Financial Position of Department—*con.*

Increase in Contribution from Congested Districts Board, Question of—

No stipulation as to giving more than £2,000 a year, no intention to give more (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1333; (G. Wyndham), V., 22883; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4539.

Terms of Mr. Wyndham's Minute (H. Plunkett), III., 18209.

Saving of Money to the Department, Amount (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4518-20, 4533-8, 4553.

Seed Potatoes Act—Grant of £10,000 in winter of 1904-5—a free grant (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1333; (H. Plunkett), III., 18251-4, 18302, 18304, 18307.

Board restricted by Act of 1891 from selling Seed Potatoes at less than Cost Price—Legally unable to defray any loss (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1333-41.

Department could have been more liberal in Congested Districts if they had not had to pay this exceptional and unexpected sum (H. Plunkett), III., 18313.

Interest on seed loans formerly paid out of fund now passed into Department's Endowment and from which the £10,000 was contributed, interest now charged to people who got loans (H. Plunkett), III., 18305-6, 18308-10.

Permanent results, Expenditure directed to, Seed Potato Grant only brought in because it was mostly an expenditure in Congested Districts (H. Plunkett), III., 18311-2.

Proportion of loan allocated to Congested Districts (H. Plunkett), III., 18300-1.

Source from which Money was derived (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1798-1804.

Statistics of Expenditure—

Actual Expenditure under each scheme, 1904-5 and 1905-6 in each of seven Congested Counties—Table III., App. XIIH., pp. 372-3.

Annual Expenditure by County Committees and Department in Congested Areas of seven congested counties, 1904-7—Table etc. (H. Plunkett), III., 18232-8, III., App. XIIG., p. 370.

Annual Expenditure 1901-7 on County Schemes by (*a*) 33 County Committees, (*b*) Committees of seven congested counties and Expenditure by Department direct on supplementary schemes in seven congested counties since 1904—Table, etc. (H. Plunkett), III., 18232, III., App. XIID., p. 370.

Estimated expenditure through County Committees for 1906-7 in Congested Counties—Table III., App. XIIH., pp. 372-3.

Special schemes, 1900-7—Diagram showing expenditure from Joint Fund and from Department's Endowment (H. Plunkett), III., 18239, III., App. XII., to face p. 370.

Summary of position (H. Plunkett), III., 18300.

Good will of the Board in handing over Agricultural work to the Department, Question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4517.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT—*continued.*

- Transfer from Congested Districts Board to Department—*continued.*
  - Memorandum on relations of Congested Districts Board with Department, I., App. II., p. 262.
  - No idea of handing over any of the Board's functions at time of creation of Department (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4496-8, 4527-9.
  - Parish Committee Work, No part of transferred to the Department (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4523-4, 4526.
  - Reasons for Transfer—
    - Liberation of time and resources of Board for its primary work of Land Purchase and Relief of Congestion (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4495, 4530-1; (H. Plunkett), III., 18208-9; (G. Wyndham), V., 22883-4.
      - Wording of Mr. Wyndham's Minute rather loose—"More immediate relief of congestion" would have been a more accurate expression (H. Plunkett), III., 18211-5.
    - Prevention of Complications, Overlapping and Waste resulting from two Departments working in same area (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1322-3, 1325-6; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4492, 4495.
    - Transient nature of Congested Districts Board—Witness could not say that that had influenced decision of the Board to any extent (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4532.
  - Re-transfer of work so far as supplementary schemes were concerned, proposed (T. W. Russell), IX., 51880-2, 51886.
  - Results of transfer not known to the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1317, 1319-20, 1322.
    - No further inquiry made after handing over work and funds—Not a good principle for one body to be watching operations of another (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4551-2.
- Weeds, Difficulty in keeping down in Ireland due to improper methods of farming (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49810-1.
- *For* particular Schemes, *refer* to Cattle, Fencing, Horses, &c.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

- Age at which instruction should be given (Professor Campbell), IV., 19739-41; (Canon Grealy), IX., 48885.
- Attitude of people—Fair attendance of farmers at lectures at Co. Down, apparently anxious to learn (A. J. Morrow), VII., 35796-8.
- Authority to control Education—
  - Complaints against Department, Board preferred (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6072-3; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23066, 23514.
    - Nothing Done—Department of Agriculture did not follow up the Board as they ought (H. Doran), I., 2584-6.
      - Complaints applied equally to Department and to Agricultural Department of the Board (H. Doran), 2588, 2593.
  - County Committees, Work of, should not be interfered with (T. W. Russell), IX., 51763, 51789-91.
  - Department and County Committees (T. W. Russell), IX., 51716, 51722.
  - Department if supplied with funds could provide for education (Professor Campbell), IV., 20858.
  - Evils of present system—Athenry instance (T. W. Russell), IX., 51722.
  - One Board with various departments (Canon Mackem), X., 56155, 56210.
  - One body, either Board or Department (T. W. Russell), IX., 51729-30, 51763.
- Board's Agricultural Department, Work of (H. Doran), I., 2589-90.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—*continued.*

- College of Agriculture, establishment proposed—Situation, Class of pupils, etc. (M. A. Lyons), X., 54517-29.
- Condition of the country, effect of—Minds of farmers too unsettled to benefit by education schemes (Rev. P. Finegan), VII., 38952.
  - Congested Districts, work of Department in, IV., App. IVA., p. 203.
  - Extension proposed—Memorandum on special needs of Congested Districts, IV., App. IVA., pp. 218-9.
  - Number of Instructors employed, Localities in which Instructors were placed (Professor Campbell), IV., 20251.
    - Tralee, Reasons for selection of (Professor Campbell), IV., 20252-4.
- County Schemes—Department unable to give details of (H. Doran), I., 2593.
- Danger of instruction in technicalities of Agriculture in bad districts, Condition of people must be first improved (G. Wyndham), V., 22885.
- Demonstration and Experimental Plots, Model Farms, etc., *see* that title.
- Department, Work of—
  - Areas of administration should be smaller, and local committees would be more successful than large county schemes (Rev. P. Finegan), VII., 38947-52, 38954-9, 38970, 38974, 38982.
  - Class of Pupils—Desire to exclude young men who would use schools only as a means of getting into some other profession (Professor Campbell), IV., 19680.
  - Congested Districts, Work of Department in, *see* that sub-heading.
  - County Schemes, IV., App. IVA., p. 185.
    - Estimated Expenditure for 1906-7 in congested and non-congested counties, IV., App. IVA., pp. 193-3.
  - Immediate introduction of system such as existed in other countries impracticable in 1900 owing to conditions of agriculture in Ireland, and absence of provision for training teachers (Professor Campbell), IV., 19588, 19614, IV., App. IVA., p. 189.
  - Memorandum, IV., App. IVA., p. 181.
  - Most important work laid on Department was that of laying foundation of a permanent system of Agricultural Education (Professor Campbell), IV., 19588, 19614.
  - Nature of Work—Nothing very practical (A. Larminie), IX., 50010.
  - Non-congested and Congested Areas, Comparison of success in—No difference (D. Moriarty), VIII., 43462-4.
  - Objects of Department's policy (Professor Campbell), IV., 16767-76A, 19800.
    - First necessity was to convince the farmer of advantages of technical education—this was accomplished by means of itinerant instructors (Professor Campbell), IV., 19743.
  - Popularity—Rapid development was evidence of popularity of Schemes (Professor Campbell), IV., 19862.
  - Progress of Schemes—Diagrams exhibited (Professor Campbell), IV., 19862.
  - Responsibility of Department—No serious effort had been made as yet to educate people in best methods of farm culture (D. Beirne), X., 59377.
  - Winter Schools and Classes, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Women, Training of, for Farm Work, &c., *see* Bean-a-tighe Classes and Munster Institute, Cork.
  - Work supervised directly by Department, Vol. IV., App. IVA., pp. 194-9.
- Dislike of farm work among young men, Causes of, *see* that title.
- Donegal, Trouble in, *refer* to Donegal.
- Inspectors—Placing certain areas in Congested Districts in charge of a Resident Chief Agricultural Inspector, Question of—One head sufficient, much diversity disastrous (T. Porter), III., 14112-5.
  - Personal Influence important, but more necessary for local instructor than for person at the head (T. Porter), III., 14116-7.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—*continued.*

- Instructors and Teachers of Special Subjects—
  - Appointments—
    - County Councils were now responsible—Schemes not quite suitable for some of the congested districts; Retention of a certain number of the men employed by Congested Districts Board (T. Porter), III., 13806.
    - Procedure in connection with (T. Porter), III., 13793-4, 13796-800, 13811.
  - Class of men appointed (T. Porter), III., 13795.
  - District which one resident Instructor could serve (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33830-2.
  - Duties (T. Porter), III., 13792.
  - Itinerant Instructors, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Nationality of Teachers—
    - Department used its influence to induce Committees to wait for Irish teachers—Reasons (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19889-902.
      - Department advised only, they never prevented a Committee from importing teachers (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19896, 19902.
      - Unnecessary, local authorities keen enough on that matter (G. Fletcher), IV., 21066.
    - Donegal, difficulty in, *see* Donegal.
    - Irish teachers most likely to be successful (M. A. Lyons), X., 54518.
    - Non-Irish teachers freely employed while supply from Irish schools was inadequate (G. Fletcher), IV., 21066, 21083.
  - Number (T. Porter), III., 13804, 13809.
    - District given to each man—Sometimes more than one Instructor in a county (T. Porter), III., 13802-3, 13805, 13806-8.
    - Number employed by the Board, Allocation to different places in Congested Districts (T. Porter), III., 13792.
  - Parish Priests, training of, as instructors for Congested Districts (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52630-9; (Canon Macken), X., 56154, 56302-8.
  - Pay (T. Porter), III., 13801.
    - Agricultural Instructor paid directly by Department (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19856.
  - Supply of qualified Teachers difficulty—Department insisted on having properly trained teachers (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19859.
    - Alternatives were to wait till Irish teachers were trained or import teachers from Great Britain (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19889.
    - Future demands would be supplied by Department's Colleges (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19903.
    - Local men, educating to act as Instructors proposed (J. J. Aird), VII., 39454.
    - Nationality of Teachers, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Training of teachers—Agricultural side to Training Colleges needed (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46146.
  - Value of work done (Canon Macken), X., 56154.
- Itinerant Instructors—
  - Annual Revision of Schemes (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19856.
  - Board usually had a man living in district, Department sent lecturers now and again (J. Doherty), II., 6369-70.
  - Class of people attending lectures (J. O'Hare), VII., 35405.
  - Cost—Paid out of Joint Fund (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19856.
  - Congested Districts, Schemes working in (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19857-9.
  - County Committees, Work under immediate direction of (Professor Campbell), IV., 19856.
  - Districts not numerous enough, and in some cases lectures not given in most suitable districts (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33825-7.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—*continued.*

- Itinerant Instructors—*continued.*
  - Duties (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20916.
    - Demonstration plots, duties in regard to (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40455-6.
    - Overlapping, No danger of, local instructors would be supervised by head Agricultural Instructor (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20916.
    - Practical rather than technical teaching should be their first object (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20914.
  - Length of period of instruction in one district, period intervening before reappearance in same district (W. R. Bell), VII., 35346-7; (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42880.
    - Continuous instruction for a few months rather than a few weeks suggested (W. R. Bell), VII., 35355.
  - Number of instructors employed, Number required per county (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19860-1.
  - Pioneer Instructors sent out by Department at first when there were very few instructors available (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19856.
  - Value of work—Value in comparison with that of Resident Instructors, etc.—
    - Doubtful utility (S. Morris), VII., 37739-44.
    - Impossible to have Resident Instructors (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19760-2.
    - Itinerant Instructors useful in some subjects and not in others (J. Marron), II., 10069.
    - Lectures of little or no value without practical instruction (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32400-4; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33830-9; (M. Roddy), VI., 34811, 34837-42; (J. O'Hare), VII., 35405, 35420-3, 35430; (Peter Clarke), VII., 38128; (Rev. P. O'Doherty), VII., 38562-3; (M. Mescal), VII., 40358-9; (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40450, 40458, 40485, 40488-95, 40507, 40518-9; (T. K. Daly), VII., 40523.
    - Limited value in arousing a certain scientific spirt of inquiry (J. O'Hare), VII., 35405-6.
    - Opinion against Itinerant Instructors (H. Doran), I., 2590-2, 3067; (J. O'Hare), VII., 35407-14.
    - Resident Instructors needed in a congested district (J. Doherty), II., 6370-3; (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7667; (W. Montgomery), II., 8101-2; (Col. Irvine), II., 8317-23; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30098-9, 30114; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30405-7; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33828-9; (M. Roddy), VI., 34812; (S. Morris), VII., 37739-40, 37745-6; (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46625-6, 46631; (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54426.
    - Value of work (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19743, 19763, 19766, 19856, 19859, 20897; (W. R. Bell), VII., 35344; (A. J. Morrow), VII., 35859; (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46625.
    - Very few understood the lectures and fewer still carried out the suggestions (J. Dunleavy), II., 10739-44; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25733.
- Landlords, Provision of instruction by—
  - Hill, Lord George—Appointment of practical agriculturist to instruct tenants (Colonel Irvine), II., 8267.
  - Premiums, etc., offered for Agricultural Societies and rules regulating them on witness's estate in 1840, 1844 and 1848—Encouragement of energy and enterprise (W. H. Boyd), V., 23101-2.
- National Schools, Instruction in—
  - Allotments on the same system as in English Village Schools would be useful in Ireland (J. R. Baillie), II., 10547.
  - Class Books issued by National Board not adapted to North of Ireland (James O'Donnell of Kilraine), II., 12035.
  - Desirable, but it must be supplemented by education for the older people (D. Moriarty), VIII., 43467-76.

Agricultural Education—*continued.*

- National Schools, Instruction in—*continued.*
  - Instruction should be given in Primary Schools, because children left school at 14 or 15, and it was hard to get hold of them afterwards (J. R. Baillie), II., 10548-50.
  - Nature of instruction required, form in which it should be given—
    - Compulsory and practical instruction desirable (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46109, 46143-4, 46148-52, 46155.
    - Farms should be attached to schools, and permanent teachers employed (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30110-3, 30115; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44778, 44781, 44821; (J. F. Ward), X., 57566.
    - Practical Instruction (P. Nicholson), VI., 30409-11.
    - School gardens or plots advanced, and skilled teaching (J. O'Hare), VII., 35428, 35431; (Rev. P. Glynn), VIII., 40197-207; (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46731-3; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52643; (J. Kelly), X., 53917-9.
  - Opinion in favour of (J. O'Hare), VII., 35427; (J. Byrne), VII., 36260; (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40467-9; (Rev. M. Keaveney), X., 51654; (H. Burke), X., 52061-2; (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53423-7; (M. A. Lyons), X., 54589-91; (J. F. Ward), X., 57566.
  - Training of teachers in Agriculture, Opinion in favour of, if other subjects were left out of present curriculum (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52643-4.
- Nature of Education required, Form in which it should be given (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20858, 20892.
  - Agricultural Schools, where boys could get one full day per week instruction to be attached to National School, proposed (Canon Grealey), IX., 48884-5.
  - Central National School for a parish would be very useful (J. Doherty), II., 6374-5; (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38200-5.
  - Central place in parish where boys could, without interference with their literary work, use their hands in practical farming (J. O'Hare), VII., 35429.
  - Classes for lads of about 17 where theoretical instruction could be supplemented by practical demonstration (J. O'Hare), VII., 35415-8.
    - Stations or farms which should be conducted according to system of model instruction, proposed (J. O'Hare), VII., 35419.
  - Demonstration and experimental plots, model farms, etc., *see* that title.
  - Experimental mountain farm establishment in each barony, proposed (T. Swan), I., 5941.
  - Experimental plots for teaching boys, Opinion in favour of, if adapted the North of Ireland (James O'Donnell, of Kilraine), II., 12036.
  - Farmer in locality, Question of working through (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43981-4; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44822.
  - Gardeners' Education (J. E. O'Doherty), I., 6064.
  - Holding proposed in each parish under supervision of a man from the Board (Canon Sweeney), II., 9759.
  - Improvement of Holdings, Agricultural Instruction should be closely allied to (Canon Macken), X., 56169-70.
  - Instruction should be on some industry in neighbourhoods which would bring immediate profit (Rev. T. Finegan), VII., 38945, 38961-6, 38972, 38982.
  - Itinerant Instructors, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Large farm in each county for teaching young men agriculture on improved methods (J. R. Baillie), II., 10544.
  - Lectures, classes and experimental plots admirable means of instruction for well-educated and experienced farmers, utterly useless for Western fishermen and islanders (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514.

Agricultural Education—*continued.*

- Nature of Education required—*continued.*
  - Local Committees required, Formation in each rural district proposed (M. Cassidy), X., 59371.
  - Manure—Instruction in use of Artificial Manure proposed (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33822-4.
  - National Schools, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Placing an Instructor in the centre of 400 or 500 new Holdings created on Untenanted Land—Suggestion that he should work a 25-acre holding with mixed farming (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25733-4, 25886A.
  - School in each Parish with five or six acres attached to it cultivated in a model way proposed (J. R. Bailie), II., 10545.
  - School in every parish, and one central school should be established for boys from sixth standard or those leaving school (T. K. Daly), VII., 40523-9
  - Schools needed—Success of former schools in Londonderry (Rev. P. O'Doherty), VII., 38557.
  - Special treatment required by Congested Districts (H. Doran), I., 3399-400, 3405.
    - Department of Agriculture or Congested Districts Board should have means and powers to give the kind of treatment required in conjunction with County Council (H. Doran), I., 3403-4.
  - Vegetable cultivation, Teaching of, proposed—Successful efforts of witness in distributing vegetable-seeds, making his own garden an exhibition plot, etc. (Rev. J. Flatley), IX., 52326, 52329-34.
- Need for Instruction (H. Doran), I., 2583, 2593, 2595-6, 3066-7; (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20857; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23299; (J. M'Carron), II., 12149; (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 31987; (E. Browne), VII., 40029-32; (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40450; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48172; (A. Larmine), IX., 49978-9, 49988, 50010; (Rev. J. Flatley), X., 52326; (Canon Macken), X., 56154; (M. Cassidy), X., 59365, 59371-2.
  - Demand on part of farmers for information—Technical Correspondence of Department, IV., App. IVA., p. 198.
  - Department should be represented at transfer of land whichever purchasing body bought estate in order to secure provision for education (Canon Lyons), IX., 49412.
  - Improvement necessarily slow (W. H. Boyd), V., 23297.
  - Necessary preliminary to success of migrants, *refer* to title Migration.
  - Reluctance to put capital into the soil largely due to ignorance (W. H. Boyd), V., 22982-4.
  - Rotation Grass, importance of—Absence of rotation grass in Ireland showed ignorance of the rudiments of agriculture (M. Cassidy), X., 59358-60, 59362-4, 59368-9, 59371-2.
- Not much done until recently (Colonel Knox-Gore), IX., 47441.
- Other countries, Means by which education had been provided in—Work of County Councils, etc. (Professor Campbell), IV., 20892-6.
  - Means non-existent in West of Ireland (Professor Campbell), IV., 20897.
- Provision for Agricultural Education before creation of Department (Professor Campbell), IV., 19614-5.
  - Agricultural Model Schools had been abandoned and National Schools had been left—Opinion that it ought to have been the reverse (C. O'Connor), X., 53723.
    - All institutions abandoned except the Albert Training Institute, Glasnevin, and the Munster Institute, Cork, reasons, etc. (Professor Campbell), IV., 19614, 19641-2.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—*continued.*

- Provision for Agricultural Education—*continued.*
  - All institutions abandoned—*continued.*
    - Albert Institute was a Government institution, and the Munster Institute was very largely assisted by Government (Professor Campbell), IV., 19650-8.
    - Free Trade doctrines, Effect of—Extract from report of Recess Committee and from letters of Sir Patrick Keenan (Professor Campbell), IV., 19627-37.
    - Objection to spending money on training of men who would probably become land stewards, land agents, and so on (Professor Campbell), IV., 19616-7.
  - National Schools—Instruction in—
    - Department was paying for work which could be done in the National Schools and had been provided for prior to 1900 (J. O'Hare), VII., 35426.
    - Extent to which provision had been made in (Prof. Campbell), IV., 19618-21, 19623-4, 19627, 19644-7, 19658-63.
      - Instruction given formerly but on wrong system (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44779-80; (J. Kelly), X., 53918.
  - Nature of Education given—probably teachers were not sufficiently instructed (Professor Campbell), IV., 19638
- Rates in the pound, 1900-1907, in congested districts counties, I., App. II., p. 284.
- Tillage—Question of increase of tillage by instruction in agriculture (J. G. Quilty), VI., 28475-6; (P. M'Nulty), VI., 28966, 28971-3.
- Winter Schools and Classes, Provision by the Department, IV., App. IV.A., p. 184.
  - Class-room and practical teaching not always given by same person, Advantage of having two representatives of Department (Professor Campbell), IV., 19837-8, 19842-4.
  - Classes—Time when held, frequency, etc., (Professor Campbell), IV., 19845-6.
  - Experimental plots were at pupils' homes (Professor Campbell), IV., 19836, 19847.
    - Advantages of plan quite as great as those of having plot attached to School (Professor Campbell), IV., 19849-56.
  - Non-residential (Professor Campbell), IV., 19834.
  - Number and situation of Schools (Professor Campbell), IV., 19772-4.
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- Supply sufficient (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41350.
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  - Country big enough to support present population, and more (M. Finucane), III., 15406.
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  - Amount limited (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25593.
    - Insufficient to raise all holdings to £10 valuation (M. Finucane), III., 15469.
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  - Definition of non-residential land (H. Doran), I., 2713.
  - Eleven or six months' system, grass lands let on (F. S. Wrench), IV., 14872, 14918.
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    - Demesnes should be left with landlords (M. Finucane), III., 15729.
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- Valuation of land available in Counties of which portions had been scheduled as Congested for the whole of Ireland, III., App. VII., Table III., p. 323.
- Valuation of land available in the different Counties and Provinces, III., App. VII., Table III., p. 322.
- Whereabouts of land, no difficulty in ascertaining, it would take some time, but not long (F. S. Wrench), III., 14879-83.
- Wrench's, Mr., Statement of Views, III., App. VIA., p. 302.
- *Refer also* to Compulsory Powers—Need for, and *for* particular counties and places, *see* their names.

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- Evidence, VII., 38999-9021.

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- Evidence, IV., 21261-450, App. VI., pp. 232-5.

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- Congested condition—Enlargement of holdings needed, Attitude of landlords in regard to sale of land (T. Glynn), X., 57870; (M. Considine), VII., 39544.
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  - Keeping accumulated Arrears on books although they were absolutely irrecoverable—Arrears held *in terrorem* over tenant (M. Finucane), III., 15919-20.
    - Landlords criticised for their generosity (W. H. Boyd), V., 24353.
    - Slur cast on landlords by Mr. Finucane's statement—witness had failed to find a single instance in support of Statement (W. H. Boyd), V., 24290-1, 24319, 24345-50.
      - Correction—Mr. Finucane's Statement did not apply to all landlords (W. H. Boyd), V., 24351-2.
  - Receipts given without mention of gale day—If no gale day was shown on receipt under Deasy's Act the receipt was *prima facie* evidence that rent was paid up to date (W. H. Boyd), V., 24353.
  - Whole circumstances would be reviewed by the Court if landlord proceeded to recover anything from tenant (M. Finucane), III., 15931-2.
  - Wiped out on well-managed estates if arrears became heavy (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51312-7.
- Amount cancelled by Arrears Act of 1882—compensation paid, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24376-9.

Arrears of Rent—*continued.*

Difference between rent and interest pending sale, arrears accumulating—Difficulty in collecting arrears if property were not after all declared an estate (W. H. Boyd), V., 24185-90, 24195-6, 24208-10, 24264-9.

Fair rents, fixing—Arrears preventing tenants from going into Court (P. O'Doherty), II., 6729; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34666, 34669, 34698-701; (T. O'Donnell). VIII., 42784-8; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43160.

Methods of settling with the landlord (J. M'Carron), II., 12155-7.
Prevalence (H. Doran), I., 3228; (M. Kelly), VI., 27837.
Price of land, Effect on, *refer* to title Price of Land.
Purchase—Board always purchased arrears, otherwise owners might sue tenants after sale to Board (H. Doran), I., 3229, 3233-4.
Objection to practice—Arrears should not be bought unless they got a grant (T. Moran), VI., 30902.
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Tenants not asked to pay more than proportion paid by Board—Balance cancelled (H. Doran), I., 3231-2, 3236.

Recovery of Arrears—Procedure (W. H. Boyd), 24212-3.
Two years' rent only could be taken under the Act (W. H. Boyd), V., 23415.
Recurrence after Re-sale, Question of—Government would insist on punctual payment of Annuities (H. Doran), I., 3446-8.
Right of tenant to demand that year's rent should be credited to year he paid it for and right of landlord to credit it to any year, even if in arrear, Question of (M. Finucane), III., 15921-3.

Artagh North.

Decrease in Population (J. P. Hayden), X 58168.

Ash, Lough, School of.

See Lough Ash.

Ashley Estate.

Drainage needed (H. Brennan), VI., 27382-418a.
Enlargement of Holdings—No land available other than sand, bog, and marsh (H. Brennan), VI., 27630.
Migration—
Local Opposition, Extent and causes, Means used to overcome opposition, etc. (M. Finucane), III., 15859-63.
Readiness of tenants to migrate (M. Finucane), III., 15859.
Mullaghmore Harbour, maintenance—responsibility of owner, nothing done by Mr. Ashley for years (D. Gallagher), VI. 28525-9.
Nature of land (M. Kelly), VI., 27852.

Ashtown Estate.

Crops destroyed by game belonging to Lord Ashtown (M. Finnerty), X., 57978-83.
Evictions (P. C. Trench), X., 58162.
Grass. Lands taken up by Lord Ashtown avowedly to defeat purpose of the Act of 1903 (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57210-8.
Labour employed by Lord Ashtown—Wages earned by labourers, etc. (M. Finnerty), X., 57983-93, 58064-8; (T. Cahill), X., 58141-4.
Purchase Negotiations (M. Finnerty), X., 57974-5.

Ashtown, Lord.—*Nominated by the Landlords' Convention.*

Evidence, X., 57275-532, App. V., p. 285.

Asses, Improvement in Breed.

See Donkey Breeding.

Athea.

Light railway to pass through Athea proposed (C. Scollard), VIII., 42692.

Athenry.

Agricultural station, land purchased for, by Department—land agitation among neighbouring tenants, co-operation of Estates Commissioners invited to remedy grievance which undoubtedly existed though condition of tenants on land purchased had been greatly improved (T. W. Russell), IX., 51722-3, 51731-49.
Class of land retained for the College, class given to tenants (T. W. Russell), IX., 51854-8.
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Estates Commissioners, Work of—Great deal had been done, great deal still remained to be done (M. Finnerty), X., 57974.
Migration—Question of Local Opposition (M. Finnerty, X., 58016, 58082-5, 58091-4.
Needs of district—Drainage, enlargement of holdings, etc. (M. Finnerty), X., 57974.
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Class of land—Best class of land for grazing and crops in Roscommon (C. Cotton), X., 58402-4.
Drainage of bog-land required (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58157.
Industries, Establishment proposed—Industries that could be established (T. Feeney), X., 57618-20; (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58157.
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No sale effected owing to exorbitant prices asked by landlord (T. Feeney), X., 57620.
Valuation the cause of high price (T. Feeney), X., 57624.
Roads, maintenance by direct labour insisted upon by people (H. M. Scott), VI., 28590.
Scheduling congested area proposed (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58155.
Uneconomic Holdings, Enlargement needed, Land available (T. Feeny), X., 57600-2, 57612-7, 57620; (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58148-55, 58157.

Athy, Rural District No. 2.

Number of uneconomic holdings, land available for enlargement (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39314.

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Distribution of land—unfair treatment of tenants (P. Webb), X., 58487-93—Contradiction (H. Doran), X., 58573-80.

Aughadown South, including Hare, Skeam, and Calf Islands.

Agricultural Instruction—Plots attached to National Schools proposed (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46721-3.
Causeway at Hare Island was for convenience of people going to and from market, etc. (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46731-2.
Congestion—
District was scheduled (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46735.
Nothing had ever been received from Congested Districts Board except contribution for bridge (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46736.
Creamery, prejudicial effect of—Scarcity of milk (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46724-7.
Land purchase negotiations—only two estates sold so far by private arrangement (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46719, 46736.

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- Fishing Industry—
  - Lobster-fishing principally—Successful industry if there was a good permanent market (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46732-3.
  - Pier, quay, and road—accommodation necessary for development of fishing industry, schemes already outlined, etc. (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46730, 46733, 46735.
- Population, Number of uneconomic holdings, etc. (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46717.
- Seeds, difficulty in getting seed that would grow—Provision of good seed proposed (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46729-30.
- Valuation per head in Hare Island (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46736.

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- Congestion, extent of—Description of conditions, valuation, untenanted land available, etc. (P. Slein), VI., 30936-41.
- Lake flooding caused damage—Drainage should be done by Congested Districts Board (P. Slein), VI., 30943-4.

AUGHAVAS.

- Drainage of Black or Cloon River, necessity for—Damage done by flooding (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34297, 34302-11, VI., App. VIII., p. 270, 273.
  - Amount offered by Congested Districts Board, reason why scheme fell through, etc. (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34298-300, 34312-14, 34324-8.
  - Maintenance of drain when completed, question of (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34315-22.
- Emigration, extent of—Effects of emigration, etc. (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34386-90, VI., App. VIII., p. 271.
- Farmers' houses, provision for improvement of, required, VI., App. VIII., p. 272.
- Industries—None in the district (Rev. P. Dolan) VI., 34409.
- Roads, want of—Question of increase in Parish Committee Grant and of making and maintaining of roads (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34329-74, VI., App. VIII., p. 270.
- Technical Instruction, VI., App., p. 271.

AUGHNASHEELAN.

- Land purchase through agency of Congested Districts Board proposed (M. Roddy), VI., 34783.

AUSTRALASIAN LAND SETTLEMENT.

- Something similar needed in Ireland in order to stop emigration (H. Brennan), VI., 27637-42.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION.

- Advisory Committee in each congested county proposed (Canon Grealey), IX., 48862-7.
- Alternatives possible: (1) Board must be merged in Commission, or (2) both bodies must be left to work jointly in areas affected, or (3) Estates Commissioners must be excluded from scheduled areas (W. F. Bailey), III., 17399.
- Amalgamation—Merging of Congested Districts Board in Estates Commissioners proposed—
  - Advantage might result from amalgamation given similar powers for Estates Commissioners and transfer of Board's staff (W. L. Micks), I., 466-70.
  - All present advantages of the Board would be retained (W. F. Bailey), III., 17455.
  - Alternative—merging of Estates Commissioners in Congested Districts Board (W. F. Bailey), III., 17468.
  - Body representative of the people proposed in each county to co-operate with body that would take over the Board's work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4044.
    - Advisory Committees not likely to act if they had no power beyond giving advice (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4045.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Amalgamation—Merging of Congested Districts Board in Estates Commissioners proposed—*continued.*
- Care and consideration for details, etc., Possibility of Estates Commissioners giving as much attention as Congested Districts Board (W. L. Micks), I., 477, 582-3; (G. Hewson), VI., 31462.
- Confidence and local influence enjoyed by Board owing to its independent position, &c.; question as to possibility of transferring (H. Doran), I., 3292, 3296-7; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 637, 640; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4007-10; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26252-4, 26380.
  - Absolute freedom of Board, provided they had sufficient funds (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 643.
  - Board's Officials, Question of transfer—Present position of Mr. Doran, etc., and position if transferred (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4042-3, 4051-4; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17431.
    - Management of schemes and local difficulties—Relations between Mr. Doran and the Board (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4011-23, 4032-4, 4036-8, 4040-1.
  - Fitzgibbon's, Mr., scheme would require more attention than was at present given by members of the Board—Question of what might happen if present *personnel* were altered (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26255-9.
  - Local Committees would not have same standing as the Board (H. Doran), I., 3298-300.
- Consultative Body, composed of Members of Board, should be available to give advice and assistance in dealing with Western districts (W. F. Bailey), III., 17415, 17431, 17435-8, 17441-2, 17453-4.
- Despatch and punctuality, question of—Delays due to limitation of Board's funds, &c. (W. L. Micks), I., 474, 479; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4064.
  - All opportunity of relieving congestion would slip away, because available land would be sold under operations of Estates Commissioners (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 746-8, 750-1.
  - Comparison of the two Departments impossible unless the Commission inquired into the work of both (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 638.
  - Conveyance of Estates transferred from Board to Land Commission, Delay due to (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 721.
  - Evicted tenants, pace in regard to, would not have been affected by Estates Commissioners doing Congested Districts Board's land purchase work in addition to their own (M. Finucane), III., 15994-5.
  - Expeditious better than slow machinery, but it was the Treasury that hampered the Board's action (A. J. Balfour), V., 22149-51, 22154-7.
  - Impression at the Board that slower process was necessary for poorer estates. All members of the Board did not share impression (A. MacDonnell), III., 17426.
  - Not possible to do the work more rapidly if it was to be done as thoroughly as at present (W. L. Micks), I., 478; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 679, 698, 721.
  - Opinion in favour of leaving conditions unchanged so long as Congested Districts Board could be supplied with sufficient money to carry on operations without delay (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 793-4, 818-20.
  - Rapidity and small expense at which Estates Commissioners passed land through their hands (W. L. Micks), I., 483; (W. F. Bailey), 17417-22, 17427, 17446.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Amalgamation—Merging of Congested Districts Board in Estates Commissioners—*continued.*
  - Difference in Methods and Functions of Board and Commissioners (W. L. Micks), I., 465, 475, 476, 484-6; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 647-8, 676-8, 726-7.
  - Economy, Question of (W. F. Bailey), III., 17399, 17411; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 581, 749, 820; (H. Doran), I., 3301; (M. Finucane), III., 15988-90, 16261.
    - Congested Districts Board being unpaid did not affect question if paid body could do the work of both bodies (M. Finucane), III., 15992-3, 15998-9.
    - Estates Commissioners said to buy land cheaper than Congested Districts Board—Instance where Congested Districts Board purchase was the cheaper (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26196-8.
    - Loss on improvement of Estates came out of public money—Immaterial what body it was lost by, assuming efficiency of the two bodies to be equal (W. L. Micks), I., 495-6.
  - Evils of double administration (M. Finucane), III., 15984, 15987.
    - Different and inconsistent laws governing action of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners (M. Finucane), III., 15984-6 — Instances, 16000-2.
    - Price of Land, Difference in principles on which price was fixed by the two bodies—Instances, etc. (M. Finucane), III., 16002.
  - Friction between the two Systems, Possibility of (W. L. Micks), I., 543-6.
  - Genesis of proposal (W. F. Bailey), III., 17475; (A. MacDonnell), 17477-8.
  - Improvement of Estates, Expenditure on—
    - Amount of, by Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners—Not much difference so far as limit was concerned (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 641-2.
    - Board had an advantage in not being tied down to a particular sum, Estates Commissioners were not only tied down but had to get Treasury consent (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 640.
    - Purchase would do the people very little good if they were to buy their holdings as they existed at present, in numerous patches (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3937.
  - Inconvenience of two different systems of Land Purchase being administered by Estates Commissioners, Question of—Two different systems worked at present (W. L. Micks), I., 539-40.
  - Initiation of Schemes, Persons responsible for—Could be equally well done as regards land if duties were transferred to Estates Commission (W. L. Micks), I., 529.
  - Land Work too much for Congested Districts Board in addition to work of developing industries and fisheries (W. L. Micks), I., 508.
    - Proportion of Land work to total work of Board (W. L. Micks). I., 464.
  - Meaning of Amalgamation—Amalgamation of Staff was what witness meant (W. F. Bailey), III., 17443, 17451.
  - National body representative of the people should be ready to take place of Board before it was amalgamated or abolished (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4063.
  - Opinion against (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4005-6; (G. L. Young), II., 5825-6; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26196; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47403; (T. Moclair), IX., 49953; (A. Larminie), IX., 49975, 49980-1; (Rev. J. Fallon), X., 50409; (J. Kelly), X., 53911; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Amalgamation—Merging of Congested Districts Board in Estates Commissioners—*continued.*
  - Opinion in favour of (W. L. Micks), I., 542; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 647, 649; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17414-5, 17423, 17431.
  - Prices—Estates Commissioners hampered, while Congested Districts Board were free to bargain (W. L. Micks), I., 497-8; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 645-6.
  - Staff, Proportionate increase in—They would still have to take directions from the heads (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3994.
  - Work carried on by Staff would be unchanged (W. F. Bailey), III., 17449-53.
  - Wrench's, Mr., Statement of views, III., App. IIIA., p. 304.
- Any authority, provided transfer of land took place quickly (Canon Lyons), IX., 49424-5.
- Changes in law or administration needed for dealing with problem of congestion, VI., App. V., p. 259.
  - Not desirable to have change in authority—
    - More power for the Board the only change desirable (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41378.
    - Each authority should deal with its own purchases (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41385.
- Congested Districts Board—
  - Abolition of—Blunder in public policy, Work more difficult, etc. (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29261, 29290; (Canon Loftus), VI., 30074-5.
  - Admirable work done—Confidence in the Board (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49353-73.
  - Best Authority (J. Cunningham), X., 57557-9.
  - Only body that made any effort to relieve congestion (T. Heraghty), IX., 50275.
  - Slowness of Board's Operations—Extension of powers and a wider representation, etc. proposed (Canon Macken), X., 56139-40, 56145.
  - Staff of Board much more competent than Staff of Estates Commissioners (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29297-309.
- Congested Districts Board, continuation of until congested area was brought up to normal condition of rest of Ireland, Question of—
  - Board better able than any other Department to educate tenants on bad estates into helping themselves (G. Wyndham), V., 22872.
  - Change that would be required in constitution of Board—Representative element should be added (H. Doran), I., 3923; (J. Fitzgibbon), I., 25767.
    - *Refer also* to title Congested Districts Board—Constitution.
  - Choice should be guided by record of Departments concerned (H. Doran), I., 3261, 3273.
  - Equal powers for Board with Estates Commissioners proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25766.
  - Irish Reform Association in favour of retention of Board (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27235.
  - National Authority, Retention of Board till time came when a National Authority would decide who should exercise its powers—Political not administrative question (H. Plunkett), III., 18355.
  - Necessity either for continuance of Board or for some Department doing its work, so long as Congestion existed (W. L. Micks), I., 489; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25767.
  - Neither Congested Districts Board nor any other Body could raise Congested Districts to level of the rest of the country for a long time to come (H. Plunkett), III., 18353.
  - Opinion in favour of (H. Doran), I., 3262-5; (P. M'Bride), II., 896-7; (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10464; (G. Wyndham), V., 22837A-8; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26917.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Congested Districts Board, Continuation of—*con.*
  - Paternal Administration, Continuation of very desirable for Congested Districts but witness would view with misgiving any policy which put whole of Ireland under a paternal administration in regard to agriculture and industries (A. J. Balfour), V., 22132, 22158, 22179.
    - Caution required in substituting Agricultural Department for Congested Districts Board (A. J. Balfour), V., 22132.
    - Original intention of witness was that paternal authority should remain (A. J. Balfour), V., 22133-4.
  - Pioneer work had been done by Board, provisions of Act of 1903 based on experience gained from its operations (G. Wyndham), V., 22853.
  - Political Influences—Non-political character of Board a main reason of its success (H. Doran), I., 3266, 3269-71.
    - Practical difficulty—not very likely that Parliament would give the very large powers required to a Board wholly free from control of Parliament (H. Doran), I., 3294-5.
  - Present position of Board—Position of landlord selling under section 6 and getting the right to decide judicial questions by re-selling through Land Commission (W. F. Bailey), III., 17401, 17404, 17407.
    - Difficulties requiring judicial decisions had not so far impeded work of Board (W. F. Bailey), III., 17402-3.
    - Nothing to prevent continuation of methods hitherto pursued by Board and the giving of Certificates in case of Estates which might pass directly from landlord to tenant without remedial treatment (W. F. Bailey), III., 17408-16.
  - Public Opinion in favour of retention (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 821.
- Congested Districts Board *v.* Department of Agriculture and Land Commission—
  - Act of 1899 intended only to make provision enabling Board to hand over part of its Work and Funds to Department, if it saw fit (G. Balfour), III., 22328.
  - Board the best Authority (G. Wyndham), V., 22817, 22914; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23880-1, 25355; (A. Crichton), V., 27253, 25257.
  - Inevitable that difficulties of Constitution should occur with two bodies doing same work in adjoining or interlacing districts (G. Balfour), V., 22328.
  - Tenants, Attitude of (W. H. Boyd), V., 25358-60.
  - *Refer also* to subheadings Amalgamation and Department of Agriculture.
- Congested Districts Board *v.* Estates Commissioners—*refer* to sub-headings One Authority.
- Co-ordination between Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners non-existent (H. Doran), I., 2943; (Canon Mackem), X., 56271.
- County Councils as Authority—
  - Congested Districts Board working through County Council, Question of—Expensive and unsatisfactory so long as one Board was supervising any other Board (J. Dunleavy), II., 10784-7.
  - Handing over whole work of Congested Districts Board and of Department to County Council, proposed—
    - Abolition of both Boards desirable, but if either remained it should be Congested Districts Board (J. Dunleavy), II., 10789.
    - Competence of County Council proved by method in which present duties had been performed (J. Dunleavy), II., 10764-5.
    - Constitution of Committee of County Council for relief of Congestion, Question of (J. Dunleavy), II., 10809-12.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- County Councils as Authority—*continued.*
  - Handing over whole work of Congested Districts Board, etc.—*continued.*
    - Industries—County Council had greater local knowledge and could give grants-in-aid at less expense (J. Dunleavy), II., 10790-2.
      - Outcry against subsidising, Question of (J. Dunleavy), II., 10793-807, 10820.
    - Migration, Question of (J. Dunleavy), II., 10780, 10813-7.
    - Officers common to several Counties, Method of Appointment (J. Dunleavy), II., 10783.
    - Officials such as Mr. Green, Mr. Walker, etc., would be useful as Advisors of Councils—Method of Appointment, etc. (J. Dunleavy), II., 10770-8.
    - Piers, Building of—Piers supplied in the past were worthless (J. Dunleavy), II., 10766.
    - Representative Body desirable to do work now done by Congested Districts Board and Department (J. Dunleavy), II., 10788.
    - Roads, Question of (J. Dunleavy), II., 10768-9, 10772.
    - Separate Staff for each County, Question of (J. Dunleavy), II., 10779, 10781-2.
- Department of Agriculture, Transfer to, in full of Board's functions except those relating to Purchase and Sale of Land—
  - Advisory Committee to be constituted from among members of Congested Districts Board to advise Department on exceptional measures proposed for Congested Districts—Resolutions of Agricultural Board (H. Plunkett), III., 18315, 18319, 18374, 18396.
    - Central Advisory Committee, but there would probably be local committees as well (H. Plunkett), III., 18397, 18406.
    - Not at all intended as a compassionate allowance to the Board for its abolition (H. Plunkett), III., 18323.
  - Agreement, transfer by, possible at present stage, but it was likely to become increasingly difficult (H. Plunkett), III., 18323.
    - Failing an agreement between the bodies concerned, witness anticipated no change without an overwhelming public opinion in its favour (H. Plunkett), III., 18378-9.
  - Change in Conditions since establishment of Board (H. Plunkett), III., 18265-7, 18548-9.
    - Question how far changes that might result from further legislation might make Agricultural Board and Board of Technical Instruction also archaic (H. Plunkett), III., 18496-500.
  - Classes of work which would be taken over (H. Plunkett), III., 18421-9.
  - County Committees might delegate administrative functions to a local committee—It had been done at Belmullet (H. Plunkett), III., 18406-7.
  - Department and Board doing work similar, but somewhat different—So many bodies that it was hard to discover anything done by one body that some other body was not doing (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4061-3.
  - Employment could be found for all the staff of the Congested Districts Board and a good many more if there were adequate funds (H. Plunkett), III., 18430.
  - Experience of local conditions, importance of —Qualifications of Members of Agricultural Board (H. Plunkett), III., 18461.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Department of Agriculture, Transfer to, etc.—*con.*
  - Fisheries, Transfer of—
    - Advantage to the Board's work of a member being resident in locality—Loss of advantage in event of suggested transfer (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 825-8.
    - No difficulty and no loss of funds—Mr. Green was also Inspector of Fisheries under the Department (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 823-4.
    - No sufficient reason for taking work away from Department which had done it so well (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 829.
  - Fullest weight should be given to opinion of Congested Districts Board before any such step was taken (H. Plunkett), III., 18323, 18338-9.
  - Independence and exceptional powers of Board—If Board's Powers were transferred with its functions, there would be no question of exceptional powers, and witness did not think dependence on a popularly constituted element in Department would be restrictive (H. Plunkett), III., 18366.
  - Local opinion in districts affected, Importance of ascertaining (H. Plunkett), III., 18460-1.
  - One authority and a single system, question of—
    - Main point of proposal was that there should be a single authority, not essential that Department should remain exactly as at present constituted (H. Plunkett), III., 18369-72.
    - Majority would be in favour of a single system on lines favoured by Department (H. Plunkett), III., 18346-52.
    - Serious confusion the inevitable result of two bodies working side by side on wholly different principles (H. Plunkett), III., 18501-3.
  - Opinion against (T. Heraghty), IX., 50346, 50349; (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58377.
  - Parish Committees, Question as to retention of (H. Plunkett), III., 18364, 18452-3, 18463-4.
  - Point of view from which question should be looked at (H. Plunkett), III., 18365.
  - Poorer Districts—Provision for special needs—
    - Agency to be employed outside County Organisations—*ad hoc* body of experts needed at first (H. Plunkett), III., 18415, 18418-9.
      - Reasons for differentiating between such experts and Congested Districts Board—Popular element should be introduced as rapidly as was consistent with sound economic administration (H. Plunkett), III., 18416-7.
    - All endeavours would be used to induce County Committees to frame their Scheme so as to meet conditions of poor parts of their administrative area (H. Plunkett), III., 18402.
    - Board established because there was an area of Ireland with very special needs (H. Plunkett), III., 18263, 18268.
    - Resolution of Agricultural Board (H. Plunkett), III., 18315-6, 18396, 18402-3, 18414.
    - Special districts should be dealt with specially till they were brought up to the level at which they could join the general organisation, but no special branch of Department would be created (H. Plunkett), III., 18408-14, 18454-5.
    - Special powers—It might be necessary to give Department special powers in congested districts, but witness would not be afraid to transfer the work to Department now (G. Balfour), V., 22334.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Department of Agriculture, Transfer to, etc.—*con.*
  - Transfer inevitable sooner or later (G. Balfour), V., 22329
    - Parliamentary reasons for postponing transfer in 1899 (H. Plunkett), III., 18266; (G. Balfour), V., 22331.
    - Portion of agricultural work of Board had been transferred to Department since 1899 with object of releasing funds of Board for its estates work (G. Balfour), V., 22332-3.
      - *Refer also* to title Agricultural Development—Transfer.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Congested Districts Board *v.* Department of Agriculture and Land Commission.
  - Popular Control—
    - Change would come about gradually (H. Plunkett), III., 18431.
    - Extent to which Schemes would be under popular Control (H. Plunkett), III., 18398-9, 18404-5.
    - Relations between County Committees and Agricultural Board, Nature of—no direct relation (H. Plunkett), III., 18400-1, 18445-7.
  - Power to transfer all functions by Order in Council existed under Act of 1899, etc.—
    - Council existed under Act of 1899—Terms of Clause 4 (H. Plunkett), III., 18337, 18375-6.
      - Congested Districts Board not a Government Department, and therefore excepted from clause—Witness assumed that Board's consent would be asked (H. Plunkett), III., 18377, 18385A.
  - Qualifications of Congested Districts Board and Department, Work accomplished, etc. (H. Plunkett), III., 18340-5, 18373, 18392, 18394.
    - No difficulty, given the necessary funds (H. Plunkett), III., 18395.
  - Resolution of Agricultural Board—Members present, etc. (H. Plunkett), III., 18315-6, 18318, 18328-9, 18380-1, 18435-43 *and note*, 18461-2.
    - Request to Department to take over functions was a condition of recommendation—Authority to make request would be Government of the day or Parliament (H. Plunkett), III., 18336-7.
    - Striping and re-settlement of land and migration excluded by terms of resolution (H. Plunkett), III., 18324-7.
- Division of Work and Co-operation between Estates Commissioners, Congested Districts Board and Department and County Committees proposed—Commissioners to purchase; Board to improve and develop land; Department and County Committees to do educational work (T. W. Russell), IX., 51716, 51719, 51722-30, 51750-70.
  - Difficulties as to assessment of price, inspection by both Authorities, collection of rent, etc.; difficulties could be surmounted by the co-operation and co-ordination for which witness was pleading (T. W. Russell), IX., 51755-8, 51764-70, 51771-4, 51824-49.
  - Instance of overlapping in regard to domestic economy schools (T. W. Russell), IX., 57859-68.
  - Official method of getting Departments into communication needed (T. W. Russell), IX., 51750-2.
    - Vice-President of Department and Under-Secretary for Ireland, advantages of membership of Congested Districts Board (T. W. Russell), IX., 51889-94.
  - Readjustment of present bodies and better division of labour to prevent overlapping (Canon Macken), X., 56154.

Authority to deal with Congestion—*continued.*

- Division of Work between Board and Commissioners proposed—
  - Board to attend to Agricultural Development and Industries; Estates Commissioners to carry out all purchasing, striping and distributing of land (J. A. Glynn), X., 55844-6, 55888-911.
  - Estates Commissioners to carry out all purchase negotiations in regard to estates within congested districts, handing back estate for administration to Congested Districts Board proposed (F. S. Wrench), III., 15225, 15227-31, 15232; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17449-50.
  - Estates Commissioners to purchase, with power to Board to requisition transfer to themselves of any estate they pleased—Objection that Purchasing Authority should be authority to deal with land (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41395-400.
  - Estates requiring re-arrangement and enlargement of holding to be assigned to Board, those requiring simply transfer from landlord to tenant to Estates Commissioners proposed by both Departments (H. Doran), I., 3287-91.
  - Estates Work, Transfer of, practically meant abolition of Congested Districts Board (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4047-9, 4101.
  - Extension of operations and powers of Board would necessitate definition of line between operations of Board and operations of Estates Commissioners (H. Doran), I., 3276-8.
  - Increase in cost rather than economy if there was a transfer of part of the Board's work to some other Department while continuing the Board for particular purposes (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 824.
    - Transference to Congested Districts Board of estates purchased by Estates Commissioners of which any portion was to be used for relief of congestion proposed—Legislation needed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825-32, 23835, 23846, 23855, 23863, 23876-8, 23911.
- Division of Work between Board and Department, proposed (H. Murphy), X., 55564-7.
- Division of Work, Creation of a new department for development of Industries and Fisheries (W. L. Micks), I., 507-8.
- Four Departments working in same area—Waste and overlapping involved (T. W. Russell), IX., 51713-5, 51724.
- Geographical Distribution of Jurisdiction of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners—
  - Congested Districts to be in charge of Congested Districts Board, leaving rest of Ireland to Estates Commissioners proposed (H. Doran), I., 3280-1, 3286; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17399; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25765, 25767-78, 25794, 26199-207, 26209-12, 26230-3; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26879, 26905, 26913, 26916-9, 26920, 26954; (A. Crichton), V., 27295, 27297-303; (Canon Loftus), VI., 30076-8; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619; (Canon Quin), VII., 35277-87; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43410; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47296; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50408-9; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57179-90; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58264-5, 58290.
    - Ample scope for energies of Estates Commissioners in non-scheduled areas (G. Wyndham), V., 22851-3.
    - Change in constitution of Board entailed—Details of proposed change (W. F. Bailey), III., 17399-400; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26923-35.
    - Clashing between Commissioners and Board—Danger would be obviated (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26913.
    - Direct Sales would still be allowed, but Congested Districts Board should have power to deal afterward with estates sold directly (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26936-41.

Authority to deal with Congestion—*continued.*

- Geographical distribution—*continued.*
  - Congested Districts to be in charge of Congested Districts Board, etc.—*con.*
    - Doubtful whether there would prove to be sufficient land available in Connaught to relieve congestion, Board might be compelled to go outside (H. Doran), V., 3282-5.
    - Estates Commissioners should work more on spirit of self-help, encourage migrants to colonize grazing ranches and assist in reclamation works (A. Crichton), V., 27295-6, 27298.
    - Legislation needed to enable Estates Commissioners to deal with congestion outside Connaught in a paternal way, Question of (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26922, 26950-5.
    - No objection to Estates Commissioners operating in congested districts if they had equal powers of improving estates (M. M'Nelis), II., 10043-6.
    - Opinion against scheme (F. S. Wrench), III., 15179-81; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55912-9.
  - Congested Districts Board *v.* Estates Commissioners as sole authority in Connaught (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29292-5; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30108; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47296; (A. Larminie), IX., 50009-10; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55660-1, 55663-6, 55903-20; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58264, 58290.
    - Congested Districts Board better fitted to deal with congested estates in Connaught than Commissioners—Objection that their time and money would be taken up with uncongested estates (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41391-3, 41404, 41430.
      - No advantage if Board's work were confined to poor estates because there would be the difficulty of determination (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41394, 41407-12.
    - Mistake to put whole of Connaught under Estates Commissioners (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41390.
    - Scheduled areas being retained as basis—Board should be sole purchasing authority in districts scheduled and should have power to buy grass lands outside, Estates Commissioners functions being those of financing and carrying through legal part of transactions (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41429.
  - Connaught and Donegal should be entrusted to Congested Districts Board, whole of Connaught being scheduled, rest should be left to Estates Commissioners (A. Crichton), V., 27232-4.
  - Connaught, Donegal, Clare, and Kerry to be entrusted to Congested Districts Board, Similar powers to be conferred on Estates Commissioners in other parts of Ireland (J. P. Hayden), X., 58264-7.
  - Cork and Kerry should be handed over to Estates Commissioners and Mayo, Connaught, and Donegal to Congested Districts Board (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26214-229
  - Maritime Congested Districts, confining Congested Districts Board to and transferring remaining Congested Districts to Estates Commissioners, proposed (F. S. Wrench), III., 15154-5.
    - Commissioners should be put in same position as Congested Districts Board, able to take estates entirely outside zones and make such a bargain as they pleased (F. S. Wrench), III., 15157-62.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Geographical distribution—*continued.*
  - Maritime Congested Districts—*continued.*
    - Distribution of Untenanted land bought by Estates Commissioners—Priority of claim of Congested Districts Board assuming that within their area there was no untenanted land sufficient for their purpose (F. S. Wrench), III., 15163-9.
    - Districts taken from Congested Districts Board would be those where they were unable to do much at present (F. S. Wrench), III., 15175.
    - Effect would be to leave acute congestion, estates requiring paternal treatment, to Board and to Estates Commissioners those requiring treatment more on business principles (F. S. Wrench), III., 15174.
    - Fishing should be left as at present (F. S. Wrench), III., 15173.
    - Industries, Congested Districts Board to have power to deal with, within its area (F. S. Wrench), III., 15171.
    - Powers of Estates Commissioners to deal with congested estates should be enlarged (F. S. Wrench), III., 15155.
      - Commissioners should be empowered to ask Agricultural Department to give special attention to estates needing to be looked after (F. S. Wrench), III., 15155.
    - Purchasing Powers—Congested Districts Board should do everything within lines fixed, it was very difficult for one body to buy for another (F. S. Wrench), III., 15163, 15176.
- Ideal arrangement if present machinery could be strengthened—Plenty for both Departments to do in different districts (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 795-6.
- Local Opinion (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41870-1; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55751-5.
- One Authority—
  - Amalgamation of Congested Districts Board, Estates Commissioners, and Agricultural Department—Increase in powers and duties of Board, also funds (T. Molloy), II., 10982, 10988-90, 11014-5.
  - Connaught—One authority preferable to two (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25764-5, 25767, 25770, 25794.
  - Department not in existence during witness's tenure of office, duty of co-ordinating its work with that of Congested Districts Board never came under his notice (A. J. Balfour), V., 22106.
  - Evils of two bodies competing against each other, Confusion and friction likely to arise as work extended (W. F. Bailey), III., 17431.
  - Improvement and development—One Department should do work on one scale (T. W. Russell), IX., 51728.
    - Purchasing body might be improving authority (Canon Macken), X., 56267-70.
  - Opinion in favour of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3776-9; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25764, 25768; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50293; (Canon Macken), X., 56203.
  - Opinion in favour of Congested Districts Board (R. Crawford), IX., 50753, 50758, 50786-8.
  - Opinion in favour of Estates Commissioners (J. A. Glynn), X., 55660, 55671.
    - Same powers and resources as Congested Districts Board proposed (J. A. Glynn), X., 55872, 55877.
  - Unification of the various Boards proposed (Canon Macken), X., 56155, 56170, 56201, 56210, 56269.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Geographical distribution of Jurisdiction.
- One Authority or Division of Duties—
  - Board and Commissioners should act as one body dealing with Connaught or one of the two should be entrusted with distribution of grazing lands and the striping and re-arranging of congested estates (H. Doran), I., 3237.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- One Authority to take over whole of Land Purchase Functions—
  - Division of work between Estates Commissioners, Board and Department and County Committees or one authority (T. W. Russell), IX., 51716-9, 51722-30, 51750-76, 51874-6, 51922-5.
  - Congested Districts—
    - Actual purchase and sale of land in congested districts carried on by Estates Commissioners so far as money was concerned (T. W. Russell), IX., 51725.
    - One authority in congested districts, preferably Congested Districts Board (T. W. Russell), IX., 51875-6, 51922.
      - Land outside congested areas required for relief of congestion must be obtained by co-operation of Estates Commissioners (T. W. Russell), IX., 51923-5.
  - Congested Districts Board or some similar body proposed, Duties of Estates Commissioners should be judicial and nothing else (J. O'Connor), III., 13149, 13188, 13246-54, 13277.
    - Ability of Board to carry out machinery of Estates Commissioners, Question of—Not proposed that Board should take over direct sales or other judicial functions, but only purchase of Estates bought by Commissioners and re-sold (J. O'Connor), III., 13396-408, 13427, 13441.
    - Analogous Purchase Powers of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners under Act of 1903 (J. O'Connor), III., 13149, 13188.
      - Purchase of Untenanted Land outside Congested Areas, Power of enlarging adjacent holdings and of creating new tenancies for sons of tenants—Board possessed similar powers to Estates Commissioners, but in a more limited way (J. O'Connor), III., 13154-78.
      - Sections of Act of 1903 under which Land Commission possessed Purchase Functions (J. O'Connor), III., 13149, 13153.
    - Anomaly in case of large Estate on which there was an infinitesimal amount of congestion, Question of (J. O'Connor), III., 13510-8.
    - Block of business in the Land Commission caused delay involving loss to owners and tenants (J. O'Connor), III., 13254, 13454-61, 13482-4, 13502-9, 13537-9.
      - Any strengthening of Commissioners should be to enable them to get rid of this burden, not to undertake new work (J. O'Connor), III., 13462-3.
    - Board to have increased funds, legal powers and power of defining congestion proposed—Increase in output of work (J. O'Connor), III., 13277, 13353-6, 13475, 13492-4.
    - Compulsory Purchase, Land Commission as Arbitrator, proposed—Additional reason for withdrawal of Purchasing Powers (J. O'Connor), III., 13305.
    - Dismemberment of Congested Districts Board—Grounds which would justify dismemberment (J. O'Connor), III., 13348.
    - Economy must not be obtained at cost of efficiency (J. O'Connor), III., 13348-53.
    - Enumeration of judicial functions which should be left to Estates Commissioners (J. O'Connor), III., 13428-40.
    - Evicted Tenants, Congested Districts Board to deal with, proposed (J. O'Connor), III., 13281, 13442.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

One Authority to take over whole of Land Purchase Functions—*continued.*

Congested Districts Board or some similar body proposed—*continued.*

Extension of Board's existing powers enabling them to purchase freely throughout Ireland for the relief of Congestion would practically meet the case (J. O'Connor), III., 13411-23.

Fair Rent Applications—Possibility of Estates Commissioners being placed in position of Judge, Witness, and Defendant, *see* title Fair Rents—Judicial Functions.

Fair Rents, Delays in fixing—Assistance in fixing fair rents would be more germain to Commissioners' functions than taking up work of Congested Districts Board (J. O'Connor), III., 13446-53.

Financial liabilities of the Board would be little increased except by provision for purchase of tenants' interests and additional subsidies for improvements (J. O'Connor), III., 13305.

Purchase of Tenants' Interests could be provided for by charge on Church Surplus (J. O'Connor), III., 13305-14.

Freedom from Treasury Control—Not proposed that existing immunity should extend beyond funds already administered by Board (J. O'Connor), III., 13357-61, 13373-76.

Different Accounts, Keeping of—No practical difficulty (J. O'Connor), III., 13362-3.

Independence of the Board, Advantages due to—Effect on Independence of proposed extension of functions (J. O'Connor), III., 13357-61, 13373-76.

Judicial functions would remain with Estates Commissioners all over Ireland (J. O'Connor), III., 13520, 13523-4.

Leaving actual purchase to Congested Districts Board would not complicate matters with Estates Commissioners (F. S, Wrench), III., 15233.

Might be a good way of avoiding conflict (F. S. Wrench), III., 15183-6, 15189-90.

Number of Land Purchase Authorities—Not proposed to change number, but to keep duties of existing Authorities distinct (J. O'Connor), III., 13480-1.

Objections to permitting Estates Commissioners to deal with isolated cases of Congestion—Ambiguous and double character of position involved in such purchases (J. O'Connor), III., 13472-4.

Only question was whether Board's valuer would be satisfied with valuation made by other officials (F. S. Wrench), III., 15200-1.

Overlapping would be obviated (J. O'Connor), III., 13519-22.

Practicability—Question whether Parliament would grant such powers except to a definite department of State (J. O'Connor), III., 13366-71.

Separation of judicial office from all personal interests; principle had hitherto been observed in English legislation and the procedure of the Courts—Precedents (J. O'Connor), III., 13224-5.

Stereotyping congestion by continuation of direct sales, Question of (J. O'Connor), III., 13495-501.

Uncompleted sales to Estates Commissioners within congested area, difficulty in case of (H. Doran), XI., 60057-64.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

One Authority to take over whole of Land Purchase Functions—*continued.*

Congested Districts Board *v.* Estates Commissioners—

Board being granted sufficient funds and same power to lose as Estates Commissioners it might be desirable for Board to purchase all congested property (W. H. Boyd), V., 23886-9, 23892, 23894-5.

Board to purchase estates that they would have to deal with proposed (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50409; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58367.

Despatch—Comparison of procedure of the two bodies (G. Wyndham), V., 22841; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43400, 43417; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57170-1, 57178.

Estates Commission to be doubled throughout, fiat of any two Commissioners to be sufficient to authorise each transaction proposed (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43410.

Judicial body—Estates Commission not a judicial body (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43411-6.

Effect of transfer of land purchase to Estates Commission—

Retarding present rate of purchase if staff of Land Commission were doubled and work of Congested Districts Board were transferred, question of (J. O'Connor), III., 13262-76.

Unfair to landlords and tenants of property already in hands of Land Commission even if staff were doubled (J. O'Connor), III., 13259, 13275.

Improving body having determining voice in fixing price, Importance of (W. H. Boyd), V., 23867, 23885.

Limit of power to lose, Effect of—Congested Districts Board losses fell on their own funds, whereas Estates Commissioners could lose up to 10 per cent. out of public money (W. H. Boyd), V., 23868-75.

Mistake to give functions proper to a paternal authority such as Congested Districts Board to Estates Commissioners, who were a quasi-judicial body—Witness would leave to each body its existing powers (W. H. Boyd), V., 23833-53, 23859-62, 23882.

Unsatisfactory nature of Estates Commission; one reason for witness's view (W. H. Boyd), V., 23883-4.

Opinion in favour of Estates Commissioners (J. A. Glynn), X., 55660, 55671, 55758-9, 55764-5, 55810, 55844, 55846, 55871-2, 55942; (Canon Macken), X., 56205-6, 56210, 56264-6, 56325-6, 56329; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56461; (M. Finnerty), X., 58100, 58104; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58257, 58276, 58285-90; (P. Webb), X., 58478.

Same powers and resources as Congested Districts Board proposed (J. A. Glynn), X., 55872, 55877.

Opinion in favour of one Authority (W. F. Bailey), III., 17445; (Canon Mackem), X., 56155, 56200-4.

Price—More equable price than if there were two bodies (J. A. Glynn), X., 55941-2.

Transfer of all purchase powers to new Department started in 1903 was contemplated, but not for long (G. Wyndham), V., 22891.

Powers of authority should be absolute (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40180.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Public Opinion, Weight of public opinion needed to enable authority to act at all—Possibility of creating desired Opinion (H. Plunkett), IV., 21584-91.
  - Commission should state frankly and fearlessly what they believed to be the ideal settlement; to redistribute land in accordance with existing public opinion would result in a demoralising scramble for land among the Agricultural population (H. Plunkett), IV., 21553-7, 21564, 21592-3.
- Relations between authorities—Closest concert and consultation between body charged with redistributing land and that attending to agricultural development required (H. Plunkett), IV., 21491, 21550.
- Scotland—
  - Congested Districts Board not intended to be permanent (R. R. Macgregor), IV., 21872.
  - New Land Commission, creation proposed by Bill of 1906—Functions, &c. (R. R. Macgregor), IV., 21862-3, 21867-71.
- Special authority and machinery needed (A. J. Balfour), V., 22103-4, 22131; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4066-7; (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10331.
  - Congested Districts Board the only Board that had successfully attempted to give what was asked and what was needed (Canon Sweeney), II., 9813-4.
  - Existing conditions exactly the same as when the Board was established (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4065.
  - General control of all congested districts should be vested in special authority (A. J. Balfour), V., 22105.
  - Section of Estates Commissioners appointed for special purpose of dealing with congestion under a special Estates Commissioner, Question of—Practically the Board as it is under another name (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3995-7.
  - Special efforts and legislation needed in regard to real plague spots; introduction of spoon-feeding into other parts not at all desirable (F. S. Wrench), III., 15186-7.
  - West of Ireland required special treatment; one distinct body required—Body operating all over Ireland might not be able to devote sufficient attention to the special needs (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3936-8, 3993, 3998-4004, 4035, 4044, 4050, 4059-60.
  - *Refer* also to sub-heading Department of Agriculture, Transfer to, etc.—Poorer Districts.
- Sympathetic treatment required—
  - Closer touch with local conditions needed; Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners both sat in Dublin (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26726, 26880, 26942.
    - Board themselves should come into practical connection with people in the country doing inspection, &c.—Witness could not deal with Mr. Doran to sell his property (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26908-10.
  - Instances of success of sympathetic treatment in dealing with United Irish League and Land League—Case of estate in Athenry, &c. (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26960-9.
  - Meaning of sympathetic treatment—Officialism hated in Connaught (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26943, 26045.
    - Reason why Congested Districts Board had the confidence of the people and Estates Commissioners had not; reason also of sympathy between landlords and tenants (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26945-7.
  - State should provide money and leave the spending to unofficial persons in sympathy with the people (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26956-7.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Two or more Agencies in same area doing same class of work—
  - Clashing, Danger of (J. A. Glynn), X., 55955-6.
    - Act of 1903, Provisions of—It was felt that it was better to face the danger of clashing than to interrupt work of Board, Estates Commissioners were placed under general control of Government, who could direct their operations more on one area than another, and so avert the danger (G. Wyndham), V., 22843-50, 22890, 22895-900.
    - Area under power of Board was not sufficiently defined (A. Larminie), IX., 50009-10.
    - Cases where officials of both Boards had approached men of position to influence sales (P. Webb), X., 58440-79.
    - Dissatisfaction among Landlords and tenants in regard to land purchase (J. P. Hayden), X., 58261-2.
    - Division of duties, Suggestion for, in order to avoid clashing (Canon Macken), X., 56277-9; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58257, 58261.
    - No clashing in agricultural instruction, but there was in purchase and development of land (Canon Macken), X., 56162-3.
    - Overlapping could be prevented by Administrative arrangements (W. H. Boyd), 23846, 23865-6.
    - Price of Land, *see* that subheading.
    - Single Authority, Argument in favour of (G. Wyndham), V., 22842.
  - Conference held and agreement come to that Land Commission would either buy land for Congested Districts Board, or attach special valuer to Mr. Doran, who would inform him of views of Land Commission, &c. (F. S. Wrench), III., 15202-4.
    - Agreement had been a dead letter (F. S. Wrench), III., 15205-10.
  - Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners should each buy for themselves—Very difficult for one body to buy for another (F. S. Wrench, III., 15163, 15176.
    - Better for same valuer to buy who had afterwards to re-arrange holdings (F. S. Wrench), III., 15193-5.
  - Congested Districts Board were given the powers before the Estates Commissioners were created, but there was nothing in the law to prevent the Estates Commissioners acting as they did (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1203-5.
  - Different rules applicable to the two agencies—If circumstances varied, mode of treatment naturally differed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1208-9.
    - Similar Estates might possibly meet with different modes of treatment (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1210.
  - Estates Commissioners free to purchase estates within congested districts—Choice of purchaser rested with the landlord under Act of 1903 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1197-9.
  - Evils of (T. W. Russell), IX., 51875-6.
  - Hampering of work of Congested Districts Board which would result from purchase by Estates Commissioners of large part of land available (F. S. Wrench), III., 15023-4.
  - Loss—Estates Commissioners limited to 10 per cent. in dealing with Congested Estates, Board not limited to any particular amount of loss on that head (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1200-2.
  - No objection, Board would be substantially occupied with congested estates, but hard and fast rules were unnecessary and undesirable (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41387-9.

AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH CONGESTION—*continued.*

- Two or more Agencies in same area doing same class of work—*continued.*
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B.

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- Area—Table, I., App. IV., p. 328.
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- Evidence, III., 16277-7494, App. VIII., pp. 327-57.

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- Evidence, II., 10492-630.

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- Evidence, VIII., 42699-741.

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- Evidence, VII., 36828-990.

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Applications—

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So numerous that it was frequently a year or two before an application could be granted (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19059-64.

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- Disused or abandoned boats—
  - All the thirteen disused or abandoned boats had belonged to the Blacksod fishery (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1086-8.
  - Five boats abandoned by Achill crews—Boats since re-sold to other crews (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1001, 1004, 1096.
  - No case of a boat actually disused—If borrower had not paid off loan Board would take boat and re-sell it (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1000.
  - Several boats not yet re-sold—Board lost on transaction, Necessity for fitting out and repairing boat, &c. (F. W. D. Mitchell), 1003, 1083-5, 1096-7.
- Emergencies—Provision of boats, Board bought at once in the cheapest market (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1036.
- Insurance (C. E. Greene), VII., 35664.
  - Board and Department—Scheme started by, Funds, Value of Boat insured, etc. (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1743-4; (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5128-30, 5135; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19024-9, 19058.
  - Clubs—Some of the Irish boats were insured in English Clubs (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5132, 5134.
  - Downing's Bay disaster in December, 1906—Insurance question (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19023-47.
  - Insurance Companies refusal to insure Irish Boats (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5131-2, 5135; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19051-7.
  - No stipulation on transferring a boat to shareholders—Board always impressed upon each crew the advisability of insuring (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19048.
  - Not many boats insured prior to Downing's Bay disaster—Most of the crews had since insured with Congested Districts Board (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19049.
  - Scotch Companies gave more favourable terms than Congested Districts Board (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19050.

- Large Boats—
  - *Refer to* sub-heading Size of Boats.
- Loan System—
  - Advantage of boat being property of the fisherman from the first, Interest in maintenance, etc. (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5139.
  - Arrears, accumulation of, might force Board to take up and re-sell boat (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52848.
  - Combination of Loan and Share system proposed (M. Cullinane), X., 53021-37.
  - Conditions of issuing boats under Loan System—Two solvent securities, etc., required (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5137-9, X., 52868; (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52703.
  - Downing's Bay Fishery most successful, Satisfactory progress in repayment of Cost of Boats (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1031.
  - Liabilities—Table showing how in a case of a loan boat in Connaught the liabilities mount up, I., App. VI., p. 350.
  - No objection to issuing further loans if fishermen were willing to pay for the Capital (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5195.
  - Not much inspection or management required (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5126.
  - Period for Repayment (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5139.
    - Extension of period proposed (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52691, 52699, 52702.
      - Achill Islanders—extension of time desired, five years too short (P. O'Donnell), IX., 49129-30.
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- Loan System—*continued.*
  - Period for Repayment—*continued.*
    - Extension of period proposed—*continued.*
      - Separate loans for boats and gear—Sixteen years for repayment of loan on boat and trimming gear and eight years for repayment of loan on fishing gear (C. O'Connor), X., 53807, 53816.
      - Six years instead of three proposed (P. Ward), II., 11098, 11099-100, 11111-26.
        - Average life of a good yawl (P. Ward), II., 11098.
      - Sixteen years instead of eight proposed (P. Naughton), X., 54971.
  - Permanent System—Had been going on for 100 years and would be carried on indefinitely—In a few cases fishermen might eventually supply their own boats (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1010-14, 1017-24, 1030; (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5196-8.
    - Application might be made to Department of Agriculture for a loan (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1025-6.
    - Competition very great in case of any productive fishery (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1030, 1045.
    - Depended to a great extent on success of the Fishery (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1015.
  - Success of—Loss on Loans granted up to time of beginning of Congested Districts Board not more than 1 per cent. (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5137.

- Loans—
  - Authorities from whom loans could be obtained (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5004.
  - Provision of boats, Loans for, proposed (W. Doherty), II., 5394, 5400; (A. Larminie), IX., 50010.
- Loans by Congested Districts Board for Boats and Gear—
  - Agricultural purposes, Purchase of boats for (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1662.
  - Arrears and bad debts—Difficulty in Repayment—
    - Collecting arrears, plan of appointing receiver over each boat, Opinion in favour of (C. O'Connor), X., 53807-15.
    - Occurred chiefly in respect of Galway and Connemara loans, Statistics, Causes (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1666, 1723-42A, 1746-7.
      - Instalments punctually paid (Monsignor Walker), II., 7007.
    - Repayment in 16 half-year instalments from £25 to £40 each in Letterard—Extent of arrears, etc. (C. O'Connor), X., 53807, 53811.
  - Cork Co.—Statistics, VIII., App. IX., p. 344.
  - Donegal Co.—Statistics, II., App. XII., p. 290-1.
  - Financial Statement showing amount and number of Loans, Conditions, Rate of Interest, etc. (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1722.
  - Kerry Co.—Statistics, VIII., App. VIII., p. 255.
  - Loans for Gear were risky, but if gear were not supplied the Boats could not fish (J. R. O'Brien), II., 1746, 1748.
  - Mayo Co.—Statistics, IX., App. IV., p. 241.
  - Memorandum (W. S. Green), I., App. VI., p. 340.

  - Repayment—
    - Rosmuck—Efforts to repay punctually (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342.
    - *Refer also* to subheadings Arrears and Loan System—Period for Repayment.
  - Security (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1746.

BOATS—*continued.*

- Loans by Congested Districts Board for Boats and Gear—*continued.*
  - Sligo Coast (P. M'Nulty), VI., 28997-8.
    - Statistics of loans in Sligo County, VI., App. IX., p. 295.
  - Summary of Loans since 1893 (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1724, App. III., p. 301.
  - Total Loans issued, Arrears now outstanding and amount written off (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1723-4, Table I., App. VI., p. 349; (Canon Sweeney) II., 9645-6.

- Number of Boats—
  - Causes limiting number of boats provided in answer to applications (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19074-5.
  - Famine year—Total number of boats employed in 1846 (Rev. W. S. Green), II., 4867.
  - More boats required (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7779; (T. Gallagher), 9063-4.
  - Parliamentary Return relating to number of Boats supplied by Congested Districts Board and Department (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 991-4, *and note.*
  - Total number of 1st Class and 2nd Class boats in congested districts and in all Ireland in 1844 (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4870.

- Payment for Boats, Method of—
  - Instalment system, share system, or cash down (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52869, 52871-2.
  - No complaints (H. O'Donnell, of Meenanery), II., 11205.
  - *Refer also* to sub-headings Loan System and Share System.

- Share System—
  - Advantage in enabling men to get boats who could not otherwise get them (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5139; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18998, 19084-95; (C. E. Greene), VII., 35658-63.
  - Agreement between Board and crews, Method of dividing earnings—Charge for Instruction, Insurance, Sinking Fund for Repayment of boat, etc. (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5121-5; (H. O'Donnell, of Meenaneery), II., 11209, 11212-4; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18999-19000; (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52701, 52703, 52716-7.
    - Crew got full benefits and were not on wages, Board supplied fishing gear and necessary repairs and outlays (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19085, 19096.
    - Interest charged on loans for time they ran (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19001-4.
    - Unpopularity of change in method of division by which crew received a smaller proportion (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7851-3.
  - Application by groups of six to the Board—Group considered and accepted if suitable (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7864.
  - Automatic arrangement by which boat repaid itself (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52845.
  - Boat and Nets handed over to Crew when sinking fund was paid off (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19005.
  - Congested Districts Board, Boats supplied by (H. Irvine), II., 8207.
  - Crew of a Boat—Number (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1009.
  - Decease of member of crew, representatives had no claim (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7854-8; (H. O'Donnell, of Meenaneery), II., 11261-70.
    - Arrangement between successor and predecessor's representatives would meet difficulty (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7861-2.
    - Congested Districts Board to retain part of successor's earnings until representatives of deceased were recouped, proposed (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7859-60.

BOATS—*continued.*

- Share System—*continued.*
  - Differences among the men, Question of (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19007.
  - Discharge of member of crew—
    - Board had absolute power (H. O'Donnell, of Meenaneery), II., 11260.
    - Forfeiture of share (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7866-7.
    - Man should be heard on his own behalf before dispensing with his services (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7863.
  - Distraint on share of a boat, Possibility of (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19010-4.
  - Donegal Co.—Cost and Earnings of large fishing boats—Statistics, II., App. XII., pp. 292-4.
  - Galway and Mayo—Boats supplied on share system, Memorandum (Rev. W. S. Green), I., App. VI., p. 341.
  - Grub-money, advances for (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52849, 52851; (H. O'Donnell of Meenaneeny), II., 11253-5.
    - Debt, accumulation of, when fishing earnings were insufficient (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52849.
  - Memorandum IV., App. II., p. 173 (A. T. Duthie).
  - Number of boats handed over and number paid up, etc. (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19015-9, 19022.
  - Ownership, Arrangement of—
    - Members of crew legally co-equal, but one man always took place of skipper—Question of registration of names, etc. (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19006, 19008-9; (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52713-5; (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52850-3.
    - Resumption of Ownership by Board—Complaint that boats were taken from crews without notification (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52691, 52703-5, 52712, 52732-4.
      - Contradiction—Board never resumed ownership of a boat except by request of crew—Every chance given to crews (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52843, 52849.
      - *Hermon* and *Topaz,* Cases of—Details of working of boats, Money paid, etc. (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52706-11, 52713-22, 52725-30, 52735-8; (P. Sullivan), X., 52813-41.
  - Repairs, Board discontinuing to pay for (H. O'Donnell, of Meenaneery), II., 11245-52.
  - Tonnage of share boats (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19066-7.

- Size of Boats—
  - Arklow and East Coast Boats were all good boats of 45 or 50 tons (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5186.
  - Donegal Coast—Size of boats fifteen to thirty tons (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5186.
    - Cost obstacle to getting larger boats under existing conditions (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5187-90.
    - Gradual increase in size (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5191.
  - Large Boats—
    - All were still in commission with exception of two or three that were wrecked (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 999.
    - Deck, question of—Very large hatch, which was generally open but could be covered in (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5135-6.
    - Desirable where there was a valuable fishery to let the men get large boats just as they found them pay (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18665.

Boats—*continued.*

- Size of Boats—*continued.*
  - Large Boats—*continued.*
    - Distribution of large boats—Several full-sized boats in Aran (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5202-3.
    - Number built for or purchased by Congested Districts Board, Description, Tonnage, Price, etc.—Statement I., App. II., p. 282-3.
    - Number of First Class Vessels owned in Ireland very small and getting smaller (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18662.
    - Opinion of fishermen that larger class of boats did not pay—Tendency to go back to smaller class of boats (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18663-5.
    - Sligo Coast—Supply of deck boats by Board for deep-sea fishing desired (M. Kelly), VI., 27940, 27943-4.
    - West Coast—Very few large boats (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5185; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18866.
  - Larger and better boats than those at present in use in Donegal required to enable fishermen to follow the fish, etc. (Mgr. Walker), II., 6984-7, 6996-7; (J. F. O'Donnell), III., 7305; (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7779-85.
    - Character of fishermen energetic (Mgr. Walker), II., 6986-7.
    - Cost of the Scotch Boats (Mgr. Walker), II., 6988-91.
    - Not possible as yet—Fishermen had not the means, but the possibility was coming nearer every year (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7634-6.
      - Size of boat contemplated, Financial position and seamanship of fishermen, willingness to go further afield than local fishing (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7780-94, 7800-4.
        - Congested Districts Board had made no attempt to provide larger boats or to induce the men to go further afield (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7789-90.
        - Local representations to Congested Districts Board, Question of (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7795-9.
        - Share System, Supply of boats on (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7804-5.
    - Slowness of Congested Districts Board in providing larger and better boats (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7809-15.
    - Swilly Lough—Large boats needed—People had only rowing boats (W. Doherty), II., 5400.
  - Loans given for boats over 30 tons (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5192, 5201.
  - Offshore and Inshore fishing (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18792-4.
  - Price of fish affected by size of boat—the larger the boat the quicker she could get back to port and the first boats in got the best price (P. Kelly), II., 12274-6.
  - Share System—nothing over 30 tons (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5192.
  - Summer and Autumn Fishing, Boats being built of a size suitable for both fishings (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18867, 18870-1, 18878, 19068-9.
    - Scotch Sailing Boats to be had cheaply, but they were too large for Irish Autumn fishing (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18870, 18873-4
- Sold under Loan—Boat which was given out under share system and afterwards sold to someone who wanted to buy a boat under a Fishing Loan (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5137.
- Steamers—
  - Experiment by Congested Districts Board with steam luggers proposed (D. Doherty), II., 8512.
  - Objections to steam drifters—Harbours, etc, would all want re-modelling (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44277.

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- Steamers—*continued.*
  - Stage not yet reached in Ireland—Men needed more practical training (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18860.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Types of boats in use—Primitive Appliances.
- Types of Boats in use—
  - Currachs (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 995; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18930-42; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47278.
    - Galway Coast, local feeling in favour of not encouraged by Board (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54053-4.
  - Greencastle Yawls—
    - Galway Coast, Yawls not used on (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54052.
    - Mayo, Yawls given to crews on North Coast (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18942-4.
    - Size and number in Mullaghmore Harbour (D. Gallagher), VI., 28512.
  - Improved boats in Kerry—Assistance given by Congested Districts Board (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44271-5.
  - Luggers obtained from Congested Districts Board and loans for yawls (T. Gallagher), II., 9065-8.
  - Nobbies, Introduction of owing to development of Spring Mackerel Fishing (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18951.
    - Use to which boats about Burtonport were put (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18952.
  - Open Row Boats largely used for fishing near shore (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 995-7.
  - Primitive appliances furnished—Zulu, Yawl, and even Curragh supplied instead of Steam Drifter (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43712-5.
    - Cost of a steam drifter (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43714.
    - Following the fish—Kerrymen would follow the fish if they had suitable boats (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43721-5.
    - Gradual development theory a mistake—life not long enough for such evolution (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43716-9, 43725.
  - Zulu Boats, Introduction of (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18942, App. II., p. 173.
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  - *Refer also* to names of places, Gweedore, Inishowen, Rosses, etc.

Bodkin Estate, Annaghill.

- Purchase by Estates Commissioners (Rev. M. Eagleton), X., 56353, 56364.

Bodkin Estate, Kilclooney—Purchase by Congested Districts Board (J. A. Glynn), X., 55698-705, 55706, 55710, 55733, 55778.

- Annuity, amount charged for 23-acre holding—Complaint as to (J. A. Glynn), X., 56132-8.
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Bog.

- *Refer* to titles Reclamation of Waste Land and Turbary.

Bog Roads.

- *See* Roads and Bridges, *also* names of places.

BOHEY.
Congested area—Valuation, etc. (J. Gilroy), VI., 32490.

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BONET RIVER.
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Compulsory purchase, compensation for disturbance—Acceptance of principle to a certain extent—20 per cent. bonus should more than compensate (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3831-5, 3868.
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Witness was speaking in view of compulsion (M. Finucane), III., 15906.
Gross purchase money, Bonus payable on (A. MacDonnell), V., 25564.
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Opinion in favour of—Alternative would be to acquire land outside Connaught (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47488, 47510.
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Mulcting landlords throughout rest of Ireland in order to improve conditions of people in the West, Question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3827-30, 3839.
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Increase needed—Too small at present to guarantee a low advance at a fair price (A. Crichton), V., 27330.
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Instead of bridging gulf between landlord and tenant, bonus had widened it (B. M'Enroy), VI., 34573.
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BONUS—*continued.*
Inducement to sell, Bonus given as, alleged—*con.*
Unnecessary as inducement to sell when an owner could get his net income without trouble or risk (M. Finucane), III., 15905-6.
Western problem was a very special one, and State had a right to allocate a proportion of the £12,000 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3836-8.
Land Purchase—Either the Bonus or the change in financial arrangements would have been sufficient to keep land purchase going; both were not necessary (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25424-5, 25428-31.
Land Stock, Depreciation in, Criticism of landlords' contention that bonus was an equivalent (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25403.
Landlord got the whole benefit although it was intended by the Act to go towards reduction of price of land (P. Rooney), VI., 32201-3.
Last transaction in a sale was payment of bonus—It was paid by Judicial Commissioners (L. T. Crosbie), V., 25562-3.
No bonus should be paid by the State to any landlord who sold grass land to a grazier (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3736-7, 3739.
Payable on every kind of sale, except that of bankrupt property (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27011-3.
Re-arrangement in order to bridge gap between price that owner would take and that at which land could safely be re-sold (W. F. Bailey), III., 16846.
Revision of finance of Act of 1903; increased willingness of landlords to sell due to anticipation of less favourable conditions as to bonus (T. W. Russell), IX., 51956, 52006-7; (H. Doran), XI., 60071-2.
Sale to tenants of grass farms; opinion in favour of suspension of Act by Estates Commissioners (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3738.
Sound policy under the circumstances (G. Balfour), V., 22258.
Unfair operation of bonus—Man who sold at a low price got a proportionately small bonus, while man who sold at enormous price got enormous bonus (M. Finucane), III., 15906.

BOOT FACTORIES.
Opening all over the country provided it was possible to produce boots as cheaply and well as imported boots (T. Molloy), II., 10993-4.
Tanneries, Establishment of as a result (T. Molloy), II., 10994.
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BOOTH, SIR J. GORE.
Evidence, VI., 28327-28427, App. II., p. 243.

BOOTH'S, SIR J. GORE, ESTATE.
Creameries in neighbourhood—figures showing success of co-operation among small farmers (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28348.
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  Delay in confirmation of sale by Estates Commissioners suggested until 2,000 or 3,000 acres of untenanted land were purchased by Congested Districts Board for migration purposes (H. Brennan), VI., 27633.

  Grazing lands in hands of landlord—All *bona fide* grazing farms had been offered to Estates Commissioners, Acreage (J. Gore Booth), VI., 28370-6, 28394-7.

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Uneconomic holdings, Description of conditions—Untenanted land in district (P. Kirwan), VII., 39478-84; (W. Delaney), VII., 39504; (J. Stanley), VII., 39512.

Boycotting and Intimidation.

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Boyd, Mr. W. H.—*Landed Proprietor and Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant of County Donegal, representing Irish Landowners' Convention.*

Evidence, V., 22930-5385, App. II., pp. 231-43.

Boyers, Mr., Farm in Tobercurry.

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Boyle.

Nature of land on plains of Boyle (H. Satchwell), X., 57803.

Boyle Estate.

Purchase by Estates Commissioners; difficulty in re-sale (W. F. Bailey), III., 16578-80.

Boyle, Mr. James—*Shopkeeper in Carrick.*

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Boyle No. 1 Rural District.

Acreage—Inaccuracy of figures given in Mr. Ginnell's Blue Book (J. Keaveny), X., 59004.

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Railway between Boyle and Roscommon Town needed—Groghan Division practically disfranchised for County Council and Technical Committee (D. Beirne), X., 59377

Roads—

  Condition very bad in congested districts—Need for assistance from Congested Districts Board (J. Keaveny), X., 59007.

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Boyle No. 2 Rural District.

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  Description of conditions—Uneconomic holdings, people huddled together, etc. (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30138-57, 30162, 30164-6, 30179.

  Scheduling entire area as congested, proposed—Unscheduled divisions poorer than scheduled divisions (J. M. Cryan), VI., 30116-21, 30129 (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30138.

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Land should be acquired and re-distributed by Government (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30138; (P. Slein), VI., 30936-40.

Land suitable for enlargement of holdings—Acreage (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30138, 30141, 30179; (P. M'Mananny), VI., 30874-7.

Purchase by Estates Commissioners on King-Harman Estate—Slow division among tenants, etc. (J. M. Cryan), VI., 30122-32.

Reclamation of land—Practical experience of tenants was worth more than scientific teaching, Emigration difficulty (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30208-9, 30211-6.

Boytown.

Uneconomic holdings—Exorbitant price paid for Conacre (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30161.

Bowan Property.

Grazing land about five miles from Killybegs available for enlargement of holdings, &c.—Owners had made no offer to sell (Canon Sweeney), II., 9538-40.

Bowen, Mr. E. F.

Evidence, X., 59122-243.

Brabazon Estate.

Congested conditions—not in scheduled division, rundale, etc. (P. Higgins), IX., 49493-504.

Purchase of, essential to efficient carrying out of drainage on adjoining estates purchased by Congested Districts Board (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25980-2.

Brackley Lake.

Drainage proposed (T. O'Reilly), VII., 38924-30.

BRADY ESTATE.
- Direct sale to tenants—Complaints as to terms (F. Reynolds), VI., 34475.
- Grazing farm in Kinawley—No purchaser had offered (A. Anderson), VII., 39001-3.

BRADY, MISS.—*Nurse in Annagry.*
- Evidence, II., 8823-55.

BRADY, Mr. THOMAS.—*Representing the Cloonyquin Division.*
- Evidence, X., 58951-9.

BRADY, Rev. OWEN.—*Parish Priest of Curlough.*
- Evidence, VII., 39193-205.

BRANCHFIELD, ACHONRY.
- Poorest townland in parish—Not scheduled owing to vicinity of untenanted land (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082; (D. Henry), VI., 30217-30220A.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.
- Age at which finished stock were sold, prices obtained, etc. (C. Phibbs), VI., 29850-62, 29899.
- Age at which young stock were sold, most profitable age, etc. (H. Doran), I., 2321-2; (David Pearson), II., 10924-6; (J. P. Dunnion), II., 11471-93; (Michael M'Naw), II., 11665-73; (James M'Naw), II., 11767; (P. Rooney), VI., 32221-2; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32653; (M. O'Neill), VI., 28701, 28719-20, 28723-5, 28803-5; (J. M'Curdy, of Mig), VII., 36528; (J. Glass), VII., 36655-7; (P. M'Cormick), VII., 37131-2; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44164; (F. Scanlan), IX., 48008-26; (P. Finn), IX., 51491; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57279; (H. Burke), X., 52037-40; (C. Cotton), X., 58423; (W. Walpole), X., 58885-7.
  - Antrim Co. (A. M'Cloy), VII., 37240-1, 37247, 37249-50; (J. M'Cambridge), VII., 37276-9, 37286-7, 37294-5.
  - Cork Co. (Capt. R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46577A, 46605.
  - Cushendall district (S. M. Dobbs), VII., 37056-7.
  - Cushleake (P. M'Cormick), VII., 37142-5.
  - Depended on kind of farming (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45804-5.
  - Donegal (J. Pomeroy), II., 7524-6; (J. Crossan), II., 12319-21; (J. Ruddy), II., 12392-3; (Neal Noone), II., 12443-50.
  - Down Co. (P. O'Hare), VII., 35033, 35039, 35041, 35044-5, 35048-50; (J. H. M'Evoy), VII., 35263.
  - Dromod district (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44112-4.
  - Erris (D. Bingham), IX., 48297, 48334-41.
  - Extreme limit on small uneconomic holdings (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46795-7.
  - Galway and Clare (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56661-4, 56716-23.
  - Greencastle (S. Morris), VII., 37751-3, 37759-60.
  - Kerry (J. L. Sheehan), VIII., 45214, 45247.
  - Longford District (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45805.
  - Profit on sale of young stock (D. Pearson), II., 10919; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14792-9; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32656-9.
    - Statistics (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29139-40, 29144-51, 29204.
  - Rathduff district (A. Davis), IX., 51078-9.
  - Rathlin (J. M'Curdy, of Cragmacreggan), VII., 36570-2.
  - Regulated by need of money (J. Lennon), VII., 35392-8.
  - Rosses (J. Pomeroy), II., 7527, 7530, 7534.
  - Sligo Co. (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 20133
  - Small holders rented bits of grazing land in order to keep their young stock till it was saleable (W. H. Stuart), III., 17769-72.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—*continued.*
- Age at which young Stock were sold—*continued.*
  - Strabane Union—Lough Ash Division (W. M'Gaughey), VII., 38686-7.
  - Strokestown district (W. Walpole), X., 58810-11.
  - Winter feeding difficulty—Young stock sold in autumn (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9233; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14706, 14791.
  - Yearlings, prices obtained for (C. Phibbs), VI., 29863-9; (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45806.
    - Calves—Only sold among neighbours as a rule (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45806-8.
    - Small holders could not bring yearlings into such condition (C. Phibbs), VI., 29870-98.
  - Younger and younger (D. Pearson), II., 10924-6.
- Age at which Canadian and Argentine beef was killed (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29141-3.
- Age of cattle exported—Over two years old (W. H. Boyd), V., 23664-5.
  - Considerable export of two and a half year old cattle in the West (H. Doran), I., 2319.
- Age of Cattle in Ireland, 1900 to 1906—Table, Vol. III., App. XIIB., p. 366.
- Age of Cattle on land proposed to be broken up—
  - Census of number, ages and place of origin of cattle—Quite possible to obtain such a census (F. S. Wrench), III., 14844-6.
    - Obtaining information in connection with investigation into amount of land available—Whether additional inquiry would complicate matters would depend on time of year (F. S. Wrench), III., 14919.
  - Mountain districts—Many cattle did not come to maturity as two-year-olds—Witness was buying two-year-olds at the time to run over the winter (D. Pearson), II., 10926.
- Age of store cattle—
  - Department's information, extent and means of obtaining, etc.—
    - Department knew ages of cattle in the country and approximately ages of cattle going out (Sir H. Plunkett), III., 18053-7.
    - Internal movements of cattle (Sir H. Plunkett), III., 18059-66, 18111.
  - Stores sold for fattening—Cattle kept too long (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9243-5; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20547-9, 20750-2; (M. Cassidy), X., 59308.
    - Irish farmer had all the risk, British or Scotch fattener got the profits (Professor Campbell), IV., 20741-2, 20745-9.
    - Kenmare and Berehaven districts (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45802-3.
      - Cattle so inferior that they often had to be kept till three or four years old (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415, 44426, 44505-8, 44519-26, 44589-93, 44617.
    - Paid better to keep stock until two years old—Hardier and better able to stand the weather (P. M'Cormick), VII., 37146.
- Alternative proposals—
  - Attracting capital and so increasing employment preferable to breaking up grass lands (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57381-8, 57422.
  - Common or co-operative grazing—*see* Grazing.
- Capacity of the land to carry cattle and number of cattle produced, effect on (H. M'Devitt), II., 9929-37; (F. M. Shawe Taylor), X., 56668-70, 56754, 56769.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Capacity of the land to carry cattle and number of cattle produced, Effect on—*con.*
  - Decrease in capacity and in number of cattle produced would result (H. O'Donnell, of Milford), II., 5606; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23541-2, 23563-4, 23584-5, 23602-3, 23618, 23705, 23709; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27198; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44166-7; (D. Bingham), IX., 48348-56, 48378; (D. Kirwin), X., 55363-6, 55374-6, 55383, 55386; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56773-5.
    - Fewer cattle, but produce would be increased by crops (F. S. Wrench), III., 14781-90.
    - Loss per head of cattle might be made up by dairying, etc.—Stall-feeding produced good manure (W. H. Boyd), V., 23604.
    - Pig-breeding, effect on, of reducing number of cows (W. Walpole), X., 58816.
    - Restriction of production would be necessary (W. Walpole), X., 58813, 58816.
  - Graziers did not produce (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57124; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32660-2.
  - Increased capacity would result from proper tillage system, more cattle would be raised (H. Doran), I.,2318, 2326-8, 2376-7, 2385; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14462, 14465, 14853; (M. Finucane), III., 15503, 15551; (Sir H. Plunkett), III., 18074, 18077, 18078; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28849; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29204; (P. Higgins), IX., 49611-13; (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49816-20; (A. Davis), IX., 51098; (J. Ryan), X., 57712-3; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57879; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57124, 57127; (J. Ryan), X., 57712-3.
    - Homefeeding might enable small holders to keep more cattle—Home-fed cattle would have to be finished (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27199-200.
    - Improved system of agriculture an essential part of scheme (F. S. Wrench), III., 14467-8, 14716-8.
    - Manure produced would make land much more productive (H. Doran), I., 2348.
  - Lands might be improved to a certain extent, but they could not be made to carry the increased supply which would be produced by small holders (J. Irwin), X., 58695-704, 58707, 58710-8.
  - Limit to number of cattle that could be properly reared on a farm of a certain size and quality (W. Vaugh), VI., 32733.
  - More cattle could be kept on small holdings, but it would not pay to do it (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41471-9, 41500.
  - Over stocking of small farms would result if all cattle were to be kept for three years (D. Kirwin), V., 55372-3, 55384.
  - Run, size of, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Stall-feeding, possibilities of—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Store cattle—Small holder might feed more store cattle, keeping holding in grass and just tilling a few roods of potatoes (W. H. Boyd), V., 23712-4.
  - Useless comparison—Object of breaking up land was to have tillage (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27196-7, 27205.
- Class of cattle, effect on—
  - All classes of stock would deteriorate, small farmers had neither the money nor the enterprise to use good sires (G. G. Armstrong), X., 55977; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57298-9; (J. Irwin), X., 58689; (H. Burke), X., 52037, 52040-6, 52096-8.
  - Cattle in the North, where there were tillage farms, far inferior to those in grazing districts (G. Hewson), VI., 31718.
- Class of land that should be broken up—
  - Accommodation land—Question whether it was more profitable to graze than to till (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29561.
  - All classes of grass land, question of applying compulsion to (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25877A-80.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, &C.—*continued.*

- Class of land that should be broken up—*con.*
  - Breaking up not to be confined to grass lands in congested districts (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26775.
  - Continuous grazing—Lands which would not stand continuous grazing (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47436.
  - Distinction between tillage, dairying, fattening, wheat and barley land (E. Browne), VII., 39970-4, 39983-4, 39995.
  - Eleven months and yearly lettings—
    - Non-residential land should be taken (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29537, 29541; (Canon O'Riordan), VIII., 43573; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57204-9.
      - Demesne, any farm worked in connection with should be exempted (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57204-9.
    - Shopkeepers and others not living entirely by the land, holdings should be taken from (J. Neary), X., 58600, 58602-4, 58625-7.
  - Fattening lands—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Former cultivation of grass land, evidences of—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Galway, land in (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57125.
    - Amount of land suitable for mixed farming, question of (Lord Ashtown), X., 57419-21.
    - Classification of grazing lands according to their suitability for breaking up (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57349-52.
  - Good second-class land (best class of store land) should not be broken up (W. H. Boyd), V., 23636-9, 23709, 23730-3.
  - Inquiry needed (W. F. Bailey), III., 17216.
  - Lands adjoining existing holdings might be broken up with advantage, but not lands at a distance from a supply of turbary (J. Irwin), X., 58741, 58763.
  - Lands taken by landlords for the avowed purpose of defeating the Wyndham Act (*e.g.*, by Lord Ashtown) should be broken up (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57205, 57210-8.
  - Large farms were most suitable and large farmers would be more willing to migrate (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082, 30091-3, 30104-7.
  - Low grade grass land (G. Wyndham), V., 22818, 22881; (Lord Castletown), V., 26621.
  - Meath land, question of suitability for tillage (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56801-4; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57891-2,
    - Apart from convenience, second and third class Meath land should be no more sacred from the plough than Roscommon land (F. S. Wrench), III., 14817.
    - Fattening lands—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Medium land should be taken (H. Burke), X., 52091; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56755, 56800.
  - Poor land, if taken, should be so distributed that each occupier had some good land (W. F. Bailey), III., 17211-4.
  - Proportion of land unsuitable for tillage (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47434.
  - Roscommon grazing lands, suitability for tillage—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Stiff, heavy land and craggy land, question of suitability for tillage (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56730-2, 56755, 56799; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57881-2, 57894; (J. Irwin), X., 58680-2.
  - Tillage, land which would be better in tillage (W. H. Boyd), V., 23570, 23574, 23576-8, 23595-6; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977, 55981-4; (J. Irwin), X., 58691-4, 58697.
  - Whereabouts of land could only be ascertained by inspection (W. H. Boyd), V., 23581-2.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Classification of Irish cattle according as they were used for dairying, fattening, or exporting as stores (W. F. Bailey), III., 17177.
  - Export returns, classification of cattle given by (W. F. Bailey), III., 17178-8A, *and note.*
- Congested Districts Board, land in hands of—
  - Effect of breaking up, etc. (H. Doran), I., 3124.
  - Grazing taken for six months as a rule (H. Doran), I., 3130.
  - Great advantage for small holders to get grazing at moderate price, grazing land of some sort an economic necessity (H. Doran), I., 3125-7, 3131.
  - Loss which would be sustained by small holders in Castlerea Union (J. Irwin), X., 58728-9, 58735-6.
  - No injury to tenants now sending cattle to graze, better to have sufficient grazing land on holding (H. Doran), I., 3126-9.
  - Not practicable to give preference to people now sending cattle to graze (H. Doran), I., 3140.
  - Number of cattle and sheep grazed, mostly from congested districts (H. Doran), I., 3122, 3130, 3132-3.
    - No objection on the part of neighbouring holders (H. Doran), I., 3134.
  - Result would be migration and enlargement of holdings (H. Doran), I., 3135.
- Difficulty in getting tenant occupiers if grass lands were cut up on a large scale—Tenants would require a very good bargain (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41349.
- Dislocation in cattle trade, question of (G. Hewson), VI., 31586; (R. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43785; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44164-6, 44177.
  - Complete disorganisation of cattle trade by enormous depreciation in value of store cattle would result (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56682-5, 56738-40.
  - Cows, demand for, might increase if lands were properly tilled (F. S. Wrench), III., 14837-42, 14848-9.
  - Donegal store cattle trade would not be affected (J. Pomeroy), II., 7528-35.
  - Injury done to cattle trade as a whole would be felt by small holders everywhere (W. Walpole), X., 58812.
  - Leitrim cattle trade would not be greatly affected (W. Vaugh), VI., 32651.
  - Loss of the market provided by graziers—As many or more cattle would be produced, but the market would be gone (H. M'Devitt), II., 9923; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14719, 14768, 14770-8; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23552-60, 23702; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28850-1, 28859-61; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29679-81, 29685, 29742; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44178, 44183-92; (D. Bingham), IX., 48292-3, 48301-8, 48331-2, 48341-7, 48352-8; (H. Burke), X., 52040, 52065; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55984; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57275A; (E. W. Sandford-Mills), X., 58375; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59212-8, 59225-6, 59228-34, 59236-7, 59240-1.
  - Pollying trade, effect on, of breaking up grass lands (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56695-7.
  - Price of cattle—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Rate at which breaking up was likely to take place—
    - Gradual process—Nothing should be done in a wholesale way to upset the trade (D. Kirwin), X., 55390; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977, 55980, 55982.
    - Process would be gradual and trade would have time to adapt itself (F. S. Wrench), III., 14850-2; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20562-3, 20752-4; (G. Hewson), VI., 31586.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Dislocation in Cattle Trade, question of—*con.*
  - Sale of stock would not be affected (M. M'Nelis), II., 10028, 10031; (D. Pearson), II., 10933-4; (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29575-86; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46802, 46804-5.
  - Scotland, exportation to, of year-and-a-half-olds would not suffer by cutting up of grass lands (H. M'Devitt), II., 9948-9.
- Disposal of small holders' cattle, Market for young stock, etc.—
  - Comparison between disposal of poor man's stock and grazier's stock (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57879.
  - Cushleake and Cushendall, Co. Antrim (P. M'Cormick), VII., 37133-6; (J. M'Cambridge), VII., 37290-3.
  - Difference in price between beasts going to Scotland and those sold in Ireland, question of (W. H. Boyd), V., 23656-9, 23669-74.
  - Donegal Stock—Destination after sale in local markets (J. Pomeroy), II., 7528-35; (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9240-5; (D. Pearson), II., 10920-2, 10927-31, 10935-7, 10941-2; (J. Crossan), II., 12322, 12349; (J. Ruddy), II., 12391; (N. Noone), II., 12443-50.
  - Downshire Stock (P. O'Hare), VII., 35034-9, 35043-5; (J. M'Evoy), VII., 35263.
  - English and Foreign buyers, demand for (W. Mitchell), VI., 28856, 28860; (J. Irwin), X., 58702.
  - Exports—
    - Calves exported—Number exported tended to show that grazing was not excessive (W. H. Boyd), V., 23666-74.
      - Only 5 per cent. of total amount exported, and they probably were largely raised in neighbourhood of port (W. H. Boyd), V., 23734-7.
    - Number exported, 1900 to 1906—Table, Vol. III., App. XIIB., p. 366.
    - Number in Ireland in 1905, Number exported to Great Britain, 14870, *note.*
    - Stores, Export of (W. F. Bailey), III., 17179, 17183-4, 17188-92, 17246-54.
  - Fat Stock, Market for, in Ireland (H. Plunkett), III., 18089-90.
  - Inferior Cattle almost unsaleable (F. S. Wrench), III., 14689; (J. Irwin), X., 58702.
    - Extent to which small holders realised difficulty, question of (F. S. Wrench), III., 14690, 14692.
    - Many small holders produced cattle practically unsaleable for fattening purposes (F. S. Wrench), III., 14694.
      - Kenmare Stores, case of (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415, 44426, 44505-8, 44519-26, 44589-93, 44617.
  - Local Market for young stock (W. H. Boyd), V., 23650-5; (M. O'Neill), VI., 28805; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46798-800.
    - Local graziers bought young stock, Meath or Leinster men bought them from grazier after 6 or 12 months (H. Doran), I., 2323-4, 2330, 2341-4; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659.
    - Very few Scotch or English attended local fairs (W. H. Boyd), V., 23660-3.
  - Meath and other fattening lands, cattle finished in, were exported as fat or killed in Ireland (W. F. Bailey), III., 17180-2, 17185.
  - Movement of Cattle from one part of Ireland to another (R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46605.
    - Department's means of obtaining information (H. Plunkett), III., 18051-2.
    - Illustration (R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46577A.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Disposal of small holders' cattle—*con.*
  - Period of the year at which cattle were bought by graziers (H. Doran), I., 2349; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14705.
  - Proportion of stock raised by small holders finished in Ireland, proportion going to England and Scotland, question of (F. S. Wrench), III., 14705, 14710-1.
  - Scotch demand for good stock from East Roscommon (W. Walpole), X., 58810-1.
  - South of Ireland dealers brought calves and yearlings to the West and sold them to small farmers (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56737.
  - Usual custom of country for disposal of two-year-old stores—procedure (D. Bingham), IX., 48292-6, 48325, 48334-6.
  - Yearling beasts, slump in (J. Irwin), X., 58701.
- Economic position of small holders who must sell their stock after a year or so, question as to economic necessity for the grazier—
  - Advantage to small holders of neighbouring grazing lands, question of (H. O'Donnell, of Milford), II., 5601-5; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29336; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59123-6, 59131-3, 59135, 59138, 59140, 59221.
    - Congested Districts Board, lands in hands of, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Advantages of changes so great as to counterbalance any disadvantage (M. Finucane), III., 15550-1.
  - Benefit to have the land tilled if conditions were different and small man had the same opportunity as the grazier (P. O'Hare), VII., 35051-60.
  - Complication of conditions due to fact that best grazing lands were mostly in one county (Professor Campbell), IV., 20573.
  - Congested Districts Board, lands in hands of, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Connaught—Opinion in favour of a system of small holdings and calf-breeding industry, the rest of Ireland to be purchasers of stores (W. Vaugh), VI., 32742-6.
  - Dairying, pig-feeding and poultry-rearing, introduction of system proposed as solution of difficulty (Professor Campbell), IV., 20557, 20788.
  - Danger of introducing a system of farming to which small holders were not accustomed on land which was not perhaps suited to tillage (G. Hewson), VI., 31685-708.
  - Direct sale to Irish or British finishers would take place of present system (D. Pearson), II., 10938-40; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17133; (P. Rooney), VI., 32223-4; (P. Higgins), IX., 49547-62, 49580-3, 49617-8.
  - Discussed by Council of Agriculture, but not referred to expert committee on cattle-breeding (Professor Campbell), IV., 16903.
  - Dislocation of Cattle trade, loss of market, etc., *see* sub-heading Dislocation.
  - Elimination of the grazier proposed—Evils of present system, etc. (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29541, 29584-5, 29591, 29594; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52493; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57122-4, 57127.
    - Land held by graziers stocked at present with cattle bought from small breeders (F. S. Wrench), III., 14833.
  - Finishing Cattle, *see* sub-headings Finishing and Stall-feeding.
  - Hay, market for, would be destroyed (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41450-5—Balanagore Estate instance, 41543, 41560.
    - Not a disadvantage (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58368.
  - Injury to small holders (F. S. Wrench), III., 14707-9; (J. M'Cambridge), VII., 37289; (H. Burke), 52037; (D. Kirwin), X., 55361, 55367; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 36777-8; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57433-4.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Economic position of small holders—*continued.*
  - Injury to small holders, etc.—*continued.*
    - Kerry small holders, Effect on, would be disastrous (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747.
    - Poverty would be increased by breaking up unsuitable land (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29336; (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39666-86.
    - South and West, injury to—Extent of import of calves from the South into the West (R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46576, 46593, 46604; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57290-2, 57359-66.
  - Inquiry, Need for (W. H. Boyd), V., 23561. 23583.
    - Inquiry could easily be made (W. F. Bailey), III., 17194-5.
    - No official inquiry had been made (F. S. Wrench), IV., 14712-4; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17193, 17196, 17210; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20461, 20464.
  - Memorandum by Mr. Finucane, Vol. III., App. VIIA., p. 311.
  - Need for the grazier as middleman between small farmer and fattener (W. F. Bailey), III., 17186-7; (H. M'Devitt), II., 9923-5, 9928; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29613, 29679-85, 29735, 29742, 29960; (G. Hewson), VI., 31587-8; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32654-5, 32668-70, 32710-1; (P. O'Hare), VII., 35040-2, 35046-7; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44192; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47420, 47432-5, 47444-7; (D. Bingham), IX., 48292, 48307-8, 48331-2; (H. Burke), X., 52095; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56660, 56698-714, 56768; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283; (J. Ryan), X., 57657-9, 57682; (C. Cotton), X., 58422; (J. Irwin), X., 58689; (W. Walpole), X., 58778A; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59142, 59238-9.
    - Character and position of graziers, Vol. IX., App. III., p. 201; (J. Irwin), X., 58692; (H. A. Burke), X., App. I., pp. 274-5.
    - Grazing could not be done without, but gradual displacement of the 11 and 12 months' grazing system would be a benefit (H. Plunkett), III., 18079-83.
    - High class and breed of stock in Ireland due to the graziers, stock would deteriorate if grazier were eliminated (H. Burke), X., 52037, 52040-6, 52096-8; (J. Irwin), X., 58689.
    - Necessary under existing conditions, but distribution of grazing lands would improve market and conditions for small holders (P. Higgins), IX., 49547-63, 49580-3.
    - Nothing to prevent small holder doing what grazier did, but witness did not think he would be able to do it (D. Kirwin), X., 55377-82.
    - Retention necessary to a certain extent (J. Irwin), X., 58697.
  - New holders would raise their own stock (F. S. Wrench), III., 14834-6; (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29564-72, 29574-6, 29590-2.
  - One grazier would be replaced by a number of small farmers, western men would sell to 30 small farmers instead of one grazier (H. Doran), I., 2379-81, 2384-6; (D. Pearson), II., 10916.
    - Contradiction (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56661-81.
  - Percentage of holdings in Ireland not above 30 acres where owners had to sell their stock before it was matured (W. H. Boyd), V., 23546-51.
  - Price of Cattle, *see* that sub-heading.

Breaking up of Grass Lands, Policy of—Effect on Cattle Trade, etc.—*continued.*

- Economic position of small holders, etc.—*con.*
  - Prosperity of the country *v.* prosperity of the cattle trade, question of (M. O'Neill), VI., 28698-9, 28701; (D. Kirwin), X., 55388-90.
    - Cattle industry was the staple industry of the country and seemed to pay best (D. Kirwin), X., 55387.
    - Ireland naturally a grazing country (F. Scanlan), IX., 48024-6; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977.
    - Limit beyond which it would be dangerous to go in interests of the country at large, there was such a limit (W. H. Boyd), V., 25340-2.
    - Only agricultural industry, disadvantageous to regard cattle trade as the only industry (W. H. Boyd), V., 23675, 23684.
  - Scotch buyers, increased number of cattle purchased by—question whether local grazier was tending to disappear (H. Plunkett), III., 18067-71.
  - Security for advances, *see* sub-heading Return from the land.
- Estates Commissioners did not break up land (H. Plunkett), III., 18077.
- Existing conditions of Cattle raising (H. Burke), X., 52037-40; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57275A-7.
- Fattening lands, question of breaking up—
  - Agreement with Mr. Doran's distinction between the full fattening lands and the half fattening lands (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3982-3.
  - Acute congestion necessitating purchase of land of superior quality—in such cases grass should remain as common pasturage (G. Wyndham), V., 22881-2.
  - Location and Extent (E. Browne), VII., 39971-81.
    - Ascertaining, means of—Valuation Office books and Inspection (F. S. Wrench), III., 15001-4.
    - Connaught, Amount in (H. Doran), I., 2389.
    - Elphin district (F. S. Wrench), III., 14831.
    - Golden Vale of Limerick (E. Browne), VII., 39988-94.
    - Greatest quantity of fattening land together was in Leinster (W. F. Bailey), III., 17201-6.
    - Lands which would fatten cattle if properly treated (J. Irwin), X., 58715, 58719.
  - Meath and Kildare Land, Question how far process was same as in Roscommon (F. S. Wrench), III., 14726-33, 14740-50, 14756-8, 14763-6.
  - No class of land too good for tillage (Professor Campbell), IV., 20503, 20505-6, 20532; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25799, 25881, 25889.
    - Determining factor in putting land under grass or tillage, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 25365-9.
    - M'Cann's, Mr., Experiments (Professor Campbell), IV., 20501; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23701, 23723-5.
    - Meath—magnificent tillage land, difficulty of heavy soil could be overcome (P. O'Hare), VII., 35005-11.
    - Value of land would be greater under tillage than it was for pasturage (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3986; (A. Davis), IX., 51072, 51098.
  - Not desirable to break up fattening lands (H. Doran), I., 2333, 2357, 2388, 2392-3; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14741, 14817, 14821-9, 14863-4, 15000; (H. Plunkett), III., 18074-6; (G. Wyndham), V., 22818, 22881; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23571-3, 23575, 23594, 23699-700, 23720-1, 23727-8; (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39672-7; (E. Browne), VII., 39966-7, 39979-83; (J. Irwin), X., 58665.

Breaking up of Grass Lands, Policy of—Effect on Cattle Trade, etc.—*continued.*

- Fattening lands, question of breaking up—*con.*
  - Not desirable to break up fattening lands—*continued.*
    - South of Ireland—Object of breaking land was solely to get it into heart, if used for any other purpose the land deteriorated (R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46577A-9.
  - Retention of large area for production of summer beef, etc., desired (Professor Campbell), IV., 20504, 20530, 20531, 20538-40, 20708.
    - Prices prevailing during next 10 or 12 years would determine whether land should be tilled or left under grass (Professor Campbell), IV., 20540.
    - Retention advocated only if beef was to be the principal product (Professor Campbell), IV., 20707.
  - Scotland—No land comparable with Meath lands, Fattening done in straw yards in Scotland (F. S. Wrench), III., 14855.
  - Two classes of grazing—Fattening land and land which might be tilled with advantage (F. S. Wrench), III., 14723-5.
  - Unsuitable for tillage, too rich for cultivation alleged (H. Doran), I., 2333-8, 2357, 2388, 2392-3; (M. Finucane), III., 15567; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23699-700, 23720, 23727-8; (E. Browne), VII., 39966-70, 39979, 39983; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47420, 47431, 47433; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977; (J. Irwin), X., 58664-70, 58756.
    - Care should be taken not to till lands that could be grazed to greater profit (H. Boyd), V., 22935.
    - Doubtful if land was too rich—Witness had seen Golden Vale in Limerick under cultivation (M. Finucane), VII., 15508, 15522.
    - Expense of tilling, very heavy land might make it unprofitable (Professor Campbell), IV., 20504.
    - Important that truth or untruth of assertion should be ascertained (M. Finucane), III., 15523-4.
    - Land could remain in grass and be used for fattening even if it were broken up (M. Finucane), III., 15508-9, 15512, 15514, 15517, 15526.
      - Holdings might be so arranged as to have some land on each that ought to be cultivated (M. Finucane), III., 15556-61.
      - Loss of profit need not be great, small farmers could combine to buy their cattle (M. Finucane), III., 15519-21.
      - Portions of farms broken up good enough for fattening should not be tilled (Professor Campbell). IV., 20458.
    - Large farmers should be moved on to fattening lands, or failing that land should be used for fattening in small farms (M. Finucane), III., 15509-18.
      - Breaking up advocated only as a second resort (M. Finucane), III., 15554-5.
      - Moving bigger man was a matter of expediency, not of principle—witness did not say the land was too good for small holders (M. Finucane), III., 15572-6.
    - "More profitable under grass" was not the same thing as "unfit for cultivation" (M. Finucane), III., 15568-9A.
    - Tillage would not pay on present standard of agriculture (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27127.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Finishing Cattle—Would the small holder be able to finish his own cattle or keep them till they were ready to fatten?
  - Advantage of Irish climate, etc., for finishing cattle (F. S. Wrench), III., 14859; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29756, 29762.
  - Age at which cattle should be fattened, question of—
    - Animal should be fully grown (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44184-92.
    - Farmers would learn to turn cattle out earlier (M. Cassidy), X., 51315.
  - Alternatives before the small farmer (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20553.
  - Attitude of small farmers—
    - Cork Co.—Farmers would not change system, or if they did they would keep more dairy cows and rear more calves (Capt. R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46606-7.
    - Down Co.—Thirty-acre farmer on good land could and did finish cattle (P. O'Hare), VII., 35067-71.
      - Not as a rule, one or two perhaps might be finished in a year (J. M'Evoy), VII., 35263-5.
    - Few small farmers fattened at all (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29134.
    - Not inclined to finish their stores, knowing nothing of stall-feeding (C. Phibbs), VI., 29686-8, 29742-3, 29748.
  - Best system of farming was to fatten all stock (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57879.
  - Better results would be obtained by small holders, who would give more care and attention to the stock than did many of the graziers (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57124.
  - Dairying and rearing young cattle preferable to fattening cattle for small holders in Ireland (W. Vaugh), VI., 32724-8, 32734-7, 32741.
  - Loan to small holder, question of—
    - Banks would not lend money for fattening cattle (W. Vaugh), VI., 32694-5.
    - Congested Districts Board could give a loan; no reason why small holder should not keep his beast and fatten it (W. Vaugh), VI., 32696-7.
  - Local use, cattle fattened for (P. Flynn), VI., 33213-6, 33227.
  - Method of finishing cattle (C. Phibbs), VI., 29843-9; (P. Flynn), VI., 33197.
    - Black quarter caused by injudicious forcing (C. Phibbs), VI., 29900-3.
    - Grass-fed for the most part in Ireland (H. Plunkett), III., 18091.
    - Meath lands or in stalls in England or Scotland, fattening done in (H. Doran), I., 2344, 2358-61.
    - Open-air fattening nowhere attempted in winter; bulk of cattle were exported and stall-fed in England or Scotland (H. Doran), I., 2350-1.
    - Scotch and Irish methods compared (J. Malone), VII., 40920-34.
    - Tillage did not pay so well as feeding cattle on grass with help of cake, etc. (C. Phibbs), VI., 29834-42.
    - Time of year fattening was carried out—Quantity of food consumed by an animal during process of fattening, etc. (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57926.
  - Not possible for small holders to keep their cattle till ready for fattening or shipping (F. S. Wrench), III., 14689, 14697-8, 14721, 14860-2; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28855-6; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29204; (G. Hewson), VI., 31589-93; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44192; (D. Kirwin), X., 55362-6; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56687, 56787; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59233.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Finishing Cattle—*continued.*
  - Not possible for small holders to keep their cattle, etc.—*continued.*
    - Province of small holders was to produce store cattle, not to fatten (F. S. Wrench), III., 14695-6, 14703-4.
    - Small farmers would not have the knowledge, capital, or land required (Lord Ashtown), X., 57280-3.
  - Possible for small holder to finish cattle, no reason why he should not if he had the necessary buildings and did the necessary tillage (Professor Campbell), IV., 20556, 20563-6, 20752; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25882-3, 25886-7; (W. F. Mitchell), VI., 28851-4, 28861; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29135-8; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32678-86, 32692-3, 32702-6; (D. Kirwin), X., 55368; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56688; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57124-6.
    - All the profits would then go to small holder, middleman being eliminated (H. Doran), I., 2325, 2330-2, 2352, 2366-76; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14800-1, 14854; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20567; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32667, 32676-7, 32698-701; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57124.
  - Possible for small holder to keep beast till ready to fatten (H. Doran), I., 2320; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14809-10; (M. Finucane), III., 15503; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17133; (P. Higgins), IX., 49591-605, 49614-8.
    - At that stage cattle would be sent either to finishing lands of Meath and Kildare or across the Channel (F. S. Wrench), III., 14811.
  - Price—Extra five shillings per cwt. obtained in England and Scotland (W. Vaugh), VI., 32691.
  - Profit was greater if cattle were fattened, but it entailed a great deal of extra labour and superintendence (P. Flynn), VI., 33193-212, 33217-22.
  - Proportion of cattle finished in Ireland, question of (F. S. Wrench), III., 14868-70 and *note.*
  - Reasons for not finishing cattle (W. Vaugh), VI., 32687-9.
    - Fat cattle would suffer more than store cattle by the journey to England (P. Flynn), VI., 33223-5.
    - Labour and superintendence entailed (P. Flynn), VI., 33195-212.
  - Run, extent of, needed—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Size of holding and class of land necessary (W. Vaugh), VI., 32712-4, 32717-9; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56724-9.
    - Second class grazing lands would not fatten cattle (Professor Campbell), IV., 20571.
  - Stall-feeding possibilities—*see* that sub-heading.
  - Stock need not be all cows (Professor Campbell), IV., 20552, 20554-5.
- Former cultivation, evidences of, showing that land had gone out of cultivation (W. F. Bailey), III., 17219-20; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56795, 56798; (W. Walpole), X., 58866-9; (J. Sharkey), X., 59055; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59242-3.
  - Cause of lands going out of cultivation (J. Sharkey), X., 59042, 59054-6.
    - Artificial stimulus provided by corn laws, high prices during Napoleonic Wars, etc.—Cultivation ceased when stimulus was withdrawn (W. Walpole), X., 58778, 58785.
    - Temporary tillage had been necessary before the days of foreign competition, but it could not be depended upon now (H. Burke), X., 52104A-5.
    - Transit facilities, growth of had made competition world-wide (W. Walpole), X., 58790, 58829-32.

BREAKING UP GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Former cultivation, evidence of, etc.—*continued.*
    - East Roscommon, conditions prevailing in time of Arthur Young—*refer* to Strokestown district.
    - Historical evidence was in favour of the lands having always been in grass—Plains of Boyle might have been depopulated through evictions, but probably they had never been anything but a pastoral district (W. Walpole), X., 58782-3, 58795-801.
    - Not a conclusive argument in favour of tillage now (W. Walpole), X., 58833.
    - Traces of cultivation not universal and chiefly found on land of a different quality from the deep strong land (W. Walpole), X., 58784-6, 58792-3, 58827-8.
- Fuel and Water Supply—Difficulty in regard to grazing lands of Roscommon, etc. (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58369-70; (J. Irwin), X., 58764, 58766; (W. Walpole), X., 58778, 58826; (J. Sharkey), X., 59040-1, 59043, 59045-8.
    - Almost insuperable (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41585, 41602-6.
    - Compressed peat factory, erection of, where bogs were plentiful proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58370-4; (J. Irwin), X., 58767-9.
    - Coal could be brought from Arigna if there were a railway (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58370-4; (W. Walpole), X., 58871-3.
    - Difficulty had always existed—Serious bar to the erection of small holdings (W. Walpole), X., 58778A-82, 58795, 58798.
    - Methods used in other districts in absence of turf not applicable (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41587-91.
    - Purchase of a large bog might supply needs of district if population were not increased by migrants (J. Irwin), X., 58764.
    - Turf would not bear cost of transit, and compressed peat was not a success (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41600.
    - Water could be supplied, but artesian wells, etc., would add to the price of the holding (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41593-6, 41602.
- Graziers, attitude of—No objection provided they got compensation (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28343; (J. Ryan), X., 57748.
- Horse-breeding industry in Connaught, injury to—Good horses could not be reared on small farms (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57293-7.
- Improved system of tillage and management essential (H. Doran), I., 2346, 2387; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3858A-61; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14467-8, 14716-8, 14802-4, 14807.
    - Mistake to increase population before its means of sustenance could be provided—Rising generation would not be content to work with the spade (H. Burke), X., 52065.
    - Time required—Education of new holders would be a matter of generations, and even then success was doubtful (H. Burke), X., 52037—Contradiction (P. O'Malley), 52207-8.

- Labour supply—
    - Abolition of so-called uneconomic holdings would decrease labour supply (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41532; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57353, 57511.
    - Increased supply would result (J. Sharkey), X., 59085-95.
    - No difficulty, as people now obliged to leave the country would stop at home if land were broken up (M. Cassidy), X., 59309, 59355.
    - Supply would not be affected, small farmers were the chief source of supply (D. O'Loughlin), VII., 39812-20, 39831-3.
    - *Refer also* to sub-headings Return from the land and Tillage.

BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

- Landlord and large tenants would be driven out of the country and their capital would go with them (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57383-5, 57423-6, 57432.
    - Extent to which landlords had invested capital in Ireland in the past, question of (Lord Ashtown), 57427-31.
- Listowel Rural District Council, notes of special meeting held in reference to large holdings, VIII., App. I., p. 205—Correspondence in reply, p. 207.
- Opinion against (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39672-86; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47444-7; (C. Cotton), X., 58422; (H. A. Burke), X., App. I., p. 275.
- Opinion in favour of (L. Armstrong), VI., 30814; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32738-9; (G. Browne), VII., 39966-7, 39984, 40017-21, 40034; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56483-5; (Rev. T. J. Reidy), X., 58122; (P. Webb), X., 58559; (M. Cassidy), X., 59308, 59354; (D. Beirne), X., 59377.
- Opinion in favour of if it could be proved that the thing would be a success, many elements required to be taken into consideration (G. Hewson), VI., 31724-33.
- Price of Cattle, effect on—
    - Fall in price probable (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29204, 29208-13; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29742; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32651-2, 32672.
    - Price of cattle would probably go up under more tillage (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29587, 29589.
- Principle explicitly sanctioned by Government in 1901 (G. Wyndham), V., 22819.
- Reservation of some grass lands—
    - Large portion should remain as grazing (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47437-8.
    - *Refer* also to sub-heading Fattening lands.
- Results obtained from land already broken up, *see* sub-heading Use to which land would be put.
- Return from the land, effect on (E. Browne), VII., 40017-21, 40034; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47425-9.
    - Capacity of the land to carry cattle, Number of cattle produced, *see* that sub-heading
    - Decreased return, tillage less profitable than grazing, labour difficulty, etc. (C. Phibbs), VI., 29762-70, 29807, 29830, 29834-42; (G. Hewson), VI., 31561; (P. Flynn), VI., 33228-33; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41494-5, 41497, 41506, 41508-9, 41561-2; (Capt. R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46577A; (Col Knox-Gore), IX., 47437-8; (J. Ryan), X., 57631, 57649, 57699-703.
        - Low prices necessary to safeguard Estates Commissioners against loss on re-sale, alleged—Admission that land was more profitable under grass and in large divisions (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283.
        - Poor land, case of—Some land not good enough for tillage (Professor Campbell), IV., 20508-9, 20518, 20533, 20704.
        - Security for advances would be endangered by deterioration of land, etc. (C. Phibbs), VI., 29613, 29689-90, 29693-4, 29735; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59142, 59146-50.
    - Difficulty of getting grass land when once tilled back into its former condition, time required, etc. (G. Browne), VII., 39979; (Capt. R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46577A; (J. Irwin), X., 58757-8; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59142, 59179.
    - Doubtful—
        - Farmer employing labour, case of, doubtful whether tillage would be profitable (Professor Campbell), IV., 20515-6, 20542, 20545-6.
        - Meath, second and third class lands—If price and skill of farmer were certain it might be better to have inferior land under tillage (Capt. R. W. Cooper), VIII., 46580-93.

BREAKING UP GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

Return from the land, effect on—*continued.*

Fall in price of produce of tillage, question whether redistribution of population in order to increase number of tillage holdings was justifiable policy in view of fall (M. Finucane), III., 15447.

Fattening lands, *refer* to that sub-heading.

Increased return would be given, producing power of the soil greater under good tillage on suitable land than under grazing (F. S. Wrench), III., 14458-60, 14785-90, 14808, 14818-9; (Professor Campbell), IV., 19830-1, 20454-7, 20459, 20498-9, 20507, 20512-4, 20533-4, 20543-4, 20546; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28861; (M. Egan), X., 58963; (T. O'Rourke), X., 59001-2.

Precarious value of grazing rents (W. F. Bailey), III., 17133.

Roscommon grazing lands, suitability for breaking up and for tillage (F. S. Wrench), III., 14832.

Abuse of grazing in Roscommon, Land would produce more if tilled (F. S. Wrench), III., 14759-61.

Advantages of having large area lying together, Saving of expense in erection of buildings, making of roads and drains, etc. (F. S. Wrench), III., 14919.

Both classes of land found (E. Browne), X., 59219-22, 59224.

Finishing land should only be broken up when mixed with land suitable for tillage (F. S. Wrench), III., 14746-9, 14751-4.

Holdings should contain both pasture and tillage land, and as these were intermixed there would be no difficulty (M. Cassidy), X., 59319-31.

Former cultivation, evidence of, *see* that sub-heading.

Fuel and Water difficulty, *see* that sub-heading.

Good land in South Roscommon, comparison with tillage land of same class in England (C. Cotton), X., 58398.

Good store land (F. S. Wrench), III., 14830; (J. Irwin), X., 58689.

Proportion of land suitable for tillage (J. Ryan), X., 57638-41, 57712.

Results obtained on land already distributed (J. Irwin), X., 58649-60, 58663, 58668, 58672-9, 58688.

Returns of untenanted land misleading—Investigation by capable inspector the only means of ascertaining what was available (F. S. Wrench), III., 14877-8.

Suitable land (F. S. Wrench), III., 14737-9, 14832; (W. Walpole), X., 58778; (J. Sharkey), X., 59050-3; (M. Cassidy), X., 59318-9, 59374-5.

Most favourable spot in Ireland for the experiment (F. S. Wrench), III., 14816, 14877.

Unsuitable land (J. Irwin), X., 58664-70, 58680-2, 58760; (F. S. Wrench), III., 15272; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41490-2, 41585; (J. Ryan), X., 57638-41, 57674-9; (H. Satchwell), X., 57779; (G. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58375, 58377-83; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59142.

Refer also to sub-headings Fattening lands and Uses to which land would be put.

Run, Extent of, required for successful cattle raising—

Good run needed, stock would not do well on small patches (W. H. Boyd), V., 23565, 23687, 23691; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29743, 29881, 29885-9; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32663-6; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41458-64; (D. Bingham), IX., 48360-2; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57125-6; (J. Irwin), X., 58759-60.

BREAKING UP GRASS LANDS, POLICY OF—EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, ETC.—*continued.*

Run, Extent of, required for successful cattle raising—*continued.*

Good run needed, etc.—*continued.*

Common pasture—permanent pasture of 4 small farms might be held in common which would be an improvement, but 32 acres was not much of a run (W. H. Boyd), V., 23619-21.

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  - Profit, question of—People would till if it would pay (J. Ryan), X., 57695-8.
  - Proportion of farm, say, one-third would be tilled, but Connaught people would need training (M. Cassidy), X., 59312.
  - Labour, shortage of, would prevent increase of tillage (P. Flynn), V., 33228-31; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56756-8, 56787.

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- Tillage, question whether tillage would be increased—*continued.*
  - Result—Farms would have to be larger and the occupiers men with a thorough knowledge of cattle, etc. (E. F. Bowen), X., 59201-6.
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- Emigration and Migration, Attitude towards, *refer* to titles Emigration and Migration.
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- Finest peasantry known to witness (Lord Castletown), V., 26638, 26710.
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- Honesty (B. M'Enroy), VI., 34568; (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39639; (M. Mongan), X., 54013-8; (Canon Macken), X., 56154.
  - Agricultural Banks, Relations with—*see* Agricultural Banks—Failure to meet obligations.
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  - Attitude towards improvements (Rev. T. M'Cann), VII., 37573; (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49845-57; (Canon Macken), X., 56154.
  - Due to Agrarian view of problem of congestion (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550.
- Independence and self-respect—efforts to relieve congestion should aim at preserving these characteristics (Rev. P. E. Mallon), VII., 39225-6.
- Indigence of congested districts not due to any defect of character of the people (M. Finucane), III., 15890A.
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- Lack of those qualities which secure to people the fruits of their industry, backwardness in commercial education and business character (H. Plunkett), IV., 21462, 21524; (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40655-8; (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49921-5.
  - Spraying of potatoes, neglect of, was a case in point (H. Plunkett), IV., 21463.
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  - Apathetic people capable of short burst of energy (W. H. Boyd), V., 23267-8.
  - General characteristic, not universal, but idleness was a natural characteristic (W. H. Boyd), V., 23817, 23370-1, 23402.
  - Holdings in poorer districts worked better than might be expected, but not with the skill of a continental farmer (W. F. Bailey), III., 16345-7.
  - Irish peasants disliked work, not the land, they looked on land as easiest way of getting a living without work (W. H. Boyd), V., 23188-91, 23238, 23239.
  - Lagan district, energy of farmers and labourers (W. H. Boyd), V., 23403-4.
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  - Stimulus needed—the higher the rent the more tenants' industry was stimulated, but rents must be within the limits of fair rent (W. H. Boyd), V., 23352-66, 23368, 23372.
    - Instances in point—Estates of Colonel Humphreys of Glendoan and Mrs. Hewitson of Gurteen (W. H. Boyd), V., 23405-9, 23413.
    - Reduction on fair value when annuity was determined might not prove the incentive ownership was supposed to be (W. H. Boyd), V., 23367, 23445-6.
  - Tillage of land mentioned required more labour than the people were likely to give, but the people were not in any way lazy (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28017-8, 28023-4, 28036-52.
  - Ulster people had more energy than was shown anywhere else in Ireland (W. H. Boyd), V., 23244-5.
  - Uneconomic holdings so-called could often be made economic if tenants would work (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57435.
  - Very small holders earning half their income as wages where there was a demand for labour (W. H. Boyd), V., 23363, 23369.
  - West of Ireland people absolutely lazy people (W. H. Boyd), V., 23240.
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    - Much labour required on reclaimed land, but such holdings could be greatly improved with more labour and knowledge (W. H. Boyd), V., 23247-54.
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- Memorandum, Vol. III., App. XII., p. 374.

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- Fish landed at instead of at Teelin (Hugh O'Donnell of Meenaneery), II., 11222-3.
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  - Built long before the Railway, Probably the reason for its being on the opposite side from Teelin (Hugh O'Donnell of Meenaneery), II., 11226-9.
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- Acquisition and distribution of land, suggestions for—Valuation of land available for distribution and valuation of land required for raising holdings under £10 valuation to £10 valuation (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40173-6
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- Agricultural Development and Agricultural Instruction—
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- Congested conditions, question of—*continued.*
  - Scheduling as congested area, proposed—*con.*
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- Fisheries—
  - Assistance, Question of—
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    - Fishermen just as poor as others, but Clare was not in a congested district and no help was given until Department of Agriculture was started (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4723-6.
  - Boats—
    - Curragh practically the only boat used (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40142; (J. Murray), VII., 40304-5, 40313, 40316
    - Men had borrowed money and bought one boat, but had not been very successful (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40144-9.
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  - Difficult coast to deal with, No natural Harbour facilities, Reasons for refusal of row boats offered as substitutes for canoes (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4726.
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    - Maintenance by County Council (Rev. J. Maguire), II., 6095-6.

Clonmany—*continued*.

- Turbary Arrangements—*continued*.
  - Sides of hills cut away to such an extent as to prevent any possibility of herbage growing on them (Rev. J. Maguire), II., 6234-5.
  - Turf getting run out—Free cutting should be checked (Rev. J. Maguire), II., 6174-5.
- Typical congested district of Inishowen (Rev. J. Maguire), II., 6085, 6089.
- Valuation per head of population (Rev. J. Maguire), II., 6089.
- Weaving industry, *see* Homespuns.

Clonmore Electoral Division.

- Townlands in need of additional land—Untenanted land available (J. Guilfoyle), VII., 39464-76.

Clonusker Electoral Division.

- Congested conditions—Average valuation 18s. per head, scheduling proposed (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40564-75.

Cloonkeen.

- Rundale holdings and holdings under £4 valuation (P. Higgins), IX., 49493-9.
  - Parish Committee work hampered owing to rundale (P. Higgins), IX., 49512.

Cloonanaha.

- Holdings under £10—Number, size, etc. (M. Considine), VII., 39548, 39594-6.
- Farms of 100 acres in district—Average (M. Considine), VII., 39612.
- Scheduling proposed (M. Considine), VII., 39593, 39609-10.

Cloonca Estate, Sale of.

- Intimidation, effect on price, etc. (Lord Ashtown), X., 57304-7, 57483-94.

Cloonloo.

- Congested conditions, description of—Barrenness of the land, valuation, untenanted land, etc. (P. Mananny), VI., 30874-9.
- Migration as preliminary to enlargement of holdings (P. Mananny), VI., 30880-96.

Cloontia, Ballaghadereen.

- Enlargement of holdings, schemes for—Land available, Government assistance in reclamation of land suggested (P. Finn), IX., 51454-71.
- Farm owned by witness—Acreage, valuation, stock, crops grown, etc. (P. Finn), IX., 51454, 51481-502, 51511-23.
- Grazing and turbary rights (P. Finn), IX., 51493-5.
- Land Purchase—Excessive prices paid owing to tenants being in arrears (P. Finn), IX., 51533-9.
- Migration, attitude of people (P. Finn), IX., 51524-33.
- Spraying—Brooms used, no machines had been provided (P. Finn), IX., 51501-9.

Cloonyquin Division.

- Enlargement of holdings, need for, application made to Congested Districts Board (T. Brady), X., 58951-4, 58957-8.
- Land available for enlargement of holdings (T. O'Rourke), X., 58997-8.
- Land purchase by Land Commission and Congested Districts Board—Tenants had purchased under Ashbourne Act (T. Brady), X., 58951-2, 58955.
- Scheduling a number of townlands as congested proposed (T. O'Rourke), X., 58997.
- Size, number, and valuation of holdings (T. O'Rourke), X., 58997-8.
- Turbary, lack of—Congested Districts Board had been asked to buy Foxboro' Farm, where there was a sufficient supply of turf (T. O'Rourke), X., 58998-9000.

Closer Settlement Act, 1904, of Victoria.

- Provisions against accumulation of holdings (W. F. Bailey), III., 17133, 17151-3.

Clothing of People.

- Formerly in Mayo each householder manufactured own clothes, tweeds, etc. (Canon Grealey), IX., 48735.
- Hats and feathers in Spiddal, question of (P. Costello), X., 54802.
- Purchase of—Better quality bought, but yearly expenditure was not greater (P. Dyar), VI., 30571-80.

Cloughaneely.

- Flag Industry, Opening of, proposed—Poverty of parish (Mgr. Walker), II., 7145-7.
- Grazing rights of tenants on mountain land (J. Harken), II., 8904.
- Sheep, not a bad country for—People had no means of keeping them (J. Harken), II., 8905.
- Turf—
  - Sale of turf by tenants—No tenant had a bog of his own (J. Harken), II., 8942-5.
  - Terms on which tenants had turf at present, terms for cutting turf on landlord's reserve (J. Harken), II., 8906-11, 8913-4, 8919-41.
- Uneconomic Holdings—Size of witness's holding too small to support himself and wife—Means of livelihood (J. Harken), II., 8891-8.
- Untenanted land available for enlargement of holdings (J. Harken), II., 8899-902.

Clydagh District.

- Road to Rathmore desired, question of local contribution (J. Lucy), VIII., 43193-203.

Clyde Shipping Co.

- Steamer service subsidised by the Board, *see* Steamer Services

Cochrane's, Capt., Estate.

- Arrears of Rent—Tenants afraid to go into Land Court lest they should be pounced upon for arrears (J. M'Carron), II., 12154-5, 12158, 12182-5.
  - Witness had not been into Land Court for reason mentioned, but was at present there (J. M'Carron), II., 12158, 12231-40.
- Land Purchase Proposals—
  - Price witness would be willing to give for his holding (J. M'Carron), II., 12230.
  - Reply that landlord did not see his way to sell (J. M'Carron), II., 12132-4.

Cod and Ling, Long Line Fishing.

- Curing—
  - Curing trade started by Congested Districts Board in 1891 became of considerable importance, but was superseded by herring fishery (W. L. Micks), I., 386.
  - Inishcoo, curing station opened by the Board at, in 1893 (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18732.
  - Prosperity of, for some years after 1893 (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18736-7.
  - Teelin, curing at, thirty years previous to the Board's operations (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18732-3.
  - *Refer also* to Fisheries, sub-heading Curing.
- Earnings per boat during early years of Board's work (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18944.
- Falling off in cod and ling fishing (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4755-6, 4947-9; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18947-51.
  - Erris (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48225, 48227.
- Fishery in Irish hands under Scotch instructors (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18945-6.
- Fishing Grounds—
  - Distance from shore, could be worked by comparatively small boats (Rev W. S. Green), I., 4947-9; (D. Gallagher), VI., 28516-7, 28553.

Cod and Ling, Long Line Fishing—*continued.*

- Fresh Fish—Large amount sold fresh and sent by rail from Killybegs (W. L. Micks), I., 386.
- Large boats fishing for cod and ling went out about thirty miles, used hand lines (J. Quigley), II., 12581-2.
- Markets—Fish sold almost entirely in Liverpool and Belfast at an average price (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18952, 18968-9.
- Memorandum (A. T. Duthie), IV., App. II., p. 173.
- Price, increase in (H. O'Donnell, of Meenaneery), II., 11216-8.
- Progress during early days of Board's work—Improved boats given to Teelin crews, etc. (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18942, 18944.
- Stations from which cod and ling fishing was carried on in currachs during early days of Board's work (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18929, 18942.
- Trawling, *refer* to Fisheries.
- *See also* Innishowen, etc.

Coghlan, Mr. Timothy.—*Farmer from Goleen*

- Evidence VIII., 46449-77.

Colgan Property.

- Clearance in famine year, relations of landlord and tenants, landlords' refusal to sell, etc. (E. G. Boles), VI., 30255.

Collins, Mr. M.—*Representing Tulla Board of Guardians.*

- Evidence VII., 40811-47.

Collooney.

- Emigration—Extent, causes, etc. (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29393-406, 29411, 29445-9.
  - Vacated holdings, disposal of (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29410-1.
- Owenmore River flooding (Canon Loftus), VI., 30053.
- Size of holdings, class of people holding land, etc. (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29404-9, 29439-44.
- Untenanted Land—
  - Abundant supply (P. Dyar), VI., 30465, 30468
  - Extent and valuation of untenanted land in occupation of Mr. Cooper (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29381.
  - Game preserves, including deer park—Considerable portion was thus occupied, and people were excluded from touching it (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29381-98.

Collops.

- Definition (H. Doran), I., 2425-6.

Colmanstown Estate.

- Purchase under Ashbourne Act, condition of tenants, etc. (M. Finnerty), X., 57974.

Colonial Conference.

- Ireland not represented (T. Sheehy), VIII., 46480.

Comcuil Property.

- *See* Camcuil.

Common Grazing.

- *See* Grazing.

Common Things.

- Commission should look to common things and education to maintain them; after that main business was to let people alone (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6061-4.

Common Holdings.

- *See* Co-operative Holdings.

Compensation for Disturbance.

- Acceptance of principle to a certain extent (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3831-5.
- All tenants whose land was taken from them should be compensated (C. Cotton), X., 58422.

Compensation for Disturbance—*continued.*

- Allowance known as 10 per cent. for compulsion—No definite authority in Lands Clauses Acts (J. O'Connor), III., 13300.
- Amount allowed by custom should be given where land was taken against owner's will (Colonel Knox-Gore), IV., 47464-76.
- Future tenants, question of amount of compensation due to (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34673, 34705.
- Grazier whose land had been taken from him—Compensation proposed (J. Ryan), X., 57735-8.
- Inclusion in net income on which price was to be calculated (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44814.
- Not much considered between landlord and tenant before 1881 (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34725.
- Opinion in favour of (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56026-9; (Canon Mackem), X., 56286; (J. Neary), X., 58647-8; (W. Walpole), X., 58874-5.
- Railway purposes, land acquired for, owner always amply compensated (J. O'Connor), III., 13296-300.
- Reasonable basis would be whatever a competent land valuer considered just (P. Dyar), VI., 30561-2.
- Temporary lettings, eleven months' tenancies, etc.—
  - Acceptance of principle in the case of herds—Claim of graziers much stronger than that of herds (W. Walpole), X., 58878, 58888-92.
  - Form of compensation—Settled tenure on lands only fit for grazing proposed (W. Walpole), X., 58878.
  - Moral right to compensation had been recognised by certain landlords, although no legal claim could be advanced (W. Walpole), X., 58873.
  - Only cases in which compensation need not be given (J. Neary), X., 58647-8.
  - Resident and non-resident graziers, distinction between (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56001-10.
- *Refer also* to Price—Loss on transfer.

Compulsory Powers for Acquisition of Land.

- Act of 1903—No element of compulsion in Act (M. O'Neill), VI., 28654.
- All parties having a legal interest in the lands should be obliged to sell on equitable terms; all classes would be hit alike (H. Doran), I., 2579; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3892-3, 3895; (M. Clafferty), II., 8460-1, 8466, 8470-5; (Lord Castletown), V., 26383, 26500, 26564; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28829, 28831, 28836-8; (W. Rouse), VI., 28885; (Canon Quin), VII., 35323; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50281-90; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52537; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54126, 54153-6
  - Objection to Compulsion advocated by Mr. Doran—Coercion in its most vicious form (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514, 23568.
  - Purchase of all non-residential tenements having Poor Law valuation of £25 or upwards irrespective of tenure, proposed (H. Doran), I., 2707.
  - Scheme submitted to members of English Government in 1895 (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39749 55.
  - *See also* sub-headings Tenants and Tenant-Purchasers.
- Arrangements pending Compulsory Purchase—Abolition of Zones and County Council's power of veto on sales proposed (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619.
- Authority to exercise Compulsion and fix Price, *see* sub-heading Tribunal.
- Boycotting and agitation would be renewed, cases after Mr. Bryce's speech announcing appointment of a Royal Commission on Congestion (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29195-203.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*con.*

- Class of land to which compulsion should be applied—
  - Accommodation land near towns—Needs of town were less than needs of congests (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34737-8.
  - Accumulation of land in hands of one person—State should be allowed to take over land acquired at holders own risk, compulsion would not be much felt (P. Nicholson), VI., 30450.
  - Afforestation—Land suitable for should be acquired (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39314-6.
    - Donegal, acquisition of land for planting continuous shelter belts proposed (P. M'Bride), II., 8948, 8981-4.
  - All classes of grass land, application of compulsory purchase to, to fattening land as well as to store cattle land, question (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25877A-82, 25881, 25889.
  - All classes of property (H. Doran), I., 2719-20; (J. Doran), VIII., 42677.
    - Both tenanted and untenanted land (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47316-8.
    - Discretionary power wanted to deal with (H. Doran), I., 2719-20; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33818-22.
  - Badly managed properties, Application of Compulsion to scheduling of ruined properties by sale-commission of present Commission proposed, etc. (Lord Castletown), V., 26500-6 26512, 26517-28, 26550-1, 26560-9, 26580, 26582, 26584-9; (E. Browne), VII., 40014-8, 40034, 40037, 40090.
    - Limiting compulsion to such estates, Opinion in favour of (Lord Castletown), V., 26527, 26537, 26545.
    - Means of ascertaining what properties were in this condition (Lord Castletown), V., 26513, 26516.
    - Number of estates which would be defined as badly managed, question of (Lord Castletown), V., 26542-4, 26556-9.
    - Scheduled congested areas, proposal absolutely limited to (Lord Castletown), V., 26538-9.
  - Demesne of landlord, question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3791-4, 3978-80; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31405-6.
    - No landlord to hold more than 600 acres adjacent to or in his demesne, and out of that he must cultivate at least one-twelfth (H. Brennan), VI., 27636-7.
  - Difficulty of selection (G. Hewson), VI., 31719-23.
  - Distinction should be made between eleven months lettings and non-residential farms, latter being taken only if deficiency existed (J. Corcoran), IX., 47121, 47123-4, 47188-202.
  - Eleven months' system, land let on (F. S. Wrench), III., 15063; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34732, 34736; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47121, 47123-4, 47188-202; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 55991-2, 56004-9, 56024-5; (Canon Macken), X., 56177, 56188-94, 56211-2, 56214; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57204; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57949-9; (J. Neary), X., 58647-8.
  - Estates which were partly residential and partly non-residential—
    - Acquisition of more whole Estates than requried, question of loss (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1457-8.
    - Crofters Act, Provisions of (H. Doran), I., 2711-2, 2730-1, 2733.
    - Desirable that there should be compulsory power to purchase residential holdings where circumstances warranted so extreme a course—Such cases would be few (H. Doran), I., 2710-1.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Class of Land to which Compulsion should be applied—*continued.*
  - Estates which were partly residential and partly non-residential—*continued.*
    - Portion only of residential holding would probably be taken—Best way would be to let the Board schedule the acreage they desired to purchase (H. Doran), I., 2721-8.
    - Estate on which there were many tenanted holdings as well as untenanted land—At option of Board either to purchase or leave it alone (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1463.
    - Owners might have option of obliging Board to take entire holding at a price to be fixed (H. Doran), I., 2732.
    - Separate purchase of untenanted land, question of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1452, 1455-6, 1469-71.
  - Evicted farms should not stand in the way of purchase (T. Heraghty), IX., 50282.
  - Farm where no employment was given, and where tillage below certain proportion did not exist—cutting down to £100 valuation proposed (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40179.
  - Land compulsorily acquired by owners or their predecessors for private uses (P. Dyar), VI., 34068, 30561.
  - Multi-landlord properties, compulsory powers needed in case of (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43243.
  - Non-residential, converted into residential, holdings by erection of house and occupation by son (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29463-80.
  - Purchased Estates—Law should not be called on to distinguish between landlords by purchase and landlords by inheritance (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45107-11.
  - Residential holdings—
    - Compulsion inadvisable (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34679-82, 34735; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52531-4.
    - Opinion in favour of compulsion with compensation, if necessary (C. J. Kennedy), X., 55991-2, 56010, 56026-9, 56046.
    - Residential farmer working another farm in connection with that on which he lived—
      - Residential holding not to be taken (H. Doran), I., 2735.
      - Second farm should be treated as residential and not touched (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34683, 34734, 34736.
  - Shopkeeper grazier, Question of need for expropriation (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29494-6; (P. Dyar), VI., 30621-2; (P. Gallagher), VI., 30856-8.
    - Application of compulsion to, if not residential, proposed (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34681; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56001-10.
    - Congested Districts Board exercising right without due notice—Question on Mr. Armstrong's farm at Moylough (L. Armstrong), VI., 30701, 30716-39.
    - Justice, Question of—land practically the only investment open for capital—if land were taken away other facilities should be given for investments (P. Dyar), VI., 30618-20, 30622-4, 30643-4, 30647; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47117, 47121-2, 47183-7.
    - Opinion against compulsion if holding were under 100 acres (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33804-8.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*con.*

- Class of Land to which Compulsion should be applied—*continued.*
  - Shopkeeper, Grazier, etc.—*continued.*
    - Opinion in favour of applying compulsion (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29327; (P. Dyar), VI., 30619-24, 30640-7; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 47061; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47114-5, 47121, 47179-80; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52535-6.
    - Shopkeepers willing to sell at fair price (J. Corcoran), IX., 47117, 47120-77.
  - Tenanted land—
    - Alternative of allowing tenants who refused to buy at price paid to remain tenants of the Board would be very unsatisfactory (H. Doran), I., 2664-5, 2669.
    - Compulsory powers—desirable if Board had necessary funds to deal with it quickly (H. Doran), I., 2612.
    - Connaught, Compulsion required in (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52501-2.
    - Discretion in arranging terms of settlement would do away with objections (H. Doran), I. 2666-7, 2670, 2705.
    - Judicial tenants, Case of (P. M'Nulty), VI., 28933-41; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50276, 50278.
    - Objections more serious than in case of untenanted land (G. Balfour), V., 22305.
    - Opinion against compulsion except in special circumstances (H. Doran), I., 2642-3, 2650-3, 2655, 2704, 2715-8.
    - Opinion in favour of compulsion if necessary (C. J. Kennedy), X., 55991-2, 56010.
    - Part of holding might be taken when of more than £50 valuation (P. Rooney), VI., 32225-7.
    - Powers required in certain cases (W. H. Stuart), III., 17575-80, 17599; (P. Rooney), VI., 32142.
    - Reasons why compulsion was needed—Improvements question, etc. (H. Doran), I., 2654; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17579, 17600-2.
    - Repudiation of arbitrarily fixed prices might follow—Obligations would not be repudiated under a voluntary system (H. Doran), I., 2645-7, 2674-5.
      - Giving up tenancy the last thing tenants would do (H. Doran), I., 2673.
    - Within congested districts Board bought tenanted and untenanted land, outside congested districts they did not want tenanted land (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1489.
    - *See also* sub-heading Residential Holdings.
  - Tillage, distinction in favour of proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25836-40; (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35127-30, 35167-72; (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39385-6.
  - Tillage, land suitable for (J. Ryan), X., 57636, 57750.
  - Untenanted Land (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29458, 29488; (J. O'Neill), VII., 39391; (T. Gallagher), IX., 50017-8; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50448; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 55991-2, 56004-9, 56024-5, 56048-9; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58168.
    - Backdoor Compulsion, *see* sub-heading Existing powers.
    - Compulsory powers asked for specifically with respect to (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1449-51.
    - Grass Land might reasonably be expected to be given over (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3788-9.
    - Holdings rated at £50 and upwards and non-residential would be most suitable (D. Henry), VI., 30217.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*con.*

- Class of Land to which Compulsion should be applied—*continued.*
  - Untenanted Land—*continued.*
    - Inclusion of farmers who had acquired grazing farms as well as owners, especially gentlemen farmers (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29490-4.
    - Opinion in favour of Compulsion (W. H. Stuart), III., 17575-80, 17599; (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29460, 29470; (P. J. M'Dermott), VI., 30234; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082, 30109; (T. Moran), VI., 30902, 30919-21; (M. Maye), VI., 30958-9; (P. Rooney), VI., 32142; (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39285, 39314; (J. J. Aird), VII., 39458; (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42261; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44866-7; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52500-1, 52529; (J. Ryan), X., 57735-9.
    - Untenanted Land on or adjacent to Congested Estates (H. Doran), I., 2691-3; (Lord Castletown), V., 26687-90, 26693-4.
      - High class of property required would of course affect price fixed (H. Doran), I., 2694-7.
      - Powers now required for identically same object as when resolution of 1895 was passed—Resolution applied mainly to untenanted land (H. Doran), I., 2614-21.
  - Waste land (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29414, 29416.
  - Well-managed Estates comprising large number of uneconomic holdings, question as to application of Compulsion to (Lord Castletown), V., 26546-9, 26570-1.
- Comparison of position of Landlord and Tenant (A. Crichton), V., 27347; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16989-7009; (Chairman), III., 17006, 17009.
- Confidence at present felt by all classes in the Board, probable effect on, of granting Compulsory Powers (G. Balfour), V., 22261, 22271-3.
- Direct *v.* indirect compulsion at question of price—direct compulsion would be fairer, etc. (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28354-8.
- Drainage—Powers of Compulsion needed where acquisition of a group of estates was necessary in order to carry out a large scheme—Case of Brabazon, Wills-Sandford, and Worthington Estates (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25980-96, 26000-9.
- Economically the change would be beneficial—In parts, Roscommon was a wilderness, worse than Connemara (H. Doran), I., 2266-9.
- Encumbered Estates, Cases of, not inquired into—necessary to inquire if a compulsory scheme were in contemplation (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25822.
- Existing powers of Compulsion—
  - Back door compulsion exercised by Estates Commissioners in refusing to declare property on estate unless untenanted land were included, downright compulsion preferable if it were automatic, or if there were an independent tribunal (W. H. Boyd), V., 25196-204, 25212-6, 25235-6, 25244.
    - Compulsion exercised also by tenants who would press landlord to complete sale (W. H. Boyd), V., 25208.
    - Letter suggesting that if evicted tenant were reinstated it would facilitate sale (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29181-95.
  - Congested Districts Board, powers of (H. Doran), I., 2249-59, 2271; XI., 59751.
    - Armstrong's, Mr., farm at Moylough, power to be exercised in case of (H. Doran), VI., 30719, 30739.
  - Pre-emption, Right of, enabled landlord to apply compulsion to tenant—no reason why compulsion should not be applied to landlords (H. Doran), VIII., 44927-33.
  - *Refer also* to Re-arrangement and Striping.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*con.*

- Farmers should have right to serve notice claiming pasture land, Land Commission having power to stake out amount required (J. Walsh), IX., 48665.
- Funds available for land purchase if Compulsion were applied—Compulsion a matter of money (W. Rouse), VI., 28886-7; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51943.
- Landlords, Attitude of—Question how far unwillingness to sell was a matter of price, etc.—
  - Compulsion unnecessary, landlords willing to sell at what they considered a fair price (Major Hamilton), II., 10679; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14468-71, 14941, 14951, 15004, 15047, 15049, 15085-9, 15105-6, 15129, 15139; (G. Balfour), V., 22233; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825, 23911, 23919, 25277, 25319; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27208-10, 27212-5; (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28125-6, 28135-8, 28154, 28160-2; (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28343-52; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29165, 29177-81, 29317; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29975, 30024; (G. Hewson), VI., 31564-6; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32585, 32651; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34186; (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39756-8; (E. Browne), VII., 40087-9; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43245; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44159, 44215; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44809; (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45744-5, 45749; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47403-5, 47410, 47464, 47417-20, 47448; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49269-76, 49381-9; (M. Mongan), X., 54019-22; (D. Kirwin), X., 55311; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283; (J. Ryan), X., 57756; (W. Walpole), X., 58778.
    - Amount of land that would be offered straight off in Mayo and Roscommon—something like 40,000 acres (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41246-51.
    - Comparatively few cases would go before tribunal in event of compulsion (W. H. Boyd), V., 25280; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51390-3.
    - Delay in payment and difficulties arising out of inspection, *see* titles Purchase and Inspection—Objection to.
    - Description of negotiations with Estates Commissioners *re* farm on King-Harman Estate (W. Vaugh), VI. 32585-651.
    - Landlords as a whole, not every landlord would sell (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41310.
    - Landlords' Convention would not object to compulsion on fair terms (W. H. Boyd), V., 25278-9.
    - Meaning of fair price, Price that would satisfy landlords—In witness's opinion price asked by landlords was the fair price (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41352-6, 41362.
    - Statistics showing difference between price as valued by landlord's valuer and price offered by Land Commission, VI., App. II., pp. 243-4.
  - Disposed to sell to Congested Districts Board or to Estates Commissioners rather than to tenants (W. Rouse), VI., 28879, 28882.
  - Generosity of landlords in regard to land purchase—They had not got full credit for their willingness to take half purchase money in Land Stock (A. Crichton), V., 27270-4.
  - Land Conference Action—Compulsion question waived in view of assurances given by framers of Act of 1903 (T. W. Russell), IX., 51942.
  - No blank wall of refusal to sell at any price (H. Doran), I., 2632-6, 2701-3; (G. Balfour), V., 22253A; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27215; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44218, 44240, 44247.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*con.*

- Landlords, Attitude of—*continued.*
  - No one man to deal with, difficulty in the way of sale (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27217.
  - Price so high as to amount to refusal to negotiate, question of (Rev. T. M. Gauran), VII., 38900, 38907; (J. O'Malley), IX., 47729-39; (Rev. T. Harrington), VIII., 44873-4; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51943.
    - Amendment of Land Act proposed (P. Nicholson), VI., 30432.
    - Ashtown and Clanricarde Estates, Instance (M. Finnerty), X., 57974.
    - Blake Minors Estate, case of (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54128-31.
    - Cases where Board had not been able to come to terms as regarded price (H. Doran), I., 2630; (A. M'Donnell), III., 15132-8.
    - Connemara landlords, exorbitant prices asked (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52691.
    - Dromore District (W. Rouse), VI., 28878, 28884.
    - In witness's time Board would only buy at a reasonably cheap rate (G. Balfour), V., 22254.
    - Kerry landlords—Impossible prices demanded (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42796; (J. L. Sheehan), VIII., 45214.
    - Poë, Colonel Hutcheson—Price asked for Bog-land in County Tyrone (Canon Quin), VII., 35323; X., App. VII., pp. 290-1.
    - Tenant more difficult to deal with than landlord (H. Doran), I., 2631.
    - Unreasonable landlords should be compelled (W. F. Bailey), III., 16863-4.
    - Wills-Sandford Estate Terms offered (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25983-6009.
  - Simultaneous purchase of grass and tenanted land desired (E. T. O'Donel), IX., 49004-12, 49021-2, 49049; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51293, 51297, 51299-303, 51311, 51317, 51323-8, 51360-2.
  - Stocking and working grazing ranches themselves—If that were allowed, landlords would soon be willing to sell at a fair price (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50099-101.
  - Unwilling to sell—Compulsion necessary to obtain land required (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10485; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26016-9; (J. G. Quilty), VI., 28466; (E. Duncan), VI., 30945; (M. Maye), VI., 30958-9; (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42770-2, 42801; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46946, 46950, 46991; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47216-8, 47225-8; (J. Walsh), IX., 48696; (Canon Grealey), IX., 48705, 48719, 48740-2; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49406; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51943; (J. P. Callanan), X., 56609.
    - Encumbered estates, one reason for refusal to sell (J. O'Malley), IX., 47739.
    - Prior Parish—Landlords unwilling to sell (Rev. H. Kerin), VIII., 43838-43—Correction (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44061-2, 44069.
      - Impossible for a stranger to judge fairly of the value of the land (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44063-6.
    - Residuum of unreasonable landlords would be very small in number (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44222.
    - Sentiment, as well as the question of price, animated landlords—Some men would not give up their land at all, no matter what the price was (P. Dyar), VI., 30562; (P. Flynn), VI., 33158-75, 33179-80.
- Large areas, groups of estates required—*see* sub-heading Necessary to have Compulsion.

Compulsory Powers for Acquisition of Land—*con.*
  Necessary to have compulsion—Opinions and proposals (H. Doran), I., 2625-6, 2687, 2706; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3925; (Lord Castletown), V., 26649-51; (J. G. Quilty), VI., 28477; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28829; (P. Dyar), VI., 30562; (P. Slein), VI., 30940-1; (M. Maye), VI., 30958; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33788; (J. Travers), VI., 34459; (W. Kelleher), VI., 34512; (Bryan M'Enroy), VI., 34593; (J. M'Cartan), VI., 34591, 34593; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619; (Rev. M. Kane), VI., 34854; (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35108; (Canon M'Kenna), VII., 35245; (J. Lennon), VII., 35377; (P. O'Hare), VII., 35446-9; (Rev. T. M'Gauran), VII., 38897, 38899-900, 38907; (M. Considine), VII., 39605-9; (J. Doran), VIII., 42680; (G. Pierse), VIII., 42633; (Canon O'Riordan), VIII., 43580; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415; (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44617; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46830, 46847-9; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46945-6, 46950, 46965, 46971, 46991, 47008-12, 47035, 47054; (J. M'Hale), IX., 48645; (Canon Grealey), IX., 48740-2; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49422, 49426 (M. Hennelly), IX., 51014; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51163-4, 51179-97, 51238-40, 51279-92; (P. Finn), IX., 51539-46; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52500-2, 53506; (M. Cullinane), X., 52998; (C. O'Connor), X., 53784; (J. Kelly), X., 53911; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54031; (M. A. Lyons), X., 54488, 54533, 54543, 54571, 54576; (P. Naughton), X., 54962; (J H. Joyce), X., 55127; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55887; (Canon Mackem), X., 56213; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56607-9; (P. J. Kelly), X., 56635; (J. F. Ward), X., 57592; (M. Finnerty), X., 58040A-1; (Rev. T. J. Reidy), X., 58121-2; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58169; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58364; (J. Neary), X., 58600.
    Absence of powers hampering work of Congested Districts Board—Dillon Estate instance (H. Doran), XI., 59584-91 59596.
    Circumstances for which powers might be given (W. F. Bailey), III., 16846, 16859-60; (H. Doran), XI., 59869-73.
      "Might" should be "should" (W. F. Bailey), III., 16852-3.
    Comprehensive scheme—If matters were ripe for a comprehensive scheme of settlement compulsion might be advisable (G. Balfour), V., 22235, 22240, 22259, 22270, 22308-9, 22313, 22315-6.
      Meaning of "comprehensive" (G. Balfour), V., 22260, 22310-1, 22314.
    Enlargement of Land Purchase Operations of the Board materially affected the question (G. Balfour), V., 22241.
    Geographical considerations made compulsion desirable (H. Doran), I., 2699-700.
    Improvements question—Impossibility of rearranging estates in bad condition if landlords were unwilling to sell (W. H. Stuart), III., 17755-62.
    Landlordism, system of—Argument in favour of compulsion (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3750-7; (Canon M'Fadden), II., 8043-7; (T. Glynn), X., 57871.
    Landlords, attitude of—Question how far unwillingness to sell was a matter of price—*See* sub-heading Landlords.
    Large areas, groups of estates required—Satisfactory migration scheme impossible with only scattered farms (H. Doran), I., 2640-1, 2656-7; (F. Scanlan), IX., 47821, 47834-5, 47843; (M. Cullinane), X., 52999, 53001; (H. Doran), XI., 59830-1, 59950.
      If land continued to be bought piecemeal owners of intervening farms would ask prohibitive prices (H. Doran), I., 2641, 2656-7.

Compulsory Powers for Acquisition of Land—*con.*
  Necessary to have compulsion—*continued.*
    Mayo and Roscommon—Very little untenanted land, grazing lands could not be bought in sufficient quantity by voluntary agreement (H. Doran), I., 2228-32, 2236-48.
    Modified form of compulsion required (Canon Macken), X., 56154, 56175-82.
    Monaghan County—Instances showing necessity for compulsory powers and inspection (Canon M'Kenna), VII., 35245.
    Neither Board nor Estates Commissioners could buy an estate till it was offered to them (M. Finucane), III., 15580, 15588.
    Power should not be altogether rejected (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43244-6.
    Protection of tenant-purchasers from giving too high prices, compulsion needed for (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10393.
    Public need justifying compulsion (H. Doran), I., 2265; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34707; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45090-115, 45176-85.
    Refusal to sell justifying compulsion (F. S. Wrench), III., 15080, 15090, 15092; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16863-4; (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28139-45; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34677-8; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44810-3; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45088; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47308, 47318-9; (Colonel Knox-Gore), IX., 47406, 47411-3; (Canon Grealey), IX., 48705, 48720, 48740-2; (Rev. J. Craddock), X., 55659; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57127-8.
      Case where land was badly needed, and owner refused full offer (W. F. Bailey), III., 16854-8, 16934-42, 17018-22.
      Large number of such cases might necessitate compulsion (A. Crichton), V., 27362-3.
      Only case where compulsion should be used (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47308, 47318-9.
    Unpurchased land, impossibility of migration from, preventing use of purchased land (M. Finucane), III., 15585-606.
    Untenanted land, breaking up and sale by landlords, compulsory powers needed to prevent (M. J. Melvin), IX., 47034-5.
  Not necessary nor desirable to have compulsion—Objections and opinions (D. Pearson), II., 10890-1; (F. S. Wrench), III., 15048, 15050A-51, 15055-6; (Lord Castletown), V., 26572, 26574-9; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27208, 27213; (A. Crichton), V., 27339, 27347-8, 27352; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29313-26, 29331, 29339-41; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29984-91, 29995-30004, 30011-3, 30025-7; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31441-50; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32753; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33786; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44224; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44849; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49385; (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49925-7, 49935-42; (A. Larminie), IX., 49973-4; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51393; (Mrs. Blake), X., 52901-2, 52910; (The O'Conor Don), X., 58895, 58947A.
    Block of business, land being sold too quickly—Estates Commissioners had already bought £35,000,000 worth of land they could not pay for, was it reasonable to ask for more? (F. S. Wrench), III., 15130; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41620, 41626; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57498.
    By no means everything had been done that could be done without compulsion (G. Wyndham), V., 22818; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44232-3, 44236-9.
    Capitalists would be frightened away from Irish investments (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44806-8.
    Cause must be shown even after securing a fair price to landlords (G. Balfour), V., 22242-3.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*
- Not necessary nor desirable to have compulsion—*continued.*
  - Compulsion unnecessary in many cases if Congested Districts Board had Land Commissioners' power of Re-sale at a price not exceeding 10 per cent. less than purchase price (J. O'Connor), III., 13300-4.
  - Conclusion by such a body as Congested Districts Board that they could not obtain enough land voluntarily would not justify compulsion, they might be mistaken (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41275-7.
  - Contrary to spirit of Act of 1903, &c. (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27088, 27097.
  - Danger of temptation to take short cuts (G. Balfour), V., 22261; (G. Wyndham), V., 22818.
  - Delay, not expedition, would result—Board would be driven to resort to worst possible procedure, buying one or two properties and selling them off as rapidly as possible (G. Wyndham), V., 22840.
  - Difficulties had been to some extent removed by legislation (G. Balfour), V., 22235; (G. Wyndham), V., 22799.
  - Graziers said to be in a bad way—Reason for waiting so as to get land cheaper (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41835.
  - Graziers would voluntarily give up grass lands provided they got compensation (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28343; (J. Ryan), X., 57748.
  - Inability to divide land already acquired, argument against need for compulsion—Case of good land given to two publicans (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41261-3, 41302-9.
  - Increase of congestion might possibly result—Labourers' Cottages were an instance in point (A. Crichton), V., 27365-7.
  - Injury which would be done existing tenants (Mrs. Blake), V., 52889-2, 52899.
  - Knowledge of Board's needs—Question how far Board had made their needs known—No step corresponding to invitation to tender (H. Doran), I., 2686.
  - Landlords, attitude of—Question how far unwillingness to sell was a matter of price —*see* sub-heading Landlords.
  - Last resort—Compulsion should be used, if at all, only as a last resort (A. Crichton), V., 27353-9; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32825-8, 32840-1, 32848; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43243; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44219-35, 44250 (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47416-8; (A. Larminie), IX., 49972-4.
    - Absolute refusal would almost justify compulsion (O'Conor Don), VII., 41240 (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43244-6.
  - Loss on re-sale would be increased by compulsion (G. Wyndham), V., 22821, 22829.
  - No promise that land would be given to the most capable (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49921-7.
  - Present opportunity of purchase would not recur alleged—Contradiction, land could just as well be acquired by compulsion after purchase (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41835.
  - Price Question—
    - Amicable compromise should be made (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34675.
    - Impossibility of getting land at a price which could be recovered from tenant purchaser, question of justification for compulsion (G. Balfour), V., 22308-9, 22311-2, 22326.
    - Object of compulsion was to acquire land below its fair value (C. Phibbs), VI., 29975, 30001-3; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32585-651; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47403-5.
    - Too early to ask for compulsion when a fair price for land voluntarily offered was not forthcoming (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28348-52.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*
- Not necessary nor desirable to have compulsion—*continued.*
  - Public need, existence of would justify compulsion, but the need did not exist (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41284-5, 41289, 41294.
  - Refusal by Estates Commissioners to buy land offered at their own price, case of Carrowreagh farm—Question as to suitability of land, &c. (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41613-9.
  - Rejecting portions of estate, Estates Commissioners' procedure deterring landlords from sale—Instance in witness's case, question of suitability of land, &c. (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41255-61, 41280, 41613-9.
    - Whole estate should be bought exclusive of demesne (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41281.
  - Special bits of land, refusal to sell—No case for compulsion while other land was available (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41279, 41282-3; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47405-20.
  - Tenant would not hold on to land too tightly if asked to give up, and fair price paid down to him (W. Mitchell), VI., 28868-71.
  - Voluntary purchase preferable (F. S. Wrench), III., 15045-6; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29620, 29623, 29637-41.
    - No insurmountable difficulty if properly approached—it was a question not only of price, but of negotiation (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26790-6.
    - Opinion in favour of absolutely voluntary arrangement (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26773-4, 26788-9.
  - Wrench's, Mr., Statement of views, III., App. VIa., p. 303.
- Omission of question of Compulsion when congested districts system was initiated—Unfortunate omission (Lord Castletown), V., 26382.
- Precedents (G. Balfour), V., 22245-9; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29990, 29992-30000.
  - Congested Districts Board acquiring property, power to expropriate holder of a judicial tenancy for relief of congestion (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29337-8.
  - Foreign Countries, Precedent in (Dr. O'Donnell), III., 16978.
  - Labourers' Act (G. Balfour), V., 22252-3; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29332-3; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29992-5.
  - Land Commission, Compulsory fixation of rents by (W. F. Bailey), III., 16914-9, 16929, 16985.
  - Plenty of precedents for taking land compulsorily, but not for giving general powers to a body like Congested Districts Board (G. Balfour), V., 22250.
  - Precedents existed, but in all cases price given was considerable (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44226.
  - Railways—Extent to which analogy held good, price given, &c. (C. Phibbs), VI., 29990, 29996, 30005-10; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 47052-7; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49386-7; (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49926-7.
- Price of Land, Effect on, Price to be fixed in view of Compulsion, *see* title Price of Land.
- Procedure proposed—
  - Act of Parliament wanted in the first place —whole question probably was a question of price (J. Dunleavy), II., 10845-6.
  - Bonus, withdrawal of, should first be threatened (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52500, 52525-8,
  - Congested Districts Board would claim to have scheduled all non-residential grazing land required, and if they failed to come to terms with owners and occupiers, price should be fixed by an independent tribunal (H. Doran), I., 2680.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Procedure proposed—*continued.*
  - Before scheduling, all persons interested should have a hearing (H. Doran), I., 3088.
  - Enforcing Powers (H. Doran), I., 2681-4.
  - Voluntary Arrangements would be facilitated, fact of scheduling would induce many owners to sell without compulsion (H. Doran), I., 2698.
- Rate of Interest obtainable on investment, effect of compulsion on (W. H. Boyd), V., 25111.
- Simultaneous Purchase of properties would lead to compulsion of a mild type (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082.
- Tenant Purchasers, Application of Compulsion to—
  - Bad effect on the small class who did not want to be interfered with, No bad effect on public opinion (Father O'Hara), I., 3795.
  - Non-residential holdings above £25 valuation to be subject to compulsory purchase.
    - Explanation of how lands had been bought under false pretences under the Ashbourne Act and Act of 1903, with the result that there were two interests to deal with (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25841-9.
    - Lowering Valuation to £15 proposed (Father O'Hara), I., 3781-2.
    - State Breach of Faith, Question of—Compensation proposed for tenant-right although it was established in a way not contemplated by law (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25850-73.
  - Non-residential owner of grazing farm, application of compulsion to proposed (T. Heraghty), IX., 50288-9.
  - Opinion in favour of (T. Heraghty), IX., 50285; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52538-9.
  - Opinion in favour of if land legislation was to escape danger of being regarded as class legislation (H. Doran), I., 2233-4; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3785-7, 3927; (H. Plunkett), III., 21508.
  - Resident tenant purchasers, Separate treatment from non-residential purchaser (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3783-4.
    - No objection to taking part of the land if the territory were large and it could be done without loss to the tenant purchaser (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3784.
- Tenants, Application of compulsion to (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35156-9.
  - Existing powers, *see* that sub-heading, *also* title Re-arrangement and Striping.
  - Howley Estate, Case on—Pat Brady declared a tenant-purchaser against his will (M. O'Neill), VI., 28816-7, 28820.
  - If landlords were compelled to sell, the next thing would be compulsion on tenants to buy (F. S. Wrench), III., 15081-2.
  - Increase in net income justifying higher price than under Ashbourne Act—Tenants should not be compelled to buy unless at their own requisition (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52583-4.
  - Judicial tenants, compulsion either to sell or till proposed (P. M'Nulty), VI., 28933-45.
  - Non-residential tenants of holdings over 100 acres (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33794, 33804-8.
  - Opinion in favour of (Canon M'Fadden), II., 8081-3; (M. Finucane), III., 15969; (J. Lennon), VII., 35401-4; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58204-5.
  - Resident tenant to be left in possession of holding unless very large, question of what constituted a residential holding (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33795-803.
  - Same principle should apply as to landlords (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34711-3.
  - Untenanted land, compelling tenants to buy—there should be no compulsion (M. Finucane), III., 15976.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Title to land—difficulty with property owned by several persons, compulsion might be necessary (L. Culleton), VII., 39535-7.
- Tribunal to exercise Compulsion and fix Price—
  - Almost superfluous if net income basis for price were accepted, but a Court of Appeal would be needed (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47515.
  - Appeal, Right of (W. H. Boyd), V., 25226-34, 25244, 25283.
    - Independent Court of Appeal proposed, composed of three judges of the High Court (W. H. Boyd), V., 25226-34, 25244, 25283; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29181, 29195, 29204.
    - Legal questions, not question of value would be subject of Appeal (W. F. Bailey), III., 16928.
    - Need for a final judicial Authority (G. Wyndham), V., 22840; (A. MacDonnell), V., 25384.
  - Arbitration as alternative (P. Nicholson), VI., 30322, 30338-40.
    - Apprehension that valuers would not be able to estimate loss fairly (C. Phibbs), VI., 30011-3, 30034-9.
    - Buyer and seller each to select a valuer, a Judge of High Court acting as umpire (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44850-4, 44859.
    - Cost, question of—Lawyers should be excluded as far as possible, present procedure would require amendment (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44861-7.
  - Benevolent Despotism, with State as despot (Lord Castletown), V., 26507-11.
  - Commissioners chosen on account of their knowledge and probity and permanently appointed should fix price (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57130-52, 57159, 57225.
  - Committee of experts, proposed (Lord Castletown), V., 26531-2.
  - Comparative Claims of Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board (G. Balfour), V., 22281-2.
  - Confidence of both sides, Command of—Tribunal should command Confidence (W. F. Bailey), V., 16869-70.
    - *Personnel*, Importance of—Question how far the fact that *personnel* of Estates Commissioners depended on Government of the day would affect confidence with which they were regarded (W. F. Bailey), III., 16875-9.
    - Tribunal would have to work its way into public confidence (W. F. Bailey), V., 16880-5.
  - Congested Districts Board, Claims of (H. M'Lafferty), II., 8460-1; (M. M'Nelis), II., 10048; (D. Henry), VI., 30217, 30220A-1; (P. J. M'Dermott), XI., 30234; (T. Moran), VI., 30902, 30919-21; (P. Rooney), VI., 32142; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34620; (Rev. T. M'Gauran), VII., 38870; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43162; (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46736; (E. T. O'Donel), IX., 49045-8; (T. Gallagher), IX., 50018; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50275, 50294; (Canon Stephens), IX., 50369; (M. Waldron), IX., 50559; (P. Finn), IX., 51547-8; (Rev. M. Henry), IX., 51665, 51671, 51675; (J. Kelly), X., 53911.
    - Accumulation of Lands in hands of Congested Districts Board, and increase in annual loss—Board would not buy more land than they could deal with, and there would be profit on the purchase (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1461-2.
    - Amalgamation of Agricultural Board with Congested Districts Board proposed (T. Heraghty), IX., 50293, 50339.
    - Communication of views to the Government, question of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1437-40.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Tribunal to exercise Compulsion and fix Price—*continued.*
  - Congested Districts Board, Claims of—*con.*
    - Extension of functions of Board to lands in Ulster or Munster, opinion in favour of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3931A.
    - Fitness of the Board as a more or less irresponsible Body, question of (G. Balfour), V., 22251, 22261, 22274, 22279, 22280.
    - Opinion against the Board (H. Doran), I., 3279; (Lord Castletown), V., 26529-30; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29181.
    - Resolution passed by Congested Districts Board asking for powers (F. W. D. Mitchell), 1440; (H. Doran), I., 2604-5, 2610, 3357-61.
      - Mistake—Witness had always afterwards considered resolution a mistake (F. S. Wrench), III., 15057.
      - Real object of Resolution (G. Balfour), V., 22231-2.
    - Temptation to discount price, so as to minimise loss on re-sale (F. S. Wrench), III., 15143.
  - Congested Districts Board or others (P. Dyar), 30468, 30561-2.
  - County Council or some local public body should have power to influence price (J. Murphy), VIII., 43160.
  - Court of first instance, suggestions for Constitution, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 25237-43, 25248-9, 25251-9, 25262-8, 25270-2, 25282.
  - Estates Commissioners, Claims of (W. F. Bailey), III., 16872-4, 16920-6, 16928-30, 16954-7, 16987, 17010; (P. Rooney), VI., 32142; (Canon Quin), VII., 35323; (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44617; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46847; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57951.
    - Body obliged to re-sell should be the body to fix value in the first instance (W. F. Bailey), III., 17025-6.
    - Commissioners would be fixing price of land they wanted to buy, but there would be an appeal (W. F. Bailey), III., 17014-7.
    - Judicial tenure need not affect work of Commissioners (W. F. Bailey), III., 17011-3.
    - Opinion against Estates Commissioners as at present constituted (W. H. Boyd), V., 25217-9, 25246-7; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29181; (E. T. O'Donel), IX., 49024-49.
    - Temptation to discount price, so as to minimise loss on re-sale (F. S. Wrench), III., 15143.
  - Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25399; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44612-4, 44674; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 47013, 47024, 47030, 47038, 47044-9.
  - Government should have absolute power to fix price, as in case of fair rents (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46971.
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  - Judicial tribunal proposed exclusive of Land Commission or Estates Commissioners (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29342.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR ACQUISITION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Tribunal to exercise Compulsion and fix Price—*continued.*
  - Land Commission proposed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3758-9.
    - Landlords would regard that as wholly unsatisfactory (W. H. Boyd), V., 24702-4.
    - Opinion against (E. T. O'Donel), IX., 49028.
    - System of Valuation more uniform than that of most arbitrators (J. O'Connor), III., 13305.
  - Land Commission or any body appointed by the State (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3758-9.
  - Land Commission or some independent tribunal (H. Doran), I., 2680.
  - More capable tribunal desired than that now existing (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25475, 25478.
    - Criticism referred to Sub-Commission, not to Estates Commissioners' inspectors (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25481-4, 25584.
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    - Necessary in the event of compulsion (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44248-9.
  - Possibility of finding a satisfactory body (W. H. Boyd), V., 25284; (Lord Castletown), V., 26535-6; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34620, 34625, 34641, 34720-3.
  - Procedure—
    - Principles of, should be laid down as far as was possible, but it was in the application of principles that difficulties arose (W. F. Bailey), III., 16886.
    - Tribunal would have to see the land themselves and then decide the value (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3985.
  - Purchaser had hitherto fixed price—Unsatisfactory method (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47511-3.
  - Purchasing body would raise machinery by which compulsory price would be arrived at (J. P. Hayden), X., 58268.
  - Ratepayers should be represented before tribunal as well as landlords and tenants (Rev. P. Finegan), VII., 38953.
  - State being purchaser, should not be tribunal to settle price (G. Balfour), V., 22327; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29983, 30034-9.
  - Whatever body was dealing with relief of congestion proposed (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52597.
- Trinity College Estates Commission, Recommendations (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43297.
- Useless to ask for compulsory powers for the whole of Ireland at present (J. A. Glynn), X., 55876, 55881.
- United Irish League programme contemplated Compulsory Purchase where voluntary sales failed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25388, 25399.
- Whereabouts of land which should be compulsorily purchased—
  - Connaught, Application of compulsory powers in, proposed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3732, 3926, 4216; (P. O'Malley), X., 52195, 52200.
    - Mistake to limit compulsion (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082.
  - Grass Land in County Roscommon and other places (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1453-4.
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COMYN'S ESTATE—PURCHASE NEGOTIATIONS, ETC.

- Arrears question (P. Costello), X., 54822.
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- COMYN'S ESTATE—PURCHASE NEGOTIATIONS, ETC.—*continued.*
  - Head rent (P. Costello), X., 54786, 54811; (Rev. T. Hosty), X., 54920.
    - Price, effect on (P. Costello), X., 54787-8, 54812.
  - Migration—Attitude of people (P. Costello), X., 54788-90.
    - Migration might facilitate sale (Rev. T. Hosty), X., 54927-9.
  - Price—
    - Estates Commissioners' inspection—Price offered (Rev. T. Hosty), X., 54892-6, 54905, 54909.
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    - Tenants willing to give 18½ years' purchase—Estate sold over their heads for 6 years' purchase (M. A. Lyons), X., 54534, 54544, 54563A, 54579-84.
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  - Purchase Question.
    - Congested Districts Board, purchase by, desired (M. A. Lyons), X., 54557-8, 54562-3 (Rev. T. Hosty), X., 54892.
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    - Zones, tenants' desire to purchase under (Rev. T. Hosty), X., 54892—Proposal not accepted, 54906.
  - Roads and piers needed (P. Costello), X., 54783.

- CONACRE SYSTEM.
  - Cause—Nursing of own holdings for cattle-feeding, etc. (P. Nicholson), VI., 30352, 30383, 30359.
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  - Cultivation, manuring and rotation of crops before land reverted again to grazing (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30148-57, 30167-74, 30176-8.
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- CONACRE SYSTEM—*continued.*
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  - No means of prevention (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27151-2.
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  - Ulster, large farmers in—*See* Large Farmers.

- CONAGHAN, MR. PATRICK.—*Farmer from Balbane, near Killybegs.*
  - Evidence, II., 12059-71.

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  - Evidence X., 58383-91.

- CONDITION OF IRELAND.
  - Improvement, Advance in—Evidence, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 22935-50, 22968, 23103-4.
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  - No country in Europe where condition of peasants was better than in Ireland (W. H. Boyd), V., 23329.
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  - Waste due to ignorance—Tripe for instance never used in Ireland (W. H. Boyd), V., 23266.

- CONDITION OF SMALL FARMERS.
  - *See* Circumstances and Resources.

- CONEY ISLAND.
  - Pier needed—Island not scheduled, nothing done by any public body (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29597-603.

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- CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.
  - Area over which Board operated, extension of proposed (T. O'Flaherty), VIII., 42864; (D. Kirwin), X., 55271.
    - Evidence before Commission on Distress for want of Employment, 1896 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26142.
    - Not desirable—Too much "spoon-feeding" was enervating (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39727-30.
    - Opinion in favour of operations outside Congested Area (D. Pearson), II., 10875-6.
  - Authority to deal with congestion, *see* that title.
  - Chairman—
    - Names of Chairmen since creation of Board (W. L. Micks), I., 94.
    - *See also* sub-heading Constitution.
  - Character and Methods—
    - Benevolent body trying to get the most it could and doing the greatest amount of good it could (W. H. Boyd), V., 23768.
    - Independent and Paternal Character of the Board, *see* sub-heading Independence.
    - Non-political Board (W. L. Micks), I., 94.
  - Confidence and popularity enjoyed by the Board (W. L. Micks), I., 538; (H. Doran), I., 2568; (H. O'Donnell, of Milford), II., 5543; (M. Finucane), III., 16261; (G. Wyndham), V., 22817, 22911, 22913-4; (Canon Loftus), VI., 30073; (Rev. F. O'Hara), VI., 31825; (Hugh Gallagher), VI., 32471; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848; (Colonel Knox-Gore), IX., 47403; (P. O'Donnell), IX., 49125; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50409; (P. Finn), IX., 51472.

Congested Districts Board—*continued*:

Confidence and popularity enjoyed by the Board—*continued*.

Compulsory powers, grant of, would probably lessen the confidence (G. Balfour), V., 22261.

Officials of the Board—

Men commanding the confidence of the people (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50409.

Want of confidence in some of the officials—Board too much in hands of paid officials alleged (Canon Grealey), IX., 48856, 48867.

Stoney Estate re-sale, example of (Canon Grealy), IX., 48886-8; (H. Doran), IX., 48891-6, 48935-42.

Personnel, matter of, rather than constitution (W. F. Bailey), III., 17431-4.

Constitution—

Antagonistic elements working in entire harmony (H. Doran), I., 3268.

Chairman—No *ex-officio* Chairman, practice of Board was to choose Chief Secretary for the time being as their Chairman (W. L. Micks), I., 94-5, 100; (G. Balfour), V., 22228; (G. Wyndham), V., 22795.

Legal position not distinguished from that of other Members (G. Balfour), V., 22229.

Chief Secretary had greater facilities of access to other Departments, subject to that, position was coequal (G. Wyndham), V., 22796.

Responsibility of Chief Secretary—Only responsible in so far as he had supported action of Board (G. Balfour), V., 22230; (G. Wyndham), V., 22797.

Changes in—

Personnel had changed, not constitution, (F. S. Wrench), III., 14396.

Rate of change in *personnel* as compared with Estates Commission (W. F. Bailey), III., 17467.

Under Secretary named by Act of 1903 in place of Land Commissioner representing agriculture (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14401.

Local Representation—

Advisory Committees, Question of (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26923-35; (Canon Grealy), IX., 48862-7; (T. Rutledge), IX. 49344-52; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51590-1; (H. Murphy), X., 55600-17, 55650-8A; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56062, *et seq.*

Apportionment of funds without regard to necessities of particular districts, disadvantages of—Introduction of controversial element, etc. (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 599, 665-6; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22172, 22175; (G. Hewson), VI., 31480-4; (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 30977-84; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42378-83; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45193-4; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51604-9.

Cavan—County representation proposed (Rev. T. M'Gauran), VII., 38870.

Chairmen of County Councils to be representatives, taking a rota from all Ireland for each county, suggested (John O'Connor), III., 13379-86.

Committee of Rural District Council with statutory powers to represent needs of district to the Board—Member on the Board preferable, but failing that Committee would be acceptable (P. Naughton), X., 55116-21.

Connemara—Representation on Board desired (P. Naughton), X., 54987, 55048-59, 55113-14.

Congested Districts Board—*continued*.

Constitution—*continued*.

Local Representation—*continued*.

Cork and Kerry—Local representatio desirable (J. Doran), VIII., 42680; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII. 44979, 45189; (D. D. Harrington), VIII., 45394-5, 45460-3; (Rev. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 46736, 46737.

Counties at present represented on the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 621; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47295

County Council, membership of, as qualification for appointment, question of (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42267-8; (P. O'Malley), X., 52291-3.

County Council or Grand Jury, alternative appointment of local representatives suggested (J. O'Connor), III., 13378.

Elective element—

Board brought more into touch with districts in which it operated (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51589

Confidence and popularity enjoyed by the Board, effect on (W. L. Micks), I., 551-2; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4024-30, 4055. 4057-8; (W. F. Bailey), III. 17463-6.

County Councils, election by, suggested (W. L. Micks), I., 573; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4031; (J. M'Hale), IX., 48617-21, 48626-37; (Canon Grealey), IX., 48860-2; (T. Rutledge), IX. 49361-6; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51573; (P. O'Malley), X. 52280; (P. Naughton), X., 55049.

Disadvantages, *refer* to sub-headings Apportionment of Funds and Partiality.

Object of suggesting elective element (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51616

One-sided arrangement unless the whole of the members were elected (W. F. D. Mitchell), I. 720.

Opinion against (Rev M. M'Donald), IX., 49638.

Opinion in favour of (W. L. Micks) I., 490-1; (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 30967; (Rev. M Keaveney), IX., 51597.

Parliamentary election, opinion against method of, for election of representatives on Congested Districts Board—Election by representative bodies suggested (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 30968-9.

Political lines, no objections to election on (W. L. Micks), I., 553-6.

Popular approval could be secured through the elective element (H. Murphy), X., 55650-3.

Useful in commending policy of Board to localities and in meeting migration difficulties (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 667-8.

Leitrim County—Disadvantage of not having a representative upon the Board (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619

Local knowledge—

Best supplied by having proper officials under the Board (A. J. Balfour), V., 22174.

Congested Counties should be represented on Board by men knowing wants of localities (Canon Grealey), IX., 48856, 48859-62.

Local representation without local taxation, objection—Possible future taxation on foot of the guarantee would be justification (J. O'Connor), III., 13387-92.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—*continued.*
- Constitution—*continued.*
  - Local Representation—*continued.*
    - Mayo coast and adjoining impoverished districts—Representative required (Rev. M. M'Donald), IX., 49626-43.
    - No difficulty in finding representatives (H. Murphy), X., 55607-8.
    - No need for any change (Rev. J. Flatley), X., 52391.
    - Nomination of members—
      - Choice would be limited, but local feeling would be satisfied (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 781-6.
      - County Council to nominate members, proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25792-3; (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42265-7; (T. O'Flaherty), VIII., 42868-9; (J. M'Hale), IX., 48630-6; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50434-40.
      - Crown, nomination of members by, suggested (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 619-20, 628, 654-6, 720; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42377; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51572.
      - District Council to nominate members, opinion in favour of (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56034-5, 56091-3.
      - Fitness for position would still be a necessary qualification, but local residence or attachment would be a condition precedent to appointment (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 625-6.
      - Independence greater and position more permanent (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 657-8.
      - No objections to nomination (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25792-3.
      - Size of Board, question of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 622-4, 627.
    - Number of local representatives, question of (J. O'Connor), III., 13377, 13383; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51572.
      - One representative for each congested or partly congested county proposed (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42263A; (H. Brennan), VI., 27550-1, 27563; (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 30964-6; (P. Flynn), VI., 33343-55, 33359-60; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42374, 42376; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49361-6; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50400-6.
      - One representative for each large congested area (Rev. M. M'Donald), IX., 49630, 49634-6, 49638-42.
      - Three additional members proposed, half the Board to retire by rotation every three years, outgoing members to be replaced by persons from different districts, etc. (G. Hewson), VI., 31462-79, 31485-7.
      - Three or four members for each county (P. J. Hayden), X., 48619-28.
      - Twelve members suggested, 6 nominated and 6 elected members—method of election, etc. (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51572, 51576-7, 51593, 51600-1, 51617.
    - Opinion against (W. H. Boyd), V., 23738.
    - Opinion in favour of (J. O'Connor), III., 13305, 13356; (P. J. M'Dermott), VI., 30234; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42374, 42383-5; (T. O'Flaherty), VIII., 42865; (Rev. M. M'Donald), IX., 49632; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51901; (P. O'Malley), X., 52282; (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52691; (Rev. B. M'Andrew), X., 53071-4; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 55991-2, 56030, 56062-6; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58258.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—*continued*:
- Constitution—*continued.*
  - Local Representation—*continued.*
    - Partiality and narrowness of local representatives, question as to (J. O'Connor), III., 13392-5; (H. Murphy), X., 55620-47, 55653; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56050-5, 56067.
      - Balance of numbers would prevent undue influence of any one member (P. O'Malley), X., 52281, 52283-4.
    - Policy of local representation Difference of opinion as to policy of (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58347.
    - Schull—Desire for representation (Rev. J. O'Connell), VIII., 46237-9
    - Selection of Representatives—
      - County Council or a number of Councils together (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45190.
      - County Council should select representatives (D. D. Harrington), VIII., 45461; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 30401, 50403; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58257.
      - Government might select representative out of two or three nominated by County Council (P. Flynn), VI., 33358.
      - *Refer also* to sub-headings Elective element and Nomination.
    - Sligo—Representation proposed (B. Harte), VI., 27802, 27807.
    - Wider representation suggested (Canon Mackem), X., 56145-6; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47294-6; (Colonel Knox-Gore), IX., 47566-7; (J. M'Hale), IX., 48617.
    - Workable character of a Board having representatives from all congested counties—Witness did not see why it should not work fairly well (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45193.
  - Members—
    - Agriculture represented by witness under original Act—He did not think there was anyone on the Board to represent Agriculture now (F. S. Wrench), III., 14397-400, 14408.
    - Appointment by Royal Warrant (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 617.
    - Class of men to be selected—Qualifications required (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51588-90, 51616.
    - *Ex officio* members—
      - Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary, question as to membership (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51576-7, 51593, 51600; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51891-4.
      - Vice-President of Department, membership of Board—Useful as link between the departments (T. W. Russell), IX., 51889-90.
    - Members of other Departments at same time members of Board, question of (Rev. M. Keaveney), IV., 51574-5, 51578-86.
    - Number and status of members (W. L. Micks), I., 94; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 606-7; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513.
    - Power of, equal with exception of temporary members (W. L. Micks), I., 101; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 609-12.
    - Temporary Members—
      - Appointed by the Government (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 617.
      - Appointment for five years, eligible for re-appointment by Lord Lieutenant (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 615-6.
      - Balfour, Mr., was a temporary member (A. J. Balfour), V., 22203, 22205, 22207.
      - Districts, representation of—Temporary members did not represent districts, but the idea was to give more districts a chance (F. S. Wrench), III., 14423.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—*continued.*

- Constitution—*continued.*
  - Members—*continued.*
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    - Land Work, etc., principal work of Congested Districts Board—Allocation of income suggesting a different standpoint—*see* title Purchase of Land, Funds and Expenditure of Congested Districts Board.
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    - Accounts given in Report which might give rise to supposition that Board had an income of £238,000 a year, question of (W. L. Micks), I., 167-76.
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  - Expenditure had often exceeded total estimate sanctioned by Treasury—Work stopped on several occasions (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 683-4.
  - Fishery Loan Fund of £86,000—Placed at disposal of Congested Districts Board in 1891, subject to Treasury sanction (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1514-16.
  - Guarantee Fund—Board's income of £41,250 out of Church Surplus Grant removed from Guarantee Fund (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1539, 1545.
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  - Loans from Board of Works—Congested Districts Board enabled under Treasury sanction to get as much as £10,000 and to utilise two-thirds of it in loans to small tenants (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1527-8.
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- Funds—Existing Income and Expenditure—*con.*
  - Salaries and Administrative Expenses—
    - Amount given in fourteenth Report included all heads of administration (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1572.
    - Percentage of Administrative Charges (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1561-71; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4136; (J. O'Connor), III., 13305.
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    - Treasury, Payment of Salaries under Act of 1891—Difference of opinion between Board and Treasury as to amount—Final arrangement for annual payment of £25,000 (W. L. Micks), I., 153-7; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4592-3.
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  - Surplus, Disposal of—Not surrendered to Government, fund entrusted to Board to be expended at its discretion (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60167-9.
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  - Act of 1899—Addition of £20,000 a year to funds of Board—Conditions imposed by Chancellor of Exchequer, Administration expenses to be deducted, etc. (G. Balfour), V., 22292-5.
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  - Act of 1903—*continued.*
    - Wyndham's, Mr., Memorandum of 4th July, 1902, I., App. V., p. 336.
      - Minutes of proceedings of Congested Districts Board at a special meeting, 8th July, 1902, I., App. V., p. 336.
  - Act of 1903, Sections 43 and 44 should be amended and should apply to Board (J. O'Connor), III., 13356.
  - Amount of Additional Income required (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 643-4.
  - Amount of Additional Income required to admit of annual turnover of £400,000 worth of land at a loss of 8 per cent. —Minimum of £20,000 a year for estates and more for other purposes (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1349, 1354, 1362-4, 1366-7, 1397.
    - Increase of purchase pace due to fact that the opportunity for buying would be gone (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1384-5.
    - Increase of purchase pace increased loss and need of additional income (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1374-5.
    - Only a limited number could be reached by Land Operations (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1442-7.
      - All might be reached if willing to migrate and sufficient grass land was obtainable—Mr. Doran's view (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1447.
    - Three times as much work as at present could be done although progress could not be considered very satisfactory (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1416-7.
    - Turnover of £400,000 not adequate to meet requirements (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1403-6.
  - Amount of additional income required to admit of dealing with all holdings below £4 valuation in scheduled area (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 847.
  - Any funds given to Board should be in addition to those applicable to Ireland generally (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 847-51, 913-4.
    - Legislation tended to exclude Congested Districts from participation in general funds—Instances where Congested Districts had not been fairly treated as regards distribution of public moneys (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1764-76.
    - Scotland—Grant in relief of Local Taxation in Highlands and Islands (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1768-72.
  - Applications for money should be made in view of coming Bill (A. Crichton), V., 27261.
  - Connaught, whole of, being handed over to Board would constitute a strong claim to more funds (A. Crichton), V., 27260.
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    - Transference to Congested Districts Board of proportion of revenues payable by Department of Agriculture to scheduled districts and revenues of Fishery Board proposed (A. Crichton), V., 27253-7.
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  - Necessity for Additional Funds, Inadequacy of Income (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4044; (J. O'Connor), III., 13277; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22227; (A. Crichton), V., 27232, 27253, 27261; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29261-310; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082; (Rev. F. O'Hara), VI., 31847; (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 32007; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848; (Rev. M. Kane), VI., 34854; (Canon Quin), VII., 35279; (Rev. O. Brady), VII., 39195; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41430, 41870; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47297; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49366-7; (A. Larminie), IX., 49981; (E. J. Corrigan), IX., 49193, 49200; (Canon Stephens), IX., 50369; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51226; (P. Finn), IX., 51472; (D. Kirwin), X., 55361; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55848-51; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979; (Canon Macken), X., 56145; (T. O'Rourke), X., 59000.
    - Amount required could not be foreseen at start (A. J. Balfour), V., 22128.
    - British Credit, Use of—Without it land purchase could hardly be worked at all (A. J. Balfour), V., 22124.
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    - Capital sum of £1,500,000 sufficient to start experiment (A. J. Balfour), V., 22225.
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    - Cost Question—Provision of sufficient staff and funds to enable Board to do the work expeditiously would lessen ultimate cost (H. Doran), I., 2045, 3267.
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    - Difficulty beginning to be felt when witness was Secretary (W. L. Micks), I., 565.
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    - Due partly to price of estates being higher and partly to increase of work in hand (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 806.
    - Gradual process—Not possible to meet all requirements at once (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 30970-6.
    - Increase in income not proportionate to increase in amount of work to be done (W. L. Micks), I., 112, 144-5, 166.
    - Industries, Development of, etc., such as witness contemplated would require an income ten times as large as existing income (W. L. Micks), I., 594-6.
    - Operations would be restricted or brought to a standstill unless additional income could be provided (W. L. Micks), I., 71, 596; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1373, 1413-15; (H. Doran), I., 1860-5, 3248, 3276-7.
      - Explanation of what was meant by saying that the Board was short of funds (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 680-2, 686.
      - Frequent answer of "no funds," especially in regard to public works, piers, etc. (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 675.
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  - Necessity for additional funds, Inadequacy of Income—*continued.*
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    - Restriction of Loss on Re-sale within certain limit proposed—Board would have a better case in asking increased funds from Parliament (G. Wyndham), V., 22855-6, 22860, 22866.
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    - Restriction of Loss on Re-sale within a certain limit proposed—Treasury might be asked to appoint a representative in Ireland to attend their meetings and certify that limit fixed on would not be exceeded (G. Wyndham), V., 22856, 22858, 22860, 22865, 22867-8.
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- Independence and freedom from restrictions imposed on a Government Department—Paternal character—*continued.*
  - Efficiency of Board as compared with a Department—*continued.*
    - Intimate knowledge of Congested Districts possessed by men available at the Board (F. S. Wrench), III., 14391-5.
    - Rate of Progress of Land Purchase Operations, Effect on—A Government Department would have done the work quicker (F. S. Wrench), III., 14373-4, 14383-4, 14389-90.
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  - Nature of Board's independence—Perfect Parliamentary control, but comparative independence with reference to the Castle (H. Plunkett), III., 18382-8.
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- Initiation of Schemes—Proposals sometimes made by members of Board, sometimes by Inspectors, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 528.
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- Meeting Place—
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- Meetings once a month, Question of difficulty in carrying on work—*continued.*
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    - Proposal had been made, but was not approved—Mr. Doran was practically Managing Director as regarded land (W. L. Micks), I., 576-80.
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  - No difficulty in calling a meeting more than once a month—Difficulties between Board and Secretary only such as were incidental to initiation of so many schemes (W. L. Micks), I., 566-8.
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    - Number of Meetings in the year, number of Committee Meetings preceding the Monthly Board Meeting (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 603.
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    - Secretary had no authority to sanction expenditure unless covered by a minute of the Board—Could ask for authority to call a Special Meeting, if necessary (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 601.
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- Policy of the Board—
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- Powers and Functions (W. F. Bailey), III., 16659.
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    - Preparation of very poor estates for operation of Land Acts—No estates purchased which did not require rearrangement or improvement (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 647-8, 676-8, 726-7.
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- Pressure of Work in Secretarial Office (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 788-9, 792.
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  - Procedure at the start—Division of congested region into 84 districts, from which Reports were furnished (W. L. Micks), I., 177-8; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1551-2.
    - General development of districts under Live Stock and Fishing Schemes (W. L. Micks), I., 188, 203.
    - Improvements had been made in the houses, but much of the information still applied (W. L. Micks), I., 179-80.
  - Quorum—Any three members of the Board not including temporary members (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 613-4; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1550.
- Provinces, Delegation of portion of work to (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26241.
- Rent collecting methods too exacting (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45574.
  - Arrears—Year's rent demanded—Large tenants who derived no benefit from Board's work and suffered from scarcity of labour, hardship to (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45639.
  - Process threatened against twenty-five tenants for a year's rent—Time refused in first instance; matter afterwards settled by Mr. Mitchell (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45636-8, 45642-3.
  - Receivable orders sent to tenants ordering them to pay to the bank a year's rent, and setting forth balance due —Interference with tenant's credit with the bank, etc. (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45613-20, 45624-34.
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- Representations to the Board—
  - Method adopted by people (P. M'Bride), II., 8963-6.
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- Staff—
  - Accounts branch (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60109.
  - Additional staff required to deal with £1,000,000's worth of land annually, see title Purchase—£1,000,000.
  - Amount of work dealt with annually (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60114.
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    - Cost (H. Doran), XI., 60014, 60016-7, 60019.
      - Present cost of administration in connection with estates (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60023, 60086-91.
  - Engineering Staff, transfer from Congested Districts Board to Department of Agriculture (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1157-66; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1516.
  - Increase of staff, question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4589-91; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55849-51; (J. P. Hayden), X., 56289-90.
  - Land Inspector—
    - Functions of land inspector and assistants (H. Doran), XI., 60034-51.
    - Present land inspector too much confined in certain districts (Rev. F. O'Hara), VI., 31851.
  - List of the various permanent and temporary officers (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1516.
  - Number (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 790, 792; XI., 60093-4, 60105-6.
  - Pay (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 792; XI., 60094, 60098-100, 60105.
  - Pensions, Number entitled to (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 838; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4592.

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- Staff—*continued.*
    - Permanent Staff—Attached to Land Commission (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4577.
        - Alteration in method of appointment to avoid transfer of officers' difficulty (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513.
    - Temporary Staff—
        - Appointed when necessary (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 791.
        - Appointments made by the Board without reference to Lord Lieutenant or Treasury (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513.
        - Board at a certain disadvantage in having a temporary staff—Staff worked well, and did a great part of the most responsible work (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 836.
        - Large proportion of staff on a temporary basis—Due to action of Treasury, Difficulties had occurred in working of Act of 1894 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4572-6, 4578-81.
            - Explanation that Treasury would give for not acceding to wish of Board (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4582-4.
            - Men left as soon as they got permanent positions, and it took some time to train a man to the work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4585-6.
        - Normal staff fixed by Treasury in 1894 and increased by one officer only—Necessity of engaging temporary clerks under powers given by Act of 1894 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4587-8.
        - Not satisfactory to have such a great proportion of the staff temporary (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4579.
        - Pensions, Temporary Clerks not entitled to (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 837.
        - Petition for change of status, etc. (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60115-6.
- Standing Orders at present in force handed in (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 601.
- Statistical information—Each Department kept its own Statistics and the Board always obtained information from Department concerned (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1055-8.
- Tracts and papers, distribution of—Establishment of depot in a country town like Skibbereen proposed (Rev. Precentor Townsend), VIII., 46645.
- Voluntary Board (W. L. Micks), I., 94.
    - Advantage of members being unpaid—More representative Board and wider views taken of everything (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 718.
    - No difficulty in Ireland—Perfectly willing to do the work without remuneration (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 718-9.
    - Scotland—System had been found unsatisfactory—Demand for transfer of powers to a paid Board (J. Bryce), I., 532.
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- Working of Board—Success of operations—*con.*
    - Confidence and Popularity, *see* that subheading.
    - Most useful Board that had been seen in Ireland for a long time—Evidence before Commission on Distress for Want of Employment, 1896 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26142.
    - Neglect of particular districts, resolution, etc., VI., App. V., p. 260.
    - Officials of the Board were superior and painstaking (T. O'Rourke), X., 59000.
    - Sporadic nature of work in Kerry (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42345, 42362.
        - Selection of places, question as to merits of selection (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42363-5.

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    - Instances (W. L. Micks), I., 18-24; (J. G. Qilty), VI., 28466; (J. M. Cryan), VI., 30116-21; (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30128; (Rev. J. Flatley), X., 52320; (Rev. B. M'Andrew), X., 53064-7; (H. Murphy), 55391, 55454-8; (Rev. J. Craddock), X., 55659; (J. Cunningham), X., 57533; (J. Keaveney), X., 59004.
- Assistance required, extent and nature (H. Doran), I., 3074; (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6061-4; (A. Crichton), V., 27232.
- Extent of—No information (H. Doran), I., 2879-83.
- Isolated places of Congestion—Landowners in many cases had broken up villages and consolidated holdings (W. H. Boyd), V., 23056.
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    - Quite a different matter from clearances (W. H. Boyd), V., 23096.
- Large tracts of grass land in prairie condition in districts needing to be scheduled outside Connaught (H. Doran), I., 3091.
- Location of areas—
    - Details given by special returns prepared for Commission, etc. (H. Doran), I., 3075-84, *note* p. 131.
    - If test taken were proportion of holdings above and below £10 valuation in any area, only returns available were MS. returns in General Register Office, p. 131 *note.*
    - No general information (W. H. Boyd), V., 23178.
    - Return showing where Congested areas actually existed and untenanted lands available in neighbourhood could be prepared but it would be expensive and require some time and a special staff (H. Doran), I., 3086, 3088-9, 3094, 3101.
        - Unit of Congestion taken must be uniform with unit in scheduled areas (H. Doran), I., 3092-9.
- Remedy was at hand, they were isolated and near enriching areas (H. Doran), I., 2022, 3071-3, 3249, 3281; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22169.
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- Conditions prevailing (A. J. Balfour), V., 22130, 22135.
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    - Chief factors in real distress (G. Hewson), VI., 31718.
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- Division into Classes A, B, and C, according to possibilities of enlargement of holdings by migration, etc. (H. Doran), I., 2053, 2200.
  - Map, Vol. I., *to face* p. 332.
  - For details, *see* titles A, B, and C.
- First occurrence of expression "Congested" (W. L. Micks), I., 4 and *note.*
- Purchase necessary before peace or prosperity could be established (J. Riney), VIII., 45237.

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- Definition (W. L. Micks), I., 539 and *note*; (M. Finucane), III., 15368-79.
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    - Bringing into line with definition of congested areas (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41138, 41159.
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- Price at which holdings might be re-sold—Effect of decision in case of Warden Estate (J. O'Connor), III., 13347.
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- Agriculture, System of—Land starved out and destroyed by manuring with black mud, same soil sowed year after year (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3526-31.
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- Breaking up of grass lands—Opinion in favour of a system of small holdings and of a calf-rearing industry, the rest of Ireland being purchasers of stores (W. Vaugh), VI., 32742-6.
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- First duty of the Commission was to try to settle Connaught—If the treatment were right no reason why it should not be extended to similar districts in Ireland (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3862-5.
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  - Rate per head in Congested Districts had gone up since 1891 owing to emigration (H. Doran), I., 2883.
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    - Bonus consisted of twelve millions; if four or five millions were given Connaught could be settled (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3727, 3738, 3825-6.
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- Evidence IX., 49108-17.

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- Evidence, VI., 32411-25.

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- Evidence, X., 54867-91.

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- *Refer to* titles Clearances, Enlargement and Amalgamation, and Re-arrangement.

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- Evidence, II., 12086-101.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICT—STATUTORY DEFINITION, ETC.
- Abolition of definition, *refer* to sub-heading Discretionary powers.

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- Acreage standard, introduction into definition and abolition of 20 per cent. population condition (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38170-92.
- Act of 1903, Definition contained in, would perhaps be more applicable (W. F. Bailey), III., 16641-2.
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- Barony as unit, proposed, excluding persons of over £10 valuation individually (T. Swan), II., 5945, 5948, 5950.
  - Donegal conditions only considered (T. Swan), II., 5947.
  - Standard of Congestion should be average valuation below a certain sum, which should be above 30*s.* (T. Swan), II., 5947.
- Census Statistics added a few additional districts to areas already scheduled (W. L. Micks), I., 35.
- Cities and large towns, exclusion proposed (J. O'Connor) III., 13295.
- Congested Districts Board, power to schedule (P. Flynn), VI., 33142-5.
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- County, question of scheduling whole county (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 693, 738-9, 772-80.
- Cowper Commission Report—Definition of Congested District as taking in any area that contained evidence of poverty and required special treatment (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1814-21.
- Department of Agriculture, working definition of rural congestion adopted by (H. Plunkett), III., 18269-75, 18289-94.
  - Definition hitherto accepted by Commission substantially the same (H. Plunkett), III., 18276-9, 18287, 21461.
- Discretionary powers for authority dealing with congestion, abolition of definition (W. L. Micks), I., 17, 25; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1814; (H. Doran), I., 3245-6, 3258; (H. Plunkett), III., 18262; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41156-9.
  - Absolute discretion, question of (H. Plunkett), III., 18296-300.
  - Any area, power for Board to schedule (W. L. Micks), I., 38-49, 52, 68-9, 85-8.
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    - Definition of an area (W. L. Micks), I., 46.
    - Opinion in favour of, subject to approval of Lord Lieutenant, existing 30*s.* standard being taken as a guide (J. Dunleavy), II., 10842-4.
  - Areas of any size but susceptible of clear and definite delineation, power should be taken either to include or exclude (W. H. Boyd), V., 23738, 23746.
  - Authority to exercise powers—
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    - Existing discretionary powers, question of (H. Brennan), VI., 27541-2.
    - Faith in Congested Districts Board as authority for determining congestion not very strong (H. Brennan), VI., 27547.
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    - Inspector of Local Government Board or some such official (W. H. Boyd), V., 23775-6, 23825.
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DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICT—STATUTORY DEFINITION, ETC.—*continued.*

Discretionary powers for authority dealing with congestion—*continued.*

Compulsory Declaration of Congestion—It should not be compulsory to declare Congestion where conditions of definition existed but there should be power to do so (M. Finucane), III., 15380-1.

Commission on Congestion to declare generally what lands were to be made available for relief of Congestion—Power for Board to schedule areas from time to time (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1808-9, 1812.

Congestion wherever found, Board to have power to deal with (W. L. Micks), I., 26, 86, 88; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1822; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3934; (J. Gallagher), II., 5901-3; (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6061; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16628; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848; (T F. Smyth), VI., 33680-3; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41105, 41115-9, 41124; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42420-3; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43160; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43301, 43303; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50070 1, 50079-81.

Board had power at present to buy land wherever they pleased but could not buy land outside Congested Districts for purpose of settling poor people in non-Congested Districts (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 703-5.

Money Question—Extension of operations all over Ireland desirable if the Board's income was sufficiently increased (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 702.

Opinion against—Better to draw a hard and fast line, but to make it more liberal than the present line (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 692, 702, 704.

West of Ireland, at any rate, power should extend over—Mistake to exclude Kerry and Donegal, except in regard to land purchase (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41107-9.

Danger that if the Act had been made very wide administrative difficulties, lack of funds, etc., would have reached such a point as seriously to impair utility of Board (A. J. Balfour), V., 22102, 22161.

Enriching Areas—

Power for Congested Districts Board to request Lord Lieutenant to schedule whole or part of an Electoral Division if a village, demesne, plantation or fishery caused abnormally high value of division (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10383-5, 10476.

Power for Congested Districts Board to schedule or not, taking present 30*s.* standard but leaving out any enriching area in the calculation (J. Dunleavy), II., 10821-32, 10839-41.

Estates Commissioners, powers of, in dealing with non-scheduled tracts (W. F. Bailey), III., 16643-4, 16650-2.

Expenditure in any particular district—Congested Districts Board exercised its discretion (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 599.

Expenditure in poor districts ought not to be reduced by discretionary power to schedule—Depended on amount of funds (W. L. Micks), I., 71.

Pressure to go to some particular district—patchy operations, etc., question of danger of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 599, 688; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1810; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22171; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41110-4, 41168; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42412.

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DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS—STATUTORY DEFINITION, *etc.*—*continued.*

Discretionary powers for authority dealing with congestion—*continued.*

Some definition necessary when it came to administering public funds (H. Plunkett), III., 18280, 18286; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23214-6.

Special treatment should be applied to districts coming under whatever definition of congestion was adopted without giving them statutory right to be specially treated (H. Plunkett), III., 18283 4, 18286.

Electoral Division as Unit of Congestion—

Number scheduled where valuation per head was 30*s.* and over (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1578-9.

Opinion against (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082.

Opinion in favour of (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1813; (H. Brennan), VI., 27534, 27537-9.

Should be unit as a rule but there were exceptions (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10476.

Too large a unit (G. L. Young), II., 5676.

Enriching Areas, etc., raising Valuation of an Electoral division above Statutory limit (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1589; (M. Keaveney), VI., 32024-5; (P. J. Rooney), VI., 28484-5; (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29424-8; (Rev. P. O'Doherty), VII., 38563-5; (Rev. T. M'Gauran), VII., 38911, 38913-4; (J. Carney), VII., 39023; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41138, 41159; (Rev. J. Curran), X., 56370.

Demesne, Residential Estate, Effect on Earnings of people in neighbourhood—Farming population not employed on demesne lands, practically no resident landlords in County Donegal (J. Dunleavy), II., 10833-8.

Necessity for re-adjustment (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 689, 694-6; (J. Marron), II., 10051-2; (D. Pearson), II., 10870-1.

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Estate, etc. *See* title Congested Estates.

Estates purchased by Congested Districts Board or transferred to Board by Estates Commissioners should be included in Schedule (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825.

Exclusion, Power of—

Areas not requiring further help, question of discharge from schedule—

Not excluded—Scheduled districts were permanently under charge of Board so long as it existed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 757-9, 761-2, 764.

Opinion against exclusion, unless Board could report that no further improvement was necessary (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 760.

Opinion in favour of (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1823; (D. Pearson), II., 10877-82; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23778-80; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41159-67.

Unnecessary—Board had discretion to exclude any scheduled district from operation of the Act (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 762-3; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42414-6.

Danger of excluding too much (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42413.

Not recommended because Board could abstain from putting Act into operation if any doubt existed—Letter from Mr. Micks to the Under Secretary in 1891 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 599.

Not very important, Districts not requiring special treatment had only to be let alone, (W. F. Bailey), III., 16646, 16659.

Opinion in favour of (W. H. Boyd), V., 23218-9.

Townlands in scheduled electoral divisions requiring no attention at all—Many such townlands (W. F. Bailey), IV., 16645.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS—STATUTORY DEFINITION, *etc.—continued.*

- Existing Statutory Definition—
  - Abolition needed (W. L. Micks), I., 53-5, 85-8; (H. Plunkett), III., 18281-2.
  - Abolition or Amendment proposed (J. O'Connor), III., 13277-81, 13283; (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38184-5; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50397; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23056, 23768, 23825.
  - Accuracy, question of (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39719-26.
  - Agriculture only considered and other means of livelihood ignored—definition did not coincide with poverty (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41100-1, 41103, 41138, 41159.
  - Arbitrary Definition (W. F. Bailey), III., 16628.
  - Arrears Act of 1882, Definition taken from (A. J. Balfour), V., 22091, 22097—Mr. Balfour's Statement (M. Finucane), III., 15363.
  - Certain districts fixed upon as Congested and then a rule made which brought those districts under the definition and kept others out (W. L. Micks), I., 5, 13-4; (H. Doran), I., 3254-7.
  - Conditions laid down by Act of 1891—Two conditions (W. L. Micks), I., 5-13; (M. Finucane), III., 15363; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22091, 22093, 22099; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23089-90; (H. Brennan), VI., 27377, 27379-81.
  - Congested Districts Board's tendency to spend money on places which had been advertised to exclusion of less well-known districts (G. Hewson), VI., 31462.
  - Failure to define "Congestion" as ordinarily understood (M. Finucane), III., 15368.
  - Grounds on which definition was adopted,
    - Administrative convenience (H. Doran), I., 3250, 3252-3; (H. Plunkett), III., 18283.
    - British Taxpayer, safeguarding from all possibility of loss by default (A. J. Balfour), V., 22091-2, 22159.
  - Intention of framers of the Act of 1891 (A. J. Balfour), V., 22107-9.
  - Lord Lieutenant, power given to by Act of 1891, *see* sub-heading Lord Lieutenant.
  - Much larger area covered than by real poverty which formed the acute problem and required exceptional treatment (W. H. Boyd), V., 22935, 23056, 23084-8.
  - Process adopted had substantially located poorest areas in Ireland (H. Doran), I., 3249; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22096-7, 22129.
  - Revision, question whether revision were advisable or practicable (A. J. Balfour), V., 22140-1, 22159-61, 22170, 22200-1; (G. Wyndham), V., 22918-22.
    - Benevolent Despot could no doubt improve upon the definition, but his task would not be an enviable one (A. J. Balfour), V., 22161, 22170.
    - Changing circumstances made modification desirable, question whether it was worth while to bring in legislation was one for the Irish Administration (A. J. Balfour), V., 22200-1.
  - Unsatisfactory definition—Large districts all over Ireland in need of assistance and yet excluded (W. L. Micks), I., 16, 18-24; (H. O'Donnell of Milford), II., 5527-32, 5538; (M. Finucane), III., 15368; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082; (G. Hewson), VI., 31462; (P. M'Namara), VI., 30879; (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38167; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40092-3; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43160; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 44979; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47296.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS—STATUTORY DEFINITION, ETCC—*continued.*

- Existing Statutory Definition—*continued.*
  - Unsatisfactory definition, etc.—*continued.*
    - Cause of unrest and agitation (Canon Macken), X., 56150.
    - Inequalities inevitable (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 690; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22100-1.
    - No area scheduled which ought not to be scheduled (H. O'Donnell of Milford), II., 5539.
    - *Refer also* to sub-heading Enriching Areas.
- Extension in areas scheduled proposed (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34390-1; W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42261; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42396-401; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58168, 58179-80.
  - Fifty families or more with rent not exceeding £5 or holdings not exceeding ten acres should be provisionally declared congested (G. Hewson), VI., 31488-9.
  - Great extension in Board's sphere of operations not desirable, Paternal treatment desirable only for poorest districts (A. Crichton), V., 27295, 27297, 27299-302.
- Impossible to frame a satisfactory definition on actual figures or available statistics (H. Plunkett), III., 18283.
- Lord Lieutenant's power to include or exclude any electoral division—Power granted for one year by Act of 1891, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 27-34; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 752-4.
  - Discretionary power proposed for Lord Lieutenant under responsible advice to schedule areas which he thought should be dealt with by Congested Districts Board (D. Pearson), II., 10873-4; (J. Marron), II., 10056; (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34394-6.
  - Intention of Section, question as to (W. F. Bailey), III., 16630-4, 16659; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22162-3.
  - Legal Opinion considered the power very small (W. L. Micks), I., 27.
  - No question ever raised of scheduling any place in an additional County (W. L. Micks), I., 35.
  - Repeal of words "Within one year from passing of this Act" would extend definition so as to take in groups of uneconomic holdings wherever they occurred (W. F. Bailey), III., 16628-9, 16635-40.
  - Revival of power, question of—
    - Advisable to leave it to discretion of Congested Districts Board (W. L. Micks), I., 36-43.
    - Definition difficulty would be got over if Lord Lieutenant had power to schedule indefinitely (H. Doran), I., 3247.
    - No objection (A. J. Balfour), V., 22163-71; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42418.
    - Opinion in favour of revival of power to include and of making it a permanent power (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 708-9, 755.
      - No objection to power of exclusion, but it would create ill-feeling (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 756.
    - Working of provision, additional districts scheduled (W. L. Micks), I., 35; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1579; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16657, 16659.
- Meaning of "Congestion" (W. L. Micks), I., 4; (C. Craig), II., 6762; (Canon M'Fadden), II., 7916-8; (Col. Irvine), II., 8370; M. Finucane), III., 15363; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16628; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23751-3, 23766-7, 23813-5, 23825.
- Memoranda, III., App. VIIA., p. 309; App. XII., p. 374.
- Percentage of inhabitants in a district unable to earn a decent livelihood—Question as to what percentage should constitute Congestion (H. Plunkett), III., 18287-8.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICT—STATUTORY DEFINITION, ETC.—*continued.*

- Population would be a better test than existing definition (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39718-26.
- Reduction of unit proposed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1710-4; (A. Crichton), V., 27261.
  - Concentration of area desirable (W. H. Boyd), V., 23094.
  - Unnecessary complexity (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 707-9, 713.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Small areas.
- Rural District as Unit proposed (J. Barton), V., 22738-40, 22743-50.
  - Districts covered by proposal (J. Barton), V., 22745, 22747-8.
  - Standard taken—Average valuation of £3 or under per head (J. Barton), V., 22747, 22749-50.
- Rural Districts within congested counties the greater portion of which were not congested, number of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1139-40.
- Scotland, Definition in—Elasticity, etc. (J. O'Connor), III., 13295; (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21599, 21600-1, 21611-8, 21622-3, 21637-53.
- Small Areas, Work should be done in (Lord Castletown), V., 26383; (W. H. Boyd), V., 28757.
  - Areas smaller than townland would hardly admit of treatment by enlargement or migration without going outside them, but other remedies could be applied (W. H. Boyd), V., 23782-9, 23792-4.
  - Difficulty in workng small areas (J. Barton), V., 22757.
  - Discretionary powers for some expert, *e.g.*, Local Government Board Inspector, proposed, so as to take in quite small districts (W. H. Boyd), V., 23140-1, 23211-3, 23746-8, 23791, 23825, 23854-8.
    - No large increase in number of scheduled districts, not much difference at all except along boundary lines of scheduled areas (W. H. Boyd), V., 23764-5, 23790.
    - Omission of one year limit of time in section 36 (2) of Act would not suffice (W. H. Boyd), V., 23738.
  - Few poor families would hardly constitute congestion (W. H. Boyd), V., 23741, 23750.
  - Natural boundary was what witness had in his mind, geographical rather than personal definition (W. H. Boyd), V., 23739-44.
  - Parish Committees, work could be done through (W. H. Boyd), V., 23754, 23759-62; (Dr. O'Donnell, A. MacDonnell, Chairman, J. Colomb), V., 23763.
  - Reproductive Works would not be hindered (W. H. Boyd), V., 23142-4.
- Soil as a test (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6028.
- Standard of valuation for unit of congestion (T. Mulhern), II., 6616-9.
- Townland as Unit of Congestion, proposed (G. L. Young), I., 5677, 5679-81, 5692; (T. Mulhern), II., 6614-5, 6624; (M. O'Donnell), II., 8732; (J. Marron), II., 10052; (P. Dunlevy), II., 10085-7; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23217; (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38167-70, 38175, 38186; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41102, 41121, 41165; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42405-6, 42419; (Colonel Saunders Knox-Gore), IX., 47566.
  - Absolute discretion for the Board preferable, if that were impossible the townland should be the unit (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41114-9.
  - Area of townland as a rule—proportion in hands of one individual (J. Marron), II., 10055.
  - Areas could be easily got (G. L. Young), II., 5686.
  - Division of townland if half of it were good—Case would scarcely ever occur (T. Mulhern), II., 6621-3.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICT—STATUTORY DEFINITION—*continued.*

- Townland as Unit of Congestion proposed—*con.*
  - Electoral division preferable if standard of valuation were raised (T. Mulhern), II., 6625-6.
  - Smaller unit—Witness personally in favour of (W. F. Bailey), III., 16647.
  - Smallest unit possible unless holdings were taken separately (G. L. Young), II., 5695.
  - Standard of Congestion for townland (G. L. Young), II., 5682-4, 5687-94; (J. Gallagher), II., 5904.
  - Too small (H. Brennan), VI., 27533.
- Townland, portion of as unit proposed (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6028-31.
  - Amending clause drafted by witness (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6056 *note.*
- Valuation in relation to population as test of Congestion—
  - Act of 1891, Amendment of Section 36, proposed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 722-3.
  - Better guide than acreage (W. O'Connor), VII., 40771-5.
  - Factor in definition, but not a guiding factor (H. Plunkett), III., 18285.
  - Fifty per cent. of holdings at a valuation of less than 30*s.* per head—district should be declared congested (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40095, 40102-6, 40262-4, 40267-70.
  - Houses included in valuation raised the figures, and were not additional means of living (Rev. J. R. Maguire), VII., 39147-8.
  - Inspection and confidential report to Board preferable (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41120.
  - Migratory Labourers with a low valuation sometimes better off than those of higher valuation who occupied themselves entirely with their holdings (H. M'Clafferty), II., 8485.
  - Only possible basis (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10477-84; (M. Finucane), III., 15408, 15414-5; (J. Barton), V., 22738.
  - Opinion in favour of in districts like Glenagannon (J. Doherty), II., 6356-7.
  - Readiest as well as roughest test (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48033.
  - Seven pounds a fair unit (J. Doherty), II., 6367.
  - Scheduled Electoral Division at present existing where valuation per head was £1 14*s.* and £1 17*s.* (Monsignor M'Glynn), III., 10386-9.
  - Sole test of congestion, proposed (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38167.
  - Thirty shillings per head test might be a fair standard if Townland were the unit (H. M'Clafferty), II., 8485-85A.
  - Uncertainty of basis, Increase in Valuation per head in certain Electoral Divisions in scheduled area owing to decrease in Population (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1579-81.
    - Leitrim County no longer within definition—Population reduced by emigration (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1502; (Rev. J. M'Conalogue), VII., 38167.
  - Unsafe guide—Valuation not a proper test (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6036-7; (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7824-5; (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42407, 42417; (Canon Hayes), VIII., 42561, 42582; (Canon Stephens), IX., 50382; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51644; (T. Feeny), X., 57612.
    - Official valuation did not represent present value—Re-valuation needed (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1591-6; (M. Finucane), III., 15368; (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21654.

DELAHUNTY, Mr. T.—*Farmer at Kilbarron.*

- Evidence, VII., 40848-69.

DELANEY, Mr. W.—*M.P. for Ossory Division of Queen's County.*

- Evidence, VII., 39489-504, supplement to VII., 39520.

DELAP, Mr. W. J.—*Appearing on behalf of landowners.*

- Evidence, VIII., 44127-278, App. V., p. 216.

DELAYS IN PURCHASE AND RE-SALE.

- *Refer* to titles Improvements, Purchase and Vesting Estates, *also* Declaring property an estate—Hardship to landlord.

DEMAND FOR LAND.

- Book in Mr. Fitzgibbon's possession with names of men who had saved from £100 to £1,000 and who were anxious to return home (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26380.
- Cattle-driving probably due to land hunger (J. Irwin), X., 54744-7.
- Class from which demand came (Professor Campbell), IV., 19700-14.
- Desire of Irish peasant to escape from the land—Professor Campbell's Statement.
  - Statement of a Scotchman who knew nothing at all about Irishmen (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25789.
  - *See also* title Dislike of Agricultural Pursuits.
- Great demand (H. Doran), I., 1949-50; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25625; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46997; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50174-82; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56023; (Canon Macken), X., 56147; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57119, 57194-6; (M. Finnerty), X., 58104.
  - Graziers in Galway, failure due to land hunger and competitive rents (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57053, 57062-75, 57099-100, 57115-9.
- Great demand for land came from men who wanted to be graziers, or from migratory labourers (Professor Campbell), IV., 19700-9.
  - Experience on which statement was based (Professor Campbell), IV., 19710-4.
- Not half what it was thirty years ago—Prices high still but doubtful if demand was more than it was twenty years ago (T. Molloy), II., 11000-4.
- Prices paid for tenant-right, *see* title Price—Tenant-right.
- Reason of demand for small unimproved holdings (Rev. H. Kerin), VIII., 43856-65, 43874.
- Returned emigrants or pensioners, demand chiefly due to requirements of (A. Anderson), VII., 39003, 39019-21.
- Security for advances, uneconomic holdings as, *see* Advances—Security.

DEMESNES.

- Curtailment of (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805; (H. Brennan), VI., 27636-7.
- Purchase and Re-sale to Owners—
  - Bonus to Landlord in the power to buy back Demesne Lands (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25432, 25469, 25504-8.
  - No objection to re-sale, but they should be more strictly defined (J. P. Hayden), X., 58168.
  - Powers of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners under Act of 1903 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16542-4, 16546-8.
- Untenanted land, demesnes classed as (Sir J. Barton), V., 22770-4.

DEMONSTRATION AND EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS AND MODEL FARMS.

- Congested Districts Board's Example Plots (T. Porter), III., 13792.
- Cost of model farms—more expensive than plots (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40461-6; (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43980.
- Department, Work of, Vol. IV., App. IVA., p. 194.
  - Acquisition of plots, Method of (Professor Campbell), IV., 20003-4.
  - Change in methods needed (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40450, 40454-60, 40485, 40494-6, 40518-9.
  - Compulsory powers for acquisition of plots proposed (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43980.

DEMONSTRATION AND EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS AND MODEL FARMS—*continued.*

- Department, Work of—*continued.*
  - Development of Scheme—Diagram exhibited (Professor Campbell), IV., 20001.
  - Difference between Demonstration and Experimental Plots (Professor Campbell), IV., 20002; (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42889-91.
  - Not altogether a success in Armagh (W. R. Bell), VII., 35347-8.
  - Number and arrangement of plots in Cork, etc. (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46625.
  - Plots too scattered to have much effect (A. Larminie), IX., 50010.
  - Quality of land taken (W. Gilmartin), VI., 30197-9, 30204-12; (P. J. Hogan), VII., 40736.
- Quality of land—Unimportant, provided it was uniform (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42883.
- Size of plots (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43985.
- Value of system—Experimental teaching more effective than lectures, proposals for establishment of model farms, etc. (T. Swan), I., 5941; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9759; (R. Baillie), II., 10544; (J. O'Donnell, of Kilraine), II., 12036; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14920; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30084-7, 30099-100, 30110-3, 30115; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33840-6; (P. Clarke), VII., 38128-30; (M. Considine), VII., 39624-31; (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39677-86; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40215-21; (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40450, 40454-60, 40485, 40494-6, 40518-9; (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42880; (D. Moriarty), VIII., 43460-2, 43465-70; (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43979-80; (Colonel Saunders Knox-Gore), IX., 47567; (Canon Macken), X., 56154.

DENMARK.

- Alcohol, consumption of, comparison with United Kingdom (Rev. T. L. F. Stack), VII., 37826-7.
- Agricultural prosperity (Rev. T. L. F. Stack), VII., 37778-84.

DENNY ESTATE.

- Rents compared with annuities (J. O'Donnell), VIII., 42790-3.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

- Committee of inquiry into working of Department—Chairman of Donegal County Council had received no notification (J. Dunleavy), II., 10818-9.
- Congested Districts Board, Relations with (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26261, 26264.
  - Difficulty arising from the fact that unit of congestion (electoral division) was not known to Act creating Department; where part of a county was congested rate might be raised, but could not be expended (H. Plunkett), III., 18202, 18204-6.
    - Act of 1902 enabling County Committee to include all non-congested and exclude all congested electoral divisions from the rate—Failure, some County Committee refusing to put Act in operation (H. Plunett), III., 18203.
      - Arrangement concluded—Rural Districts classified wholly congested, mainly congested, mainly non-congested, and wholly non-congested, Rate to be raised only over non-congested and mainly non-congested districts, Board agreeing to contribute *pro rata* in respect of congested portion of area included in district over which rate was raised (H. Plunkett), III., 18202.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION—*continued.*
- Congested Districts Board, Relations with—*con.*
  - Difficulty arising from the fact, etc.—*con.*
    - Arrangement concluded, etc.—*continued.*
      - Complication and over-lapping unavoidable in spite of harmonious working of Board and Department (H. Plunkett), III., 18203.
      - "District" meant rural district—Rural district the smallest area for which a rate could be raised (H. Plunkett), III., 18204.
    - Working arrangement come to after passage of Act of 1903, *see* Agricultural—Transfer.
  - Exclusion of Department's functions from Congested Districts, reasons of—
    - Parliamentary situation—Mr. G. Balfour would have wished to hand over all functions other than land functions of Congested Districts Board, but any proposal to abolish the Board would have prevented the passing of the Act (H. Plunkett), III., 18193-4.
  - Funds at disposal of Board much more per head of population dealt with than Department's (H. Plunkett), III., 18194-202, 18274-8.
  - Sphere of Department's Administration applied to whole of Ireland, including Congested districts (H. Plunkett), III., 18193.
  - *Refer also* to titles Agricultural Development, Industries, Technical Education, etc.
- Constitution—Powers, Resources, etc.—
  - Congested Districts, powers in—Act of 1899 empowered Department to do certain work in Congested Districts, but not to expend moneys therein (H. Plunkett), III., 17788-91, 17795.
    - Repealing section of Act of 1903, result of—Return to *status quo ante* Act of 1899, except that there was no Department before 1899 (H. Plunkett), III., 17791-4, 17796-800.
  - Executive authority consisted in President and Vice-President (H. Plunkett), III., 17822.
  - Government Department, Officers disliked as Castle Officials (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4421-2.
  - Internal Organisation, Staff, etc. (H. Plunkett), III., 17822.
  - Local representation—Kerry Co., important that it should be represented by a Kerry man (J. Doran), VIII., 42680.
  - Opinion in favour of principle of Department, though witness was somewhat dissatisfied with sentiment of members (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26263.
  - Piers, etc.—No power under Local Government Act to co-operate with County Councils (J. Hurley), VIII., 46562-7.
  - Popular or elective element, Question as to (H. Plunkett), III., 18450-1.
    - Clergy, influence of (H. Plunkett), III., 17882.
    - County Committees, bringing into more ready touch with Department—Friction was getting less every year (H. Plunkett), III., 17881, 17887.
    - Dispute between representative official elements, Case of—Representative element would have to prevail (H. Plunkett), III., 17909, 18024-4A, *and note.*
    - Experiment an entire success—Act one of the finest pieces of constructive Statesmanship ever seen in Ireland (H. Plunkett), III., 17907-8.
    - Impossible for Department to consist of the Boards with Vice-President as Chairman, responsibility for administration of voted moneys must be to Parliament until there was complete devolution of Irish finance (H. Plunkett), III., 17878.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION—*continued.*
- Constitution, Powers, Resources, etc.—*continued.*
  - Popular or elective element, Question as to—*continued.*
    - New Departure involved—First devolution of functions of the Central Government (H. Plunkett), III., 17857.
    - Responsibility of Vice-President to popular element (H. Plunkett), III., 17820.
    - Working of Department dependent on relations between Vice-President and Boards—Deadlock might easily be caused, but the method of working was always more important than institutions (H. Plunkett), III., 17909-12.
      - Determination of offending party rested with Government of the day—Inherent difficulty under Parliamentary institutions (H. Plunkett), III., 17913.
  - Principles distinguishing policy and constitution of Department—Memorandum III., App. XII., pp. 376-9—Adaptation to special conditions of congested area, p. 383.
  - Secretary, Position of—Intention of Parliament (H. Plunkett), III., 17822-3.
  - Technically, Department consisted only of President and Vice-President, who were nominated by Government (H. Plunkett), III., 17876-7.
  - Understanding of Constitution, etc., necessary to satisfactory discussion of administrative question involved in relations between Congested Districts Board and Department (H. Plunkett), III., 17851.
  - Vice-President, *see* that sub-heading.
- Creation involved consolidation of numerous branches, or parts of branches, of the Irish Government (H. Plunkett), III., 17794.
- Date when working of Department began—Date of appointment of Vice-President (H. Plunkett), III., 17801.
- Engineering Staff, transfer from Congested Districts Board as matter of Departmental convenience (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1157-66.
- Expert Committees attached to Department (H. Plunkett), III., 17979.
  - Appointment—Committees not statutory, except the Consultative Committee on Education (H. Plunkett), III., 17980-3.
  - Subjects on which Committees were appointed (H. Plunkett), III., 17980-1, 17983-4.
- Finance—Income, Expenditure, etc.
  - Accumulations—
    - Expenditure low during first years—Causes, etc. (H. Plunkett), IV., 17922.
    - Interest received on unspent balance included an item of £10,000 interest on Capital and Savings (H. Plunkett), III., 17930-1.
    - Policy of holding up surplus (H. Plunkett), III., 18209.
      - Recognition of policy by Chief Secretary and Congested Districts Board—Mr. Wyndham's Minute of 13th October, 1903 (H. Plunkett), III., 18209.
    - Present state of—In process of being eaten up—At present rate of expenditure normal income would soon become inadequate (H. Plunkett), III., 17926-7, 17932-5, 18210.
    - Votes, Savings from went back at end of year if unexpended (H. Plunkett), IV., 17925, 17928-9.
  - Distinction between Endowment and Voted Moneys (H. Plunkett), III., 17788, 17794.

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- Finance—Income, Expenditure, etc.—*continued.*
  - Endowment Fund—
    - Amount (H. Plunkett), III., 17920.
    - Funds constituting Endowment (H. Plunkett), III., 17922.
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    - Particulars of Amounts of Endowments in 1903 and 1906, population and rate of endowment per head of population—Table III., App. XII., p. 370.
  - Sources of income—Total income (H. Plunkett), III., 17922-4.
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  - Tendency to exclude Congested Districts from what they were in equity entitled to participate in, alleged (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1768.
  - *Refer also* to title, Agricultural Department.
- Main line of Department's work (H. Plunkett), IV., 17936.
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  - Pamphlet embodying views of witness and friend representing *Boston Herald* (MacGillicuddy of the Reeks), VIII., 43535, App. IV., pp. 210-5.
- Policy of Department—
  - Delegation of as much local work as possible to local Committees (H. Plunkett), III., 17935-6.
  - Education to be the chief agency for work of Department (H. Plunkett), III., 17922.
    - Work should not be purely educational—Advice and aid should be given for starting of industries in West Galway (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading, Constitution—Principles.
- Vice-President—
  - Constitutional position—Vice-President intended to be a member of Parliament, appointing clause drafted on model of clause appointing Parliamentary Secretary to Board of Trade (H. Plunkett), III., 17817.
    - Personal opinion of witness (H. Plunkett) III., 17820-1.
  - Declaration of political opinions not proper for Vice-President in his official capacity (H. Plunkett), III., 18355-62.
  - Duties—Purely administrative, though they got mixed up with matters that might be political and controversial (H. Plunkett), III., 17818.
  - Meetings of Council of Agriculture, Extent of control over (H. Plunkett), III., 17847-50.
  - Permanent Officer, Question of—Vice-President would not necessarily be permanent if he were not in Parliament (H. Plunkett), III., 17825.
- Work of Department, *refer to* names of subjects, Agricultural Development, Cattle-breeding, Technical Instruction, etc.

DEPOPULATION :
- *Refer to* Emigration.

DERELICT LAND :
- Boycotting and agitation causing land to be left derelict (W. H. Boyd), V., 24598-604, 24817-8, 24831-4.
- Kildress District (Rev. T. M'Cann), VII., 37532-48, 37587.
  - No derelict farms in townlands that had been sold (Rev. T. M'Cann), VII., 37582-5.
- Tenants emigrated, but retained holdings as long as rent could be made by letting them for grazing (A. Donnelly), VII., 37832-7.

DERMODY, Mr. JOHN—*Farmer at Belturbet* :
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- Failure of Potato Crop in 1906—Pinch of hunger would be felt amongst the smallest landholders (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4216, 4224.
- Relief of Distress——Expenditure, etc.
  - Amount of money spent since 1879 would almost settle the West if an equivalent sum could be provided now (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3618, 4231.
    - Amount spent in Swinford district (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3619-23; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51161-3.
  - Curse of relief works might be done away with given transit facilities and fishing development (P. M'Donagh), X., 54288.
  - Demoralising effect of relief works (P. Sweeney), IX., 49076.
  - Enquiry proposed as to total amount expended on Relief Works since 1879 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4216, 4217-8, 4222-3, 4227-31.
  - Exclusion from Relief of Tenants on an Estate already dealt with by the Board, proposed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4226.
  - Less demand for Relief in districts where Board had spent money—What had been done was well done, but more was needed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4219-20, 4225.
  - Permanent Improvements, Expenditure on preferable to relief expenditure recurring every fourth or fifth year (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4216-7; (Rev. O. Brady), VII., 39204-5.
    - Railways were permanent (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3624, 3626.
  - Poor Law Relief could not be obtained if the holding was above a certain size (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3652.
  - Relief Works mostly unproductive—Usually a waste of money and more expensive than they ought to have been (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4217, 4236, 4240-1; (H. Plunkett), IV., 21531; (F. M'Carthy), VIII., 46351; (Rev. J. M'Donald), IX., 51409-16.
    - Kind of works preferred as most useful and doing least harm (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4232, 4235-9.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS:

- Every Electoral Division in Donegal, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and the West Riding of Cork was scheduled as a Congested area if conditions brought it within statutory definition (W. L. Micks), I., 5.
- Nine Western Counties, Districts in, only one electoral division being in County Clare (H. Doran), I., 2021.
- Situation in forty-eight Poor Law Unions and in eight counties, excluding County Clare (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1578.
- True Region of—Congestion most pronounced and obtrusive on Western seaboard from Cork to Donegal (W. F. Bailey), III., 16628.

DISTRIBUTION OF LAND.
- Act of 1903, Provisions of (W. F. Bailey), III., 16548.
- Authority—Irishmen should do the work (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26178, 26259-60.
- Difficulties in regard to—Document put in by Mr. Bailey, III., App. VIIIB., p. 334.
- Favouritism shown by officials of Congested Districts Board, question of (P. Webb), X., 58481-99.
- Migration and provision of new tenancies to check emigration must go on together (A. Crichton), V., 27369.
- Postponement of Redistribution question—
  - Advantages of retention of lands for a time by Congested Districts Board (W. H. Boyd), V., 25374; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25740-8, 26074-6.
  - Amount of untenanted land not resold—
    - Amount of land in hands of Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1296-8, 1398-401; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4179-80, 4202.
    - Limits imposed on Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1278-82, 1398.
  - Danger of delay in acquisition of land since direct sales would continue, question of (G. Wyndham), V., 22893, 22895-900, 22902; (Lord Castletown), V., 26646-51; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29625-38.
    - Immediate acquisition of land not inconsistent with delaying redistribution (H. Plunkett), II., 21478-9, 21550.
    - No danger, land could be acquired after sale (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41836.
  - Disposal of land during interregnum (H. Doran), I., 3122, 3125.
    - No difficulty in utilising land (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550.
    - State holding land—question of increasing opposition to migration (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26675-86, 26801-2; (Lord Castletown), V., 26691-2, 26696-9, 26701.
  - Public Opinion, question of (H. Plunkett), IV., 21479-80; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26035-8, 26072-4.
    - If matter was to be a local and not a national question it was a waste of time to argue the economics of the question from a national point of view (H. Plunkett), IV., 21481.
  - Unnecessary if there were migrants ready and friendly feeling among their future neighbours (Lord Castletown), V., 26704-5.
- Priority of claims—Relative strength of claims of local congests, congests from a distance and sons of tenants, etc. (H. Doran), I., 2075, 2223, 3169-71, 3179; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16719, 17027-8, 17035-8; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25607-20; (Lord Castletown), V., 26662-4; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26763-71; (H. Brennan), VI., 27652-65; (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28106-7; (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29485-9; (P. Rooney), VI., 32206-12; (R. Wallace), VI., 34058-61; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40183-90A; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46811-2, 46820-45; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46863-908, 46913-28; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47204-9; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47297-303, 47305; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56469-78, 56486-90. 56495-7, 56607, 56610-6, 56619-22; (J. F. Ward), X., 57584-91, 57593-7; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58296, 58299-300; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58351; (P. Webb), X., 58560-1; (J. Neary), X., 58600, 58634-46.
  - Capacity to use land to best advantage, amount of land given to depend on—
    - Advantages of system, etc. (H. Plunkett), IV., 21477, 21483, 21492-6, 21524, 21550; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26761, 26777-81; (Canon Grealey), IX., 48749-62, 48764-74, 48781; (J. M'Govern), IX., 49140.

DISTRIBUTION OF LAND—*continued.*

Priority of Claims, etc.—*continued.*

Capacity to use land, etc.—*continued.*
- Authority to decide on capacity (H. Plunkett), IV., 21491.
- Intermediate stage would very likely be necessary in case of migrants from backward districts (H. Plunkett), IV., 21946.

- Claims of Migrants from congested districts and of sons of tenants might both be satisfied (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25599-601.
- Congested Districts Board, limitation of power of, no power to relieve congests adjacent to estates purchased in non-scheduled areas unless there was a surplus after relief of congests from scheduled areas—Board should have power to deal with adjacent congests, procedure should be reversed (H. Doran), I., 2076-87, 2090-3, 2105, 2784-5, 2791-3, 2800-3, 2805, 2807, 2809, 2814, 3150-5, 3200-1, 3238A, 3241, 3243-4, 3246; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9784-91; (J. O'Connor), III., 13420-2; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25717-21, 25766; (A. Crichton), V., 27261; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29311-2; (Col. Saunders Knox-Gore), IX., 47566, 47569-71; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59123-4, 59127-33.
  - Act of 1903, Provisions of (C. O'Kelly), I., 2798; (J. O'Connor), III., 13161-78; (G. Wyndham), V., 22808.
  - Adjacent should mean not exceeding a mile (H. Doran), I., 2810-1.
  - As a matter of fact there never was any surplus (H. Doran), I., 2806, 3239-40.
  - Board's practice was to place a certain number of congests on the untenanted land and consider the remnant available for those on the margin (J. O'Connor), III., 13179-85.
  - Comparison of powers and procedure of Board and Estates Commissioners (H. Doran), I., 2090; (J. O'Connor), III., 13161-78, 13186-7; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16549-50; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51799-808; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56548-54.
  - Estates bought must be mainly untenanted (H. Doran), I., 2083, 2786, 3201.
  - Evils resulting—Local opposition to purchase by Board, etc. (H. Doran), I., 2087-8, 2103-4, 2223-4, 2807, 2784-5, 3158, 3176.
  - Herds, applications of—only cases in which an exception had been made (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25727-8.
  - Oakfield farm, explanation of Board's action in regard to (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57176-8.
  - Procedure after purchase—Lord Lieutenant asked to schedule estate bought by Board (H. Doran), I., 2796-7, 2799, 3195, 3201, 3238.
  - Scheduling, increase in, as a means of meeting the difficulty (H. Doran), I., 2815-6; (J. Barton), V., 22743-4; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58179-80.
  - Small holdings on estate itself could be enlarged (H. Doran), I., 2084, 2786-9, 2794, 2804, 2808, 3195-7, 3201, 3238, 3241.
  - Special legislation on this point would not be needed if general powers for relief of congestion were given (H. Doran), I., 2812-3.
- Congests had first claim (Canon Loftus), VI., 30069; (Canon O'Riordan), VIII., 43575-7; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46863-9; (J. Walsh), IX., 47662; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49451-5; (R. Crawford), IX., 50819; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51276-8; (J. R. D'Arcy), X., 56101-3; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57162, 57166-70; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58351.

Distribution of Land—*continued.*

- Priority of Claims, etc.—*continued.*
  - Evicted tenants and their descendants, Claims of (Canon Stephens), IX., 50365-6; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56495-6, 56607, 56609; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57160.
  - Heads of families, preference should be given to (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25599-603, 25607-20, 25649, 25720-1, 25735-6, 25805, 26082-4, 26110; (P. Marley), VI., 29127-30; (P. Rooney), VI., 32213; (W. H. Stuart), X., 56413-4.
  - Holders of land or their sons—Either the one or the other, or the whole family (Canon M'Fadden), II., 7924-7.
  - Labourers' claims (D. O'Loughlin), VII., 39810-20, 39831-3; (M. Egan), X., 58962-3, 58971, 58973-5.
  - Local congestion should be dealt with first (W. L. Micks), I., 333-9; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9783; (P. Dunlevy), II., 10105-11; (F. S. Wrench), III., 15253-6; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25752-5, 25771-6, 26079-81; (Lord Castletown), V., 26707-9; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29942, 29947-53; (Canon Loftus), VI., 30068; (L. Armstrong), VI., 30753; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40182; (Rev. J. J. Maguire), VII., 41038, 41042; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44761-6; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47299-303, 47305; (Mgr. O'Hara), IX., 47575; (T. Gallagher), IX., 50027; (Rev. J. Fallon), X., 50489; (T. Connell), IX., 50522-4; (D. Jordan), IX., 50561; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51319-22, 51345-6; (P. O'Malley), X., 52195, 52201-4; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55719, 55740-2, 55745; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 56011-6, 56018; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56472-3, 56486, 56489, 56497, 56547, 56602, 56610, 56613; (P. J. Kelly), X., 56651-2; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57161-5; (M. Finnerty), X., 58011, 58035-7; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58346; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58295, 58297; (C. Cotton), X., 58422; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59123-6, 59131-3, 59135, 59138, 59140-1, 59221.
  - Meaning of local (F. S. Wrench), III., 15257.
  - No mathematical order of claims could be made (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46904-8, 46919, 46921-3.
    - Authority dealing with congestion should have a free hand (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33900-19.
  - Professional men, School teachers, etc.—Claims inferior to those of farmers (P. Nicholson), VI., 30307-13; (J. Drury), X., 59384-91.
  - Sons of tenants and other landless persons, Provision of holdings for (D. O'Loughlin), VII., 39811-2, 39820.
    - Act of 1903, Provision first made in—
      - Alteration in law proposed—No purchasing authority should have power to give land to sons of tenants (H. Doran), XI., 59914-31.
      - Duties of Estates Commissioners as laid down by the Act (H. Doran), XI., 59922-3.
      - Effect of clause probably not understood when drafted (H. Doran), I., 2223, 3021, 3103.
      - Not desirable to change words of Act, Section applied to land not in congested districts (W. F. Bailey), III., 17039-44
      - Origin of local opposition to migration (H Doran), I., 2223, 3021, 3103, XI., 59908-13.
    - Case for sons of tenants (T. W. Russell), IX., 51722.
    - Claim of sons would come in when surrender of father's holding had supplied needs of various small holders (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25722-6, 26352; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50276-7.

Distribution of Land—*continued.*

- Priority of Claims, etc.—*continued.*
  - Sons of Tenants and other landless persons, Provision of Holdings for—*cont.*
    - Demand for holdings to be given to sons of tenants was considerable (W. H. Stuart), X., 56411.
    - Difference in procedure of Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board (H. Doran), I., 3160; (W. H. Stuart), X., 56408-10, 56416-8; (H. Doran), XI., 59911-2, 59916-26.
      - If present arrangement were continued, it would be useless to continue the Board (H. Doran), XI., 60071-83.
    - Difficulty of resisting claims if State bought up untenanted land (Lord Castletown), V., 26652-8.
    - Exceptional cases, where son of a tenant should be provided with a holding (W. H. Stuart), X., 56412, 56415.
    - Fines should not be charged (H L. Blosse), IX., 51348-51.
    - Large farmer, son of—
      - No claim. Limitation of term "Sons of Tenants" to smaller class of farmer (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26100-2.
      - Possible feeling that sons should be preferred to outsiders (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28089-92.
    - No general rule possible, each case should be decided on its merits by the body relieving congestion (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56470-1, 56474-8, 56487, 56490, 56607, 56615-22.
    - Opinion against provision (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283.
      - Recognition of claim would result in congestion of whole district in two or three generations (Lord Castletown), V., 26658-64; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41370-6, 41383-4.
    - Opinion in favour of provision as means of checking emigration, etc. (A. Crichton), V., 27316, 27327; (P. Rooney), VI., 32142, 32205; (R. Wallace), VI., 34062-73; (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42261; J. M'Nulty), IX., 46827; (J. Corcoran, IX., 47203-5; (J. Walsh), IX., 47656-62, 47687; (Canon Stephens), IX., 50387-8; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55747; (P. J. Kelly), X., 56649 (M. Finnerty), X., 57974; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58296-300, 58305; (J. Doyle), X., 59101-2, 59105.
    - Savings would need to be supplemented all over Ireland (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25592.
    - Selection, method of (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51351-5.
    - Surplus land, after requirements of small holders were satisfied, could be disposed of to sons of tenants and landless persons (H. Doran), I., 3237; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47305; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51293-7, 51304-10, 51319-22, 51345-57 (P. J. Kelly), X., 56652-3.
    - Two holdings held by father—Son should have first claim (L. Armstrong), VI., 30793-7.
    - Untenanted land purchased by Estates Commissioners within congested districts counties, tenancies created on (F. S. Wrench), III., 15036-7A.
    - Young men ought to be satisfied to go further inland (H. Doran), I., 2964, 3103-4, 3177, 3181.
    - *Refer also* to Migration—Local opposition.
  - Surplus land, disposal of, after suitable migrants belonging to the county had been considered (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26039-74, 26076, 26341-55.

DISTRIBUTION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Priority of Claims, etc.—*continued.*
  - Surplus land, disposal of, etc.—*continued.*
    - County restrictions, over insistence on should be avoided (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51297, 51306, 51320, 51345-6; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56610-14A.
    - Difference in method of distribution by Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners (H. Doran), I., 3160.
    - Objection to migrants from other counties would be removed when claims of their own people were provided for (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26053; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56557, 56617-8.
  - Ten-acre man was more in need of land than middle-class farmer (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40580.
  - Tillage farmers, preference should be given to (P. M'Nulty), VI., 28960-4.
  - Untenanted land purchased by Estates Commissioners, claim of Congested Districts Board, assuming that there was no untenanted land sufficient for their purpose in area to which their operations were confined (F. S. Wrench), III., 15163-9.
- Rate at which redistribution had proceeded—
  - Act of 1891 practically inoperative as regards creation of new holdings (W. L. Micks), I., 515-9.
  - Board had been able to dispose of all untenanted land they could get up to Act of 1903 (H. Doran), I., 2188, 2209.
  - Dilatoriness of Congested Districts Board alleged, comparison of methods of Board and Estates Commissioners (Canon Grealey), IX., 48743-8; (H. Doran), IX., 48897-8, 48922; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56424, 56461, 56492-7; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57170, 57174-8.
  - New Holdings, number created by Congested Districts Board (W. L. Micks), I., 515; (H. Doran), I., 1896.
- Rate at which redistribution should proceed—
  - Agrarian view hitherto unduly prominent—Human side of problem should be recognised as more important than material side (H. Plunkett), IV., 21461, 21463-5, 21550.
    - Immobility of Irish peasantry due to agrarian view (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550.
    - Technical Education referred to, but that could not be effective where general education was defective (H. Plunkett), IV., 21466.
  - Danger of delay, *refer* to sub-heading, Postponement.
  - Difficulties inherent in situation not an excuse for deferring redistribution, but they must be allowed for (H. Plunkett), IV., 21468, 21524.
  - Discretionary powers for public bodies preferable at present stage to prescribing a system by law (H. Plunkett), IV., 21583.
  - Education and general agricultural development as preliminary to redistribution.
    - Authority charged with redistribution should act in closest concert with body attending to agricultural development (H. Plunkett), IV., 21491, 21550.
    - Need for (H. Plunkett), IV., 21485-8, 21490, 21550.
    - Not necessary—If people once possessed the land they would soon learn how to use it (M. Cassidy), X., 59367, 59373.
  - Elasticity necessitating a simple and cheap form of land transfer an essential condition of success (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550, 21561.
  - Estates Commissioners, question how far Commissioners could resist pressure to divide land among sons of tenants (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41379-84.

DISTRIBUTION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Priority of Claims, etc.—*continued.*
- Rate at which redistribution should proceed—*con.*
  - Large scale of work advocated (H. Doran), I., 3348, 3350; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17762-6; (Canon Lyons), 49450.
    - Time required to carry out a large scheme (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44757.
  - Mobility of people essential to success (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550, 21561.
  - New factors which had come into problem since foundation of Congested Districts Board (H. Plunkett), IV., 21490.
  - Principles essential to success—Some guiding principles must be agreed on (H. Plunkett), IV., 21488, 21524.
  - Slow and cautious procedure required, danger of undue acceleration (H. Plunkett), IV., 21471, 21473-7; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29613, 29689; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41264-6; (R. Crawford), IX., 50750-7; (D. Kirwin), X., 55390; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55794-8; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57347, 57352; (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58375, 58377.
  - Small Holdings Committee recommendations (H. Plunkett), IV., 21524.
  - Speedy redistribution desirable (Canon Lyons), X., 49424-32, 49443, 49450, 49478-82; (Canon Mackem), X., 56172.
- Retention of grazing land—Permanent retention by purchasing authority, grazing being let to adjoining tenants at low rates (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41386, 41649-72; (M. O'Connell), VIII., 42149, 42161-5, 42172-4, 42181; (J. Irwin), X., 58728, 58735-6.
  - Congested Districts Board already doing work temporarily, and neither Board nor Estates Commissioners were likely to be discontinued for a long time yet (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41673-6.
  - Profit, possibilities of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1299-1301; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41652-5, 41677-9.
    - Inference was not that grazing rents were too high, but that land had been bought too cheap (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41680-705.
  - Temporary arrangement for Congested Districts Board pending growth of willingness to migrate proposed (H. Doran), I., 3122, 3125; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41268.
- Standard of comfort, relation to re-settlement (H. Plunkett), IV., 21524, 21550.
- Types of holdings required, Economic and hyper-economic holdings and allotments, importance of securing variety of type (H. Plunkett), IV., 21524-37, 21470; (M. Finucane), III., 15382-5, 15392-4, 15729; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20805; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26761; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29336; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29960, 29962, (P. Nicholson), VI., 30436-40; (G. Hewson), VI., 31644-5; (Rev. P. Glynn), VIII., 40179; (H. Burke), X., 52065.
  - Congested Districts Board, experience of (H. Plunkett), IV., 21544-53, 21558, 21560-3.
  - Determination of types and the proportion of one type to another necessary before redistribution (H. Plunkett), IV., 21470.
  - Ideal arrangement—Backbone of two-horse farms, with sprinkling of smaller ones, and here and there still larger farms worked with capital and enterprise (Professor Campbell), IV., 20805-10.
  - Provision of variety by operation of ordinary purchase, question of—Important that Commission should lay down principle (H. Plunkett), IV., 21553-7, 21564, 21592-3.

DISTRICT COUNCIL:

- Board of Guardians and District Council—Same men worked both, but two bodies were distinct financially (J. Kavanagh), II., 6423-5.
- *Refer also* to titles Drainage, Roads, and Bridges, etc.

Dobbs, Mr. S. M.—*Representing Local Committee of Glenariff.*
Evidence, VII., 36991-7057.

Dodwell Estate (Tobercurry).
Non-residential farms on—acreage let in grazing and conacre (P. Gallagher), VI., 30828, 30835-40.

Doe:
Bee-keeping (M. Harkin), II., 8454A-55.
Boat-slip, Erection of, proposed (M. Harkin), II., 8376, 8422-3.
Congested Districts Board, Expenditure by (M. Harkin), II., 8376, 8408-9.
Debt to shopkeepers—Methods and times of payment (M. Harkin), II., 8402-5.
Family budget of typical inland family (M. Harkin), II., 8377-83, 8397-401, 8408.
Fishery, development of, would provide employment (M. Harkin), II., 83844-6.
Fruit Culture—Proposals for technical instruction by Department, Organisation of Markets and development of jam factory (M. Harkin), II., 8452-4.
Industries—No Local Industries with exception of a Lace Class (M. Harkin), II., 8376, 8408.
Migration—Attitude of people, etc. (M. Harkin), II., 8386-401.
Minerals, *refer* to titles Granite and Minerals.

Doherty, Mr. Charles.—*Tenant from Crieve.*
Evidence, II., 12102-9.

Doherty, Mr. Con.—*Fisherman from Lough Swilly.*
Evidence, II., 12679-713.

Doherty, Mr. Daniel.—*Curer and Employer from Donegal.*
Evidence, II., 8511-20.

Doherty, Mr. Denis—*Farmer from Culdaff.*
Evidence, II., 12665-78.

Doherty, Mr. Michael.
Evidence, II., 12656-64.

Doherty, Mr. Patrick.—*Farmer and Fisherman from Falcorrib.*
Evidence, II., 9079-136.

Doherty, Mr. William.—*Representing Donegal County Council.*
Evidence, II., 5230-432.

Doherty, Rev. John, P.P.
Evidence, II., 6342-406, 6674-87, App. II., p. 239.

Dolan Estate, Moragh.
Number of tenants, valuation—Holdings could be improved by enlargement, etc. (P. Reynolds), VI., 32299.

Dolan, Rev. Patrick.
Evidence, VI., 34297-412, App. VIII., p. 270-2.

Dolan, Mr. Patrick.—*Member of Cavan County Council.*
Evidence, VII., 38915-22.

Domestic Economy, Instruction in:
Congested Districts Board, Work of (G. Fletcher), IV., 21016.
Applications—Came from local clergymen in practically every case—Witness had never known Board refuse an application (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19402, 19405-6.
Benefits conferred—No other classes conducted under the Board in reference to which there were so many testimonials (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19434.
Board was the first to introduce a regular system of instruction to the class of people amongst whom they were working (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19419.

Domestic Economy, Instruction in—*continued.*
Congested Districts Board, Work of—*continued.*
Certificate given had a recognised value (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19419.
Cost of Classes (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19407-8.
Courses of Instruction, number given—Number of pupils (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19401.
Description of system of Instruction by means of itinerant teachers (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19401, App. III., p. 177.
Interval between one class and another, question of (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19409-12.
Length of course—Four months the least time in which efficient work could be done and also the limit of possible attendance of girls (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19413.
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  - One Instructress would be able to attend to four or five Schools (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19308.
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      - Department most anxious to do its part towards removing difficulties in the way of Schemes being put in operation in Donegal (H. Plunkett), III., 17885.
      - Drawbacks to system of appointing natives (Professor Campbell), IV., 19908, 19942-5.
      - Evidence had been given in reference to the difficulty between County and Department before Committee inquiring into working and administration of Agricultural Department (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10367-71.
      - Friction between Department of Agriculture and County Committee worse than in any other county (H. Plunkett), II., 17881.
      - Instructors only affected (T. Swan), II., 5974-6.
      - Modification of rule suggested by County Committee, but not accepted by Department (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10490.
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        - Money for the Schemes was still being held in reserve for use of County Committee (Monsignor M'Glynn), II., 10335-8.
        - Not right that working of Schemes in the whole County should be affected (H. Plunkett), III., 17884.
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- Donegal—*continued.*
  - Agricultural Development, etc.—*continued.*
    - Finance—*continued.*
      - County Committee prohibited from spending money in Congested Districts the first time the penny in the £ rate was collected (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10339-43.
      - Penny in the £ rate—
        - Applied to some objects for which it was not intended (J. Dunleavy), II., 10729.
        - County Councillors overheard to say that the proper thing to do would be to refuse to levy rate, there not being a sufficient return for the expenditure of ratepayers' money (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10251, 10254, 10333-4.
        - Department paid 30s. for every £ County produced by the Rate—Fund used for agricultural development (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10252-3.
      - Ninety-five per cent. of the people were paying a rate and getting no profit from the agricultural schemes (J. Marron), II., 10069.
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    - Publication of schemes to the County by means of advertisements in newspapers and posters (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10271.
    - Single Scheme for the whole County—
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  - Residence in district under purchase proposed (M. Finucane), III., 16243-5.
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  - Cost of Scheme—
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    - Doran's, Mr., Figures—Valuation of land still unsold in scheduled areas (M. Finucane), III., 15750-2, 15754-6.
    - Estimated Cost, £24,000,000.
      - Contemplated by Act of 1903, it was only part of total for purchase estimated at £100,000,000 odd—Scheme was merely to hasten pace in Congested Districts (M. Finucane), III., 15780-3, 15816.
      - Counties containing scheduled areas only included (M. Finucane), III., 15756, 15850-1.
      - Extremely liberal, not to say extravagant, estimate (M. Finucane), III., 15854.
      - Four millions a year for six years, or two and a-half millions a year for ten years (M. Finucane), III., 15756, 15773.
        - At £1,000,000 a year it would take 24 years to settle the problem, and the settlement would probably never be made (M. Finucane), III., 16243.
    - Funds required (M. Finucane), III., 16234.
    - Lands in occupation of tenant purchasers—
      - Causes operating to reduce cost—Estimate of cost (M. Finucane), III., 15756.
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    - £50 limit would make it possible to provide for three-fourths of people needing help (M. Finucane), III., 15719-22.
    - Future tenants should be exhausted before going to judicial tenants (M. Finucane), III., 15969.
    - Memorandum, III., App. VIIA., p. 311, 312.
    - Method that must be adopted if Ireland's agricultural resources were to be developed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25592.
    - Objection—Residential tenants should not be interfered with whatever the size of their holdings (G. Hewson), VI., 31781-98.
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  - Extent to which problem of Congestion would be solved (M. Finucane), III., 15714, 16270-5.
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      - Commissioners could get undertakings to purchase at a certain price holdings as they stood, and enter later into new agreements for improved holdings (M. Finucane), III., 15641-4, 15648A-51, 15658-62, 15708.
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    - Estates Commissioners would not be judges in their own cause—Body dealing with fair rents was quite distinct (M. Finucane), III., 15688-9, 15697.
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    - Difficult position for Estates Commission if tenants were paying 37½ years' purchase of new rent (G. Hewson), VI., 31781.
    - Tenants could get rent fixed before they agreed to purchase, when agreement was made Commissioners demanded interest in lieu of rent, and could realize it by selling up tenant (M. Finucane), III., 15640a, 15645-7.
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  - Estates Congested under the Act could only be sold to Commissioners, and in non-congested areas all sales had to come through Commissioners in one way or another (M. Finucane), III., 15807-15.
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    - Control of a special Department like Fisheries—Right method was to put a man in charge who understood his business, and give him a free hand under proper supervision as regarded expenditure (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4997.
    - Department quite competent to handle Fishery funds (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4994.
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      - Limit of responsibility necessary if sum to be expended were very large (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5040-1.
      - Necessarily a difficulty in continuing the freedom that existed under the two Boards—Better to leave things as they were than to run risk of interfering with Schemes (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5031-9.
    - Increase in work of Department of Agriculture—Chief Inspector of Fisheries had much less time to devote to Congested Districts Board since the Department was created (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5024-6.
    - No difficulty and no loss of funds—Mr. Green was also Inspector of Fisheries under the Department (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 823-4.
    - Not sufficient reason for taking work away from Department which had done it so well (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 829.
    - One Department could do the whole of the work (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5014, 5044.
      - Having regard to personal consideration, witness thought that continuance of the Board would be of service to the Fisheries (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5014-20.
    - Overlapping, question of (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5023.
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- Authorities dealing with Fisheries—*continued.*
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- By-laws, etc.—Made by Department of Agriculture for Fisheries in non-congested and congested districts (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5004.
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- Communities, establishment of, for fisheries and kindred industries proposed—West Galway (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54032, 54034, 54055-6; (M. A. Lyons), X., 54495-7.

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    - Commercial Work of the Board—Purchase, curing and marketing of fish during early years of work (W. L. Micks), I., 386 (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18745-7, 18798.
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        - Policy of Board was to induce private enterprise to take up trade, and as soon as that was done they withdrew (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 968, 971, 974; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18750-7.
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    - First year of Board's Fishery Work—Extract from Report of 1892 (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., App. I., p. 168.
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    - Work of Board was on the right lines—Grants given for boats, etc., Fishery piers and slips built (Mgr. Walker), II., 6954, 6957-9, 6964, 6969, 6984; (M. A. Lyons), 54491-3.
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    - As men took up fishing as an occupation they would themselves find ways and means of developing it (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19172, 19175.
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    - Congestion, Extent to which development of fishing could be expected to relieve congestion (W. F. Bailey), III., 16702-8.
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  - Profit and Loss Question—
    - Board generally lost something, but of the total a very small portion passed through the Board's hands (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 974-5.
    - Loss by Congested Districts Board of £13,000, question of (W. L. Micks), I., 388-95.
    - Profit of over £300 on the Board's Curing Operations as a whole to end of 1897 (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18748-9, 18758-62, 18764.
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  - Banks out at sea frequented by turbot, etc., which had not been drawn on up to the present, Question of—All fished by Steam Trawlers (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4787.
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  - Investigation of fishing grounds, Question of going further westward out into the Atlantic (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18714.
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- Following the Fish when the local fishing was over—Necessity for, Prospect of getting the men to do it, &c. (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4976; (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7631, 7785-7.
  - Ardglass men quite willing to fish anywhere (Rev. J. J. Donnelly), VII., 35713.
  - Arklow boats in some cases did the same as the Scotch boats, and had done remarkably well (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4712-4.
  - Character of people differed greatly (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5161, 5167, 5226-8.
  - Clare Co.—doubtful if old men would do it, but young ones, if trained, would go out (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40142-42A, 40173.
  - Congested Districts Board efforts to train men—Successful in some cases and unsuccessful in others (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4944-6, 4967-8.
    - Achill boats in Downing's Bay (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4972, 5143.
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  - Congestion, Relief of (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7779.
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  - Irish boats did not leave Ireland at all (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1038-41.
  - Kerry men would follow the fish if they had suitable boats (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43721-5.
  - Migratory Labourers—Likely to make good fishermen if migratory spirit could be applied to fishing (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5143-4.
    - Enterprise and intelligence, Question of (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5148-9.
  - Muintinara fishermen had only small boats—given the boats and landing facilities they would follow the fish all the year round (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45691-4, 45697-704.
  - Rathlin Island, fisherman's experience (J. M'Curdy of Cragmacreggan), VII., 36614-21.
  - Severity, certain amount of necessary—Object would be defeated if the "Nursing" were done with too soft a hand (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5159.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Aptitude.
- Grub-money given to crews away from home (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52849, 52851.
  - Congested Districts Board had lately refused to give crews money in advance (H. O'Donnell of Meenaneery), II., 11253-5.
- Habits of fish—Scientific investigation into—No information which could be of use had penetrated to congested districts (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43725-8.
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- History and present needs of Irish Fisheries—Memorandum of certain points relating to (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18508-10, App. I., p. 161-9.
- In-shore and Off-shore Fishing (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4961-2.
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  - Arklow or Cork men, or Scotch Fishermen employed as instructors (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1005; (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4714.
  - Carna—Instructors were on some of the boats still, better results than any of the other County Galway boats during last year (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5116-8.
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- Steamer kept by Congested Districts Board (*Granuaile*).
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  - Object of survey to ascertain what the fisheries were worth and how far they could support the population (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4656.
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  - Mackerel—Transit for fresh mackerel organised from Ireland to England (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 1870719.
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  - Downing's Bay Fishery—50 Steam Trawlers present in 1905 (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4770-1.
  - Harbours suitable for Steam Trawlers, question of (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18589.
  - Increase in number of Steam drifters—Circumstances in which sailing boat was equally good (P. Kelly), II., 12293-5.
  - Injury to Fishing Industry (J. Kavanagh), II., 6491-2; (P. M'Callion), II., 12736-7; (Rev. R. J. Murphy), VII., 35606-23; (J. M'Curdy of Mig), VII., 36540, 36590-2; (D. D. Harrington), VIII., 45455.
    - Close season against trawlers in spawning season, proposed (E. Roycroft), VIII., 45945-6; (Rev. J. O'Connell), 46244.
      - Opinion against, provided no harm was done (T. Mahony), VIII., 46445-8.
    - Extension of three-mile limit—Limits proposed (J. Kavanagh), II., 6485, 6497-500; (C. E. Greene), VII., 35656-7; (Rev. J. J. Donnelly), VII., 35693, 35760, 35779-82.
      - International agreement would be required—Witness was not aware of the necessity (Bryce, Colomb, Kavanagh), II., 6486-8.
      - Spawning beds, Disturbance of, the great injury—Beds were beyond the three-mile limit (J. Kavanagh), II., 6485, 6488-9, 6501-6.
      - Trawling within three-mile limit permitted by Irish by-law, but none the less injurious (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44621-40.

FISHERIES—SEA FISHERIES—*continued.*
- Trawling—Steam Drifters, etc.—*continued.*
  - Injury to Fishing Industry—*continued.*
    - Serious, but not so injurious to sailing boats as on East Coast of Scotland (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 47745.
    - Protection of fishing grounds from steam trawlers, Duty of Department of Agriculture (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5004.
    - Trawlers came from Scotland and England (W. S. Green), I., 4776.
    - Western Bays worked by Sailing Trawlers, considerable number of Steam Trawlers also owned in Ireland (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18588.
  - Value of fish taken along whole Irish coast (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42743-6.
  - Weather difficulty on the Irish coast (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18615-8; (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19070-3.
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FISHERMEN'S HOLDINGS.
- Clare Co.—Provision of land sufficient for supply of milk and vegetables, suitable houses could be built under provisions of Labourers' Act (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40153-67.
- Emigration would be checked by creation of Fishermen's Villages with holdings attached (P. Ward), II., 11145-8.
- Fisherman with three or four acres was more prosperous than fisherman without land (P. Ward), II., 11132.
- Houses—Cluster like a village the most convenient plan (P. Ward), II., 11136-40.
- Lenane—Fishermen with 1½ acres of land (Con Doherty), II., 12693.
- Size of Holding required (P. Ward), II., 11133-5, 11142-4, 11149, 11153-4; (M. A. Lyons), X., 54497-8.
  - Security for advance, necessary that the holding should be of a certain size—No risk of failure of fishing (P. Ward), II., 11155-61.
  - Size required when houses were built together and when holdings were separate (P. Ward), II., 11141.
- Stornoway, Fishing Village near—History of Establishment, Object of experiment, etc. (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21943-63, 21965, 21971-2000.
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FISHERY COMMITTEE—EXPERT COMMITTEE ATTACHED TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
- Inland Fisheries only, Committee concerned with (H. Plunkett), III., 17983-4.

FISHERY LOAN FUND OF £86,000.
- Placed at disposal of Congested Districts Board subject to Treasury sanction (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1514-16.

FISHING RIGHTS.
- *See* Sporting and Fishing Rights.

FITZGERALD, MR ROBERT—*Resident at Valentia*:
- Evidence, VIII., 43751-85.

FITZGERALD, MR. MAURICE—*Middleman in Dromod Parish*:
- Evidence, VIII., 43940-4126.

FITZGIBBON, MR. J.—*Representative of United Irish League.*
- Evidence, V., 25387-25515, 25584, 26380, App. IV., p. 244; X., 58339-74, App. VIII., p, 292-3.
- Farm purchased for benefit of Tenants and afterwards sold to Estates Commissioners—Details of purchase and settlement of tenants (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25926A-38, 25940-63.
  - Criticism of methods of Estates Commissioners (T. W. Russell), IX., 51719-21, 51868-9.

FITZGIBBON'S, MR., SCHEME FOR ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LAND.

- Amount of Land required and which could be made available (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805, 26185.
  - All untenanted land in landlord's hands, known as that let on the eleven months' system (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805, 26185.
  - Demesnes, curtailment of proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25623-4, 25649, 25805.
  - Non-residential Farms now used for grazing purposes, distribution of, proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25623.
    - Distinction to be drawn between one sort of non-residential farm upon which a man depended for a livelihood and another owned by a man whose own home farm was ample for his needs (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25757-61.
    - Meaning of Non-Residential Holding (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25651.
  - Non-residential holdings over £25 valuation and purchased under Act of 1903 or previous Acts (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805.
  - Present Owners would not like parting with lands, but if there was to be a row better have it at once than keep it simmering as it had been doing since 1881 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26185-6.
  - Residential holdings hitherto chiefly used for grazing purposes, cutting down proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25623-4, 25649, 25805.
    - Definition of Residential Holding (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25652, 25654-6.
    - Graziers putting up buildings upon non-residential farms (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25762-3.
      - Power would be needed for purchasing Tribunal to discriminate between genuinely Residential and Non-Residential Holdings (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25657-65.
    - Rules desirable in order to insure mixed tillage and grazing (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25666-74.
  - Roscommon, County of—Amount of untenanted land available and amount necessary, question of (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25642-7, 25684-9, 25693-703.
  - Sufficient untenanted land to provide for suitable congests and also for sons of tenants, if properly distributed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25621-2.
- Appeal against timidity in securing and dealing with the three necessary joints (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26380.
- Application of method of providing and distributing land not only to Connaught, but to each of the other provinces proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805.
- Distribution of Land—
  - Expense difficulty—Reservation of Bonus on Encumbered Estates, *i.e.*, of the difference between 3½ per cent. and the saving in the reduction of Mortgages as an auxiliary fund for resettlement of people on untenanted lands (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805-11, 25828-32, 25834.
    - Example showing how proposal was worked out, so that Capitalisation took place upon amount after deduction of Mortgages, and not upon gross amount (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25812-34.
  - Matter ought to be considered by body entrusted with task of carrying out scheme—Not desirable for witness to go into particulars (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26076-8, 26085-7, 26106-8.
  - Priority of Claims—
    - Claims of Migrants from Congested Districts and of Sons of Tenants might both be satisfied (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25599-601.

FITZGIBBON'S, MR. SCHEME—*continued.*

- Distribution of Land—*continued.*
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    - Heads of Families—Preference to be given to suitable heads of families, first supplying those adjacent by enlargement of holding or by migration (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25599-603, 25607-20, 25649, 25720-1, 25735-6.
    - Sons of Tenants, claim would come in when surrender of father's holding supplied needs of various small holders (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25722-4, 26100-2, 26352.
  - Resources of each County to be applied to its own needs in the first place (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805, 26079-81.
  - Size of Holdings—Method of carving land would not produce a dead level of monotony (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25835.
  - Surplus Land, Disposal of, supposing there were not a sufficient number of suitable migrants in the county (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26039-74, 26079-87, 26115-7, 26341-55.
    - Residents, Attitude of (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805, 26053.
  - Reclamation and drainage, Good system of, would make thousands of holdings economic (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25623. 26088.
  - Reclamation of waste lands and planting of those found unsuitable for tillage, proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25805.
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- Cottage Industry in Sligo, now disappeared (J. G. Quilty), VI., 28477.

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- Decline—Causes, etc. (M. Harkin), II., 8448-50; (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42849-51.
- Down Co. (P. O'Hare), VII., 35023, 35025-6; (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35211; (A. J. Morrow), VII., 35831-46.
- Leitrim, North (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 31883-93, 31895.
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- Foreign Competition, Importation of Flax—
  - Duty on foreign flax proposed (J. M‘Farlane), VII., 37880-901.
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FLEMING, MR. MICHAEL—*Member of Kerry County Council:*

- Evidence, VIII., 43480-510.

FLETCHER, MR. GEORGE—*Assistant Secretary in respect of Technical Instruction to the Department of Agriculture.*

- Evidence, IV., 20921-1260. IV., App. V., pp. 224-31.

FLOWERS.
- Spring Flowers, Possibility of profitable industry at Aran (R. A. Anderson), IV., 21400.

FLYNN, Mr. PATRICK—*Chairman of Rural District of Carrick-on-Shannon, No. 1*:
- Evidence, VI., 33120-360.

FLYNN, Mr. THOMAS.—*Appearing for Father King*:
- Evidence, VI., 33569-614.

FOLEY, Mr. TIMOTHY—*Resident at Keas, Glencar*:
- Evidence, VIII., 43786-92.

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- Countries from which competition was likely to come increasingly in future (H. Plunkett), III., 17785-6.
- Evils of (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 31991; (Rev. P. O'Doherty), VIII., 38558-9; (P. Murray), VII., 35991-2.
- Growth of Competition almost counterbalancing advantages of improvement in tenants' legal position in the late eighties (H. Plunkett), III., 17783-4.
  - Causes of rapid development—Opening up of vast regions of virgin soil in America, etc., and development of transit facilities (H. Plunkett), III., 17784-6, 17802.
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FOX, Mr. BERNARD—*Representing Carrick-on-Shannon Rural District Council*:
- Evidence, VI., 32890-33119.

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- Enlargement of Holdings—Compulsory powers for Congested Districts Board to purchase all lands, proposed (Rev. M. Henry), IX., 51661, 51665.
- Houses, improvement of (Rev. M. Henry), IX., 51672.
- Planting of trees encouraged by Nuns (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47361.
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FOXFORD WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.
- Assistance given by Congested Districts Board (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1754-6; (Dr. O'Donnell), III., 14665; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14671; (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19481, 19485-93; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41424-6.
  - Largely subsidised at first, but not now (F. S. Wrench), III., 14661.
  - Private enterprise, Question of Competition with (H. Plunkett), III., 18150-3; (W. L. Micks), I., 593.
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- Quite possible to repeat Foxford here and there in congested area—Only consideration was capital (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19458.
- Success of industry—Causes, Success, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 23258; (Rev. J. Clancy), VII., 40514-5; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41420-3, 41426; (D. Moriarty), VIII., 43456-9; (J. M'Hale), IX., 48566.
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- Small holdings system recommended as remedy for Irish discontent, *refer* to Ownership.

FRANKS, Mr. H.—*Assistant Agent for Coote Estate.*
- Evidence, VII., 39392-417.

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- Drogheda and Portadown Industry, *see* that title.
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  - Special work of supplying fruit trees directly, not carried on (T. Porter), III., 14055.
- Gooseberry Culture should be encouraged (J. B. Mullin), II., 5433; (G. L. Young), II., 5718.
- Improved product must be grown in sufficient quantity, to capture some particular market, otherwise producer gained nothing (H Plunkett), III., 17942.
- Instruction and Demonstrations by the Department suggested (M. Harkin), I., 8452.
- Opinion in favour of as soon as the people were brought up to a certain level (D. O'Hara), I., 4642-3.
- Possibilities—Qualities of Irish soil and climate (H. Plunkett), III., 17938-9, 17961 17967-9, 17976-8; (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46155.
  - District and people both must be carefully chosen (H. Plunkett), III., 17971-3.
  - Exhibits at Cork Exhibition and at Surprise Exhibition in Dublin in 1904, quality and quantity of fruit (H. Plunkett), III., 17964.
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  - Experts, opinion of (H. Plunkett), III., 17962-4.
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- Sale to Congested Districts Board; circumstances compelling vendor to accept unduly low price, &c. (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45731-40, 45753-6.

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- Sligo School and Church Furniture Industry—
  - Department had no responsibility and gave no assistance though its officers gave assistance in their private capacity (H. Plunkett), III., 18160-6.

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- Determination, power of—Notice required, Compensation, &c. (M. Finucane), III., 15756; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49227-9; (E. S. Tener), X., 56866-70; (H. Doran), XI., 59752-4, 59758.
- Fair rents, future tenants unable to get fair rents fixed—Landlords made future tenants for that reason (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34660-4.

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- Security of tenure—No security, compensation for disturbances would not go far to keep them out of the workhouse (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34672-3, 34705-6.
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- Resident Engineer to Congested Districts Board up to 1896 (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1516.

Gallagher, Mr. Charles—*Farmer from Bavin, Kilcar*:
- Evidence, II., 11847-74.

Gallagher, Mr. D.—*Pilot in Mullaghmore Harbour.*
- Evidence, VI., 28506-28553.

Gallagher, Mr. Hugh.—*Resident in Kiltyclogher.*
- Evidence, VI.. 32426-76.

Gallagher, Mr. John.—*Member of the Mayo County Council, &c.*
- Evidence, IX., 48412-43.

Gallagher, Mr. John—*Small Farmer and Migratory Labourer from Gweedore*:
- Evidence, II., 9010, 9039.

Gallagher, Mr. Patrick—*Farmer in Upper Templecrone*:
- Evidence, II., 8740-822.

Gallagher, Mr. Patrick.—*Farmer at Killoran.*
- Evidence, VI., 30828-66.

Gallagher, Mr. Thomas—*Fisherman from Lunniagh, Gweedore*:
- Evidence, II., 9059-78.

Gallagher, Mr. Thomas.—*Selected by the Carnacon and Ballyglass Branch of the United Irish League.*
- Evidence, IX., 50011-39.

Gallagher, Rev. James—*Speaking on behalf of Parishes of Rathmullan and Fanad*:
- Evidence, II., 5853-938.

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- Afforestation by the State proposed, Suitability of land about Recess and Oughterard, &c. (Lord Castletown), V., 26423-31; (P. J. Kelly), X., 56635; (A. Moran), X., 56936, 56947-9.
- Agricultural Development—
  - Cattle-breeding in Connemara (F. S. Wrench), III., 14693; (J. Lyden), X., 52688-90.
  - Department, work of—Work of County Committees—
    - Improvement effected, but there was still room for improvement (J. Lyden), X., 52684.
    - Local Committees needed for Connemara, &c.—Inconvenience of meeting-place in Galway (J. Lyden), X., 52648-50 52659, 52684-6; (H. Murphy), X., 55590-2.
    - Not very successful—Committees too much controlled by Department (J. Lyden), X., 52649A, 52681-3.
    - Representation, poorer parts of county inadequately represented, remedies proposed (J. Lyden), X., 52656, 52660-71, 52679-80.
      - Contradiction, poorer areas did not suffer from lack of representation (H. Murphy), X., 55520-3, 55526-9, 55534-7.
    - Satisfactory on the whole, but hindered by lack of funds (H. Murphy), X., 55519, 55530-3, 55547, 55549, 55568.

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  - Agricultural Instruction Committee—no local representatives for country between Spiddal and Roundstone (J. Conroy), X., 54876-80.
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  - National Schools, question of agricultural instruction in (J. Conroy), X., 54891.
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- Congestion—Acute congestion in West Galway (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54032, 54157-8.
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- Corn mills, decline of, due to foreign competition (H. Murphy), X., 55490-4, 55497-502.
- Debts to shopkeepers, Evils of, *refer to* title Debt.
- Department, unpopularity of (Rev. J. Callanan), X., 56609.
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  - Distinction of boundary between East and West Ridings (Lord Ashtown), X., 57414-6.
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  - Success of operations in East Galway, Confidence of people in Commissioners—Dovan Instance (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57178, 57191.
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    - Complaints that boats taken on the share system were sometimes sold and sent to other places without notifying the crews, *refer* to Boats.
    - Fleets of boats placed on Connemara coast (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4755.
  - Curing, facilities needed for (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52691; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034, 54170-1.
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    - Relations between instructors and fishermen, question of readiness of crews and instructors to go out (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52722, 52735; (Rev. W. S. Green), X., 52864.
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    - Erection of piers regardless of expense—Uselessness of piers, complaint as to maintenance, etc. (J. A. Glynn), X., 55958-64.
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- Pier—New Pier recently erected (Mgr. Walker), 6959-60.
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- Committee of Rural District Council, with statutory powers to make representations to Congested Districts Board concerning needs of district—Opinion in favour of, but witness would prefer representation on Board (P. Naughton), X., 55116-21.
- Enlargement of holdings needed, not much land available (H. A. Robinson), X., 54669-77; (P. Naughton), X., 54962, 54966.
- Fishing industry, development possibilities—Facilities needed, etc. (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19191; (H. A. Robinson), 54747, 54750-1; (P. Naughton), X., 54971-86.
- Improvement of condition of people could only be effected by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners (H. A. Robinson), X., 54748.
- Industries, development possibilities (Lord Castletown), V., 26637; (P. Naughton), X., 54987.
- Lace Schools at Carraroe and Lettermullen—
  - Complaint by workers that they did more work than they were paid for (P. Naughton), X., 54999-55026.
    - Method of auditing accounts—Witness had never heard a complaint (Miss Griffith), X., 57256-66.
  - Earnings of workers were reduced last year—Not enough orders to keep girls in constant employment (Miss Griffith), X., 57267-8.
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- Possible purchase by Congested Districts Board—Island of Iniscoo and Roskin and Clogher should not be given to private individuals (J. Sweeney), II., 8701.
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GRAHAM, MR. JAMES.—*Resident at Clonrea, Glenariff.* Evidence, VII., 37326-39.

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GRANITE INDUSTRY IN DONEGAL:
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    Independent Expert opinion desired (J. Sweeney), II., 8625, 8642-3, 8647-50.
  Railway, construction of, had stopped operations at Barnesmore (J. Hamilton), II., 10668-70.
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Rosses, circumstances leading witness to believe that granite was to be found (E. Spargo), II., 7594-5.

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Transit Facilities—

Conveyance of Granite to the Sea, means of (Mgr. Walker), II., 7161, 7164-5.

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Lack of—Improvements made which swallowed up all the capital (E. Spargo), II., 7568, 7574.

Pier built by the Company, Difficulties in connection with—Large new Pier on Coast provided by Irish Board of Works (E. Spargo), II., 7609-14.

Pier, construction of, at Kincasslagh had increased value of quarry (J. Sweeney), II., 8602.

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Granite Quarries in Co. Down.

Development proposed (P. Murray), VII., 35997.

Public authority to develop industry—Opinion in favour of (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35212-20.

Quality of granite—Comparison of Castlewellan and Hilltown Quarries (J. M'Aleenan), VII., 35887-8.

Transit facilities and up-to-date machinery required to develop an important industry (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35211, p. 11, 35222-5, 35231-5; (J. M'Aleenan), VII., 35887-8, 35923-5, 36895-9.

Grant, Mr. John—*Farmer from Muff.*

Evidence II., 12618-55.

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Steamer belonging to Congested Districts Board, *see* **Fisheries—Sea Fisheries.**

Gray, Rev. Denis—*Representing Fenagh Branch of United Irish League, etc.*

Evidence, VI., 34605-766.

Grazing and Grazing Lands.

Afforestation, grazing rights difficulty, *see* Planting of Trees.

Agitation against graziers, *see* Political Agitation.

Breaking up grass lands, *see* that title.

Capacity of land to carry more stores than at present, question of treatment of land, etc. (J. Irwin), X., 58695.

Blue marl formerly used as fertiliser (J. Irwin), X., 58695-6, 58705-6, 58720.

Classes of grazing lands—

Dairying and fattening lands should be kept distinct (H. Burke), X., 52091.

Galway (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283.

Three classes (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27127; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57335.

Commonage system—

General rule among crofters in Scotland (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 22010.

Great improvement if land was held in common, and managed by a committee—Difficulty was how to make committee permanent (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50462-7.

Limitation of right to commonage proposed—Selection of persons exercising right (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53491-8.

Objections to—Tenants all tried to get as much as possible out of the land while putting nothing in (W. H. Stuart), III., 17744-6.

Litigation and quarrelling feared (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40191-7.

Grazing and Grazing Lands—*continued.*

Commonage system—*continued.*

Objections to—*continued*

Not permanent, and people wanted individual possession (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50452-61.

Not so objectionable in case of big mountain tracts, because nothing much could be done to improve them (W. H. Stuart), III., 17747.

Striping troublesome and expensive, but better in the end (W. H. Stuart), III., 17748.

Opinion in favour of (Monsignor Walker), II., 7182-6; (J. R. Baillie), II., 10519; (J. P. Dunnion), II., 11348-52, 11354; (Rev. M. Keaveney), X., 51639; (H. A. Robinson), X., 54676-7.

Purchase Question, Effect on (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 22009.

Roscommon, existence in (J. Ryan), X., 57692.

Substitute for new holdings when grass lands were some distance from a bog (J. Irwin), X., 58733-4.

Refer also to sub-heading Mountain Pasturage.

Co-operative Grazing—

Alternative to breaking up grass lands (W. Walpole), X., 58778A, 58880, 58883.

Board to have power to acquire all grass land within ten or twelve miles of scheduled areas and use them for common grazing pending growth of willingness to migrate (H. Doran), I., 3122, 3125.

Distance not much of a difficulty—Owners need not look after their cattle themselves, and Congested Districts Board had introduced an insurance system (W. Walpole), X., 58881.

Experimental purchase of large farm by Central Authority for common grazing proposed (E. F. Bowen), X., 59125, 59133-4.

Irish Agricultural Organisation Society should be asked to try their hands at the work (A. Crichton), V., 27318.

Case for acquisition of grazing farms by Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and Counsel's opinion thereon, IV., App. VI., p. 234.

Land should be held by the State or some primary body like the Congested Districts Board (W. Walpole), X., 58883-4.

Number of Experiments working (H. Plunkett), III., 18095.

Prospects of success (H. Plunkett), III., 18083-8, 18093-4.

Purchase of suitable Grazing Farms by Co-operative Societies to be held as common grazing for benefit of members proposed (R. A. Anderson), IV., 21403.

Difficult to obtain Farms because of the clamour to have these farms divided (R. A. Anderson), IV., 21411.

Experiment had been tried at Killeroran and Tisara, also in County Meath—Description of procedure, question of profit, etc. (R. A. Anderson), IV., 21404-13, App. VI., pp. 232-4.

Opinion in favour of—Endorsement of Mr. Anderson's recommendations (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43325, 43366.

Reluctance to migrate—Co-operative grazing of grass farm where people were unwilling to move, proposed (A. Crichton), V., 27317.

Sale of lands for, if Board found it impossible to hold lands for common grazing proposed (H. Doran), I., 3122.

Scotland, Success in (H. Plunkett), III., 18087, 18095-7.

Stimulus to industry, lack of, as compared with individual holding—Witness did not believe in the danger (H. Plunkett), III., 18084-7.

Unworkable (J. Ryan), X., 57661-8, 57677, 57683-91.

Grazing and Grazing Lands—*continued.*

- Deterioration for want of cultivation, question of (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25675A-6; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 47066-74; (H. Burke), X., 52106-9; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57123; (J. Irwin), X., 58721-8; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59197-8.
    - Due to lack of drainage, not of tillage (E. F. Bowen), X., 59199-200.
    - Improved treatment, suggestions for (J. Irwin), X., 58713-6, 58719.
    - No sensible deterioration (F. M. Shawe-Taylor) X., 56789-91; (J. Irwin), X., 58722.
    - Reclaimed land deteriorated if not cultivated (P. Nicholson), VI., 30359.
    - Weeds, prevalence of in some parts causing deterioration (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55977; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57917-8.
        - Owners should be compelled to keep their land clean (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55978.
- Eleven months' system—
    - Acquisition of eleven months' land for relief of congestion, *refer* to titles Breaking up, Compulsory Powers, and Compensation.
    - Advantage of—Outlet for capital, energy, etc., of successful cattle dealers and small farmers which could not otherwise be employed in Ireland (W. Walpole), X., 58778, 58834-7.
    - Deterioration of land—Land not deteriorating, but not as productive as it might be made (P. Flynn), VI., 33235-7.
    - Difference between yearly and eleven months' tenancies (W. Walpole), X., 58863-5.
    - Evils of system (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52493; (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57879.
    - Extent to which system prevailed (J. M‘Loughlin), VI., 29534-41, 29594; (W. Walpole), X., 58861-2.
    - Herding and keeping up of fences done by landlord (F. S. Wrench), III., 15142.
    - More profitable than large single ranches—Lord Oranmore's experience (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50099.
    - Origin and purpose of system (F. S. Wrench), III., 15140-1; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27135, 27143; (D. O'Loughlin), VII., 39909; Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57076-8.
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    - Rates on eleven months' land should equal those on house property—Non-residential occupiers should not benefit by the agricultural grant (J. Drury), X., 59384.
    - Rent—
        - Higher than with a future tenant (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41730-2.
        - Not a net rent (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41733.
        - Rents had kept up better than future tenants' rents (Lord Ashtown), X., 57332-3.
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    - Tenants not tenants at all—Land in possession of eleven months' man treated as in occupation of owner (M. Finucane), III., 15967-8; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34178-9.
    - Uncertainty of system—Many graziers would be happy to sell to Congested Districts Board (D. O'Loughlin), VII., 39902-6.
- Evils of grazierism (T. B. Hibbet), X., 57878-9, 57913, 57933-5.
- Fattening Lands, *see* title Breaking Up Grass Lands.
- Former cultivation, signs of, *see* Breaking up of grass lands—Former cultivation.
- Historical explanation as to how much of the land became grass, eviction of tenants during the Famine, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 314, 315, 318-24; (Rev. B. M‘Andrew), X., 53053-5; (J. Sharkey), X., 59042, 59054-6.

Grazing and Grazing Lands—*continued.*

- Moorland, Poorness of grazing—Letting value (Canon M‘Fadden), II., 8014-23.
- Landlord breaking up land and selling it, *see* Untenanted land—Landlord taking fine.
- Landlord's duties—Maintenance of fences, cutting of thistles (J. Irwin), X., 58726-7.
- Leases, grievance as to creation of—Instance (J. P. Hayden), X., 58171-208.
- Mountain Pasturage—
    - Mearing fence should be made between pasturage and arable land, owners grazing according to size of holdings by the stint, case of estates already purchased, etc. (W. Doherty), II., 5259, 5264-5, 5280-3, 5290, 5297.
    - Plantation belt between commonage and arable land to be planted out of public funds proposed (W. Doherty), II., 5259, 5261-2, 5266, 5269-73, 5277-9, 5284, 5291.
    - Purchase of, when holdings were purchased proposed, arrangements for management, etc. (P. Rooney), VI., 32160-1; (Rev. R. J. Murphy), VII., 35538-40, 35556 84.
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    - Stint made and agreed to when mountains were in common, Stint as sacred as holding (W. Doherty), II., 5285-6.
    - Striping system, objections to (W. Doherty), I., 5259-60, 5275-6, 5288-9; (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6023.
    - Surface Drainage, *see* Drainage.
- Penal clauses in agreements, Roscommon occupiers from building and tilling (C. Cotton), X., 58392-8, 58406.
- Poor rate, exemption from—County Councils to have power to withhold exemption proposed (P. Dyar), VI., 30468.
- Price of grass lands, purchase price, *see* Price of land.
- Quality of grass lands better than tillage lands in congested districts as a rule (W. L. Micks), I., 313, 316-7.
- Rents—
    - About the same or better since 1880 (Lord Ashtown), X., 57319, 57329-30, 57448.
    - Accommodation land—Price of grazing varied according to age of cattle (R. Howe), VII., 39129.
    - Deterioration of land affecting rents (A. Davis), IX., 51058-63, 51067-8, 51093-5.
    - Excessive rents paid by shopkeeper-graziers alleged—Not in witness's experience (Lord Ashtown), X., 57324-7.
    - Fall, question of (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57079-86.
        - Fall in case of large tracts, greater competition had kept up rents of smaller tracts (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56584-6.
    - Fluctuations (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50101,
    - Increase in rent since 1850 (C. Cotton), X., 58428-32.
    - One shilling per beast charged in Achill on 5,000 acres owned by Mrs. Pike (Canon Grealey), IX., 48820.
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    - Claddagh men had fished for herrings to a small extent in Galway Bay during the whole time (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4892-3.
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    - No herrings seem to have been fished for over fifty years before the Board began its work, from Teelin to Lough Swilly, except at Downing's (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18733, App. II., p. 172.
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  - No knowledge that herrings travelled any distance at all, general presumption was that they were local schools (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18681.
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- Summer Herring Fishery (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4703, 4750.
  - Competition—One-third of the boats were Irish boats and two-thirds were Scotch boats (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18863.
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  - Opening for more Irish boats, but Summer Fishing would not pay for outfit of a boat unless it went from one fishery to another (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4710-14.
  - Summer fishing went on at Kinsale and also on the north and on the west, Attempts made off Galway Bay and Inishboffin were frustrated by dog-fish (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4753, 4802-5.
- Trade in, was chiefly in cured herrings, although large quantities were sent fresh from Burtonport to Glasgow, and there was also an establishment for kippering herrings for English market (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18799, 18810-11.
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    - Percentage of loss by whatever body was to do the work of the Congested Districts Board.
      - Contemplated that Tenants should get the benefit of the percentage of loss by the Authority (W. L. Micks), I., 503.
      - 8 to 10 per cent. (W. L. Micks), I., 492.
      - 12 per cent. loss probable, 8 per cent. might cover it if estates bought were not altogether of the poorest kind (H. Doran), I., 1859, 1866-7, 1870-1, 1873, 2374.
  - Limit of power to lose—Congested Districts Board—
    - Amount that the Board could afford to lose annually (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 142-4, 797-9; (H. Doran), I., 1855-7, 2753-4, 3516-8.
    - Board's power not limited legally, but their funds were limited (G. Wyndham), V., 22834, 22836; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23870-5, 23891, 23898-900.
    - Larger power than Estates Commissioners because they were not bound by any particular percentage (W. F. Bailey), III., 17032.
    - Losses up to 10 per cent. to be borne by the State proposed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23901-2.
      - Compulsory Powers would seldom be necessary if Board possessed similar power to Estates Commissioners (J. O'Connor), III., 13300-4.

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS, ETC.—*continued.*

  - Limit of power to lose—Estates Commissioners—
    - No limit on Estates Commissioners, they acted within their discretion (W. F. Bailey), III., 17029A, 17034.
    - Ten per cent. limit fixed by Act of 1903 (W. L. Micks), I., 493-5; (F. S. Wrench), III., 15260, 15266, 15268; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16659; (G. Wyndham), V., 22802, 22822; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23436, 23868, 23890, 23899.
      - Abolition of limit proposed (F. S. Wrench), III., 15261-5, 15271.
      - Aggregate loss (G. Wyndham), V., 22830.
      - Congested Estates under the Act, Application of limit confined to (W. F. Bailey), III., 17030.
      - Estates Commissioners, limit confined to (G. Wyndham), V., 22834.
      - Lord Lieutenant could impose a lower limit (F. S. Wrench), III., 15267.
      - Meaning of provision not yet settled (W. F. Bailey), III., 17030; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17724.
      - Owner must agree before procedure could be carried out (F. S. Wrench), III., 15267.
      - Price, not price *plus* cost of improvements, loss could be made on (G. Wyndham), V., 22802-5.
      - Public Money, Loss made out of (G. Wyndham), V., 22863.
      - Reserve Fund disappeared if Commissioners did not get their money back (G. Wyndham), V., 22864.
      - Tenants got the benefit of the 10 per cent. — Estates Commissioners gave grants (W. L. Micks), I., 501-2.
    - There might be a limit, but it should be a *wide* one (F. S. Wrench), III., 15262.
  - Loss inevitable (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 805, 807, 810-5, 1365; (F. S. Wrench), III., 15143, 15234; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22224.
    - Principle explicitly sanctioned by Government in 1901 and 1902 (G. Wyndham), V., 22819.
  - Loss on price of land and loss on improvements contemplated and separately compensated by Act of 1903 (G. Wyndham), V., 22802-5.
  - Nature of improvements on which loss was made (F. S. Wrench), III., 15257.
  - Not desirable, not inevitable in every case, but some loss must be contemplated where conditions were bad (G. Wyndmade (F. S. Wrench), III., 15257.
    - Estates Commissioners did purchase untenanted land and re-sell without loss (A. MacDonnell), V., 22820, 22828-9.
    - Untenanted land could not be considered alone, since it was bought to improve bad holdings (G. Wyndham), V., 22823-5, 22830-3.
  - Payment out of income in case of Board, out of Reserve Fund in case of Estates Commissioners (F. S. Wrench), III., 15257.
  - Radical treatment would entail increased loss—Unsatisfactory treatment of Dillon and other estates accounted for low percentage of loss by the Board (H. Doran), XI., 59576-94, 59598, 59672-6, 59692-3, 59696-7, 59704.
  - Recouping by increased grants proposed (F. S. Wrench), III., 15258, 15261.
  - Reserve Fund and Congested Estates, question of (J. O'Connor), III., 13314-43.
  - The poorer the class of people whose holdings were made economic, the bigger the loss as a rule (M. Finucane), I., 16020.

Improvements effected by Public Funds, etc.—*continued.*

- The poorer the class of people, etc.—*continued.*
  - Transaction was complete on sale to tenants, and any loss on price or improvements totalled as practically lost to income of the Board (G. Wyndham), V., 22815.
  - Very trifling—Rents covered most of the improvements (W. L. Micks), I., 480; (H. Doran), I., 3380.
- Maintenance of Improvements, question of—
  - Annuity to include a small sum to be remitted in event of improvements being maintained—preferable that tenants should be bound to maintain improvements (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53482.
  - Attitude of people—Importance of maintenance not perceived at present (H. Doran), XI., 59980-1.
  - Different customs in England and Ireland, question of (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43376. 43378-82.
  - Government should see that all works of public utility were properly maintained (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30087.
  - Inspection and prosecution for neglect, proposed (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53471-81; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58303-4.
  - Interest should be paid by tenant on landlord's improvements—if he paid nothing he did not care to maintain (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43375.
  - Loss of expenditure on improvements if no provision were made for their proper maintenance (G. Hewson), VI., 31779-81.
  - No provision at present for maintenance of Board's improvements (H. Doran), XI., 59980.
  - Ownership, stimulus that would be supplied by (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44794-6.
  - People benefited should maintain (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48164.
  - Penalty for neglect to maintain—
    - Extreme cases only, Board should have power to deal with (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48173.
    - Tenant purchaser having to sell his farm—Man was already punished by his failure (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48166-7.
  - Power to enforce maintenance, proposed (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48165; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56736.
  - Supervision and compulsory powers to maintain should be continuous (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44791-2.
- Nature of Improvements made (H. Doran), I., 2226; (J. M'Carron), II., 12135; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25950-7, 25962-3.
- Recovery of Expenditure on Improvements—
  - Amount recovered by Congested Districts Board on re-sale to Tenants—Balance of £64,000 expended on improvements repaid to the Board by the Land Commission (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1355-8, 1410.
    - Act of 1903, Provisions with reference to advances by National Debt Commissioners to Land Commission for repayment to Congested Districts Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1360-1.
      - Object was to prevent fancy repairs and induce Board to get as much help as possible from people benefited (G. Wyndham), V., 22816.
    - Crisis would have occurred two years ago instead of in March, 1907 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1411-2.
    - Derived from operations previous to Act of 1903 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1359.
  - Annuity, Recovery out of—
    - Amount recovered went into reserve fund in case of Estates Commissioners, to income account in case of Congested Districts Board (G. Wyndham), V., 22805-7.

Improvements effected by Public Funds, etc.—*continued.*

- Recovery of Expenditure on Improvements—*con.*
  - Annuity, Recovery out of—*continued.*
    - Opinion in favour of (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48154-5; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50133.
    - Sales should be either to Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, because it was possible for them to cover expenditure by way of annuity (M. Finucane), III., 15617-9; (G. Hewson), VII., 31779.
  - Grants by Estates Commissioners not recoverable (W. F. Bailey), III., 17029, 17046-9.
  - No hard-and-fast rule could be carried out (W. F. Bailey), III., 17050-4.
  - Reproductive Improvements resulting in resale of estate at enhanced price—Sums representing increased price repayable out of Land Purchase Fund (F. S. Wrench), III., 15257, 15260.
- Rent—Danger of improvements going into rent—
  - Court would not give landlord a higher rent in virtue of improvements made out of public funds if they knew it, it ought not to be possible for them not to know (F. S. Wrench), III., 14455-6.
  - Danger existed (F. S. Wrench), III., 14438-40, 14443-5.
  - Difficulty of allocating improvements should cases come before Land Courts (F. S. Wrench), III., 14423-31.
  - Drainage did change the character of the land after some time (F. S. Wrench), III., 14458.
  - Landlord could bring a tenant into Court to get an increased rent under Act of 1881, and tenant would urge improvements on holdings as against plea for increased rent, but witness had not heard of such a case (F. S. Wrench), III., 14432-4.
  - No case known to witness where landlord applied for increased rent on tenants' improvements (F. S. Wrench), III., 14434, 14441.—Or on improvements made by Congested Districts Board, 14442.
  - Rent fixed on value of holding at moment of inspection, question of improvements then gone into and value taken off to arrive at fair rent (F. S. Wrench), III., 14443-6, 14453-4.
  - Tenants thought landlords claimed increased rents in virtue of improvements (F. S. Wrench), III., 14436-7.
- Retaining Estates in hands for purpose of Improvement—Difference between practice of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners—
  - Advances to tenants by Estates Commissioners were recovered, or partly recovered, but they were not previously taken from tenants (M. Finucane), III., 16276.
  - Character, effect on—Not tending to foster self-reliance and industry (W. H. Stuart), III., 17622.
  - Congested Districts Board, method of retaining an estate until all reasonable improvements had been made preferable to Estates Commissioners' method of expending a fixed sum only (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25729-31.
  - Difference between interest charged in lieu of rent and payment to Treasury by Estates Commissioners, Amount and disposal of (M. Finucane), III., 16158-62.
  - Expenditure realised from tenants by retaining estates four or five years, obliging tenants to pay rent, and spending difference between rent and interest on improvements—Board's practice (H. Doran), I., 1859, 1874, 3383; (M. Finucane), III., 16091, 16143.
    - Admirable where funds were not otherwise available (W. F. Bailey), III., 17397.
      - Approval of practice where money was available (M. Finucane), III., 17398.

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS, ETC.—*continued.*

- Retaining Estates, etc.—*continued.*
  - Expenditure realised from tenants, etc.—*con.*
    - Average of Estates purchased by Board, Statement applying to (M. Finucane), III., 16124.
    - Dillon Estate, Instance—No loss incurred (H. Doran), I., 3374-9, 3381; (M. Finucane), III., 16091-119, 16127.
      - Criticism of Board's action (M. Finucane), III., 16091-2, 16095-7, 16102-6, 16109-19.
    - Interest paid to Land Commission (H. Doran), I., 1875, 1877, 1886-8.
    - Main reason why Board's losses had been so small (H. Doran), I., 3380.
    - Money realised from one tenant or estate and expended on another—Injustice to individual, inexcusable injustice when money was expended outside the estate (M. Finucane), III., 16091, 16131-8, 16142.
    - No real grievance (W. F. Bailey), III., 17397-8.
    - Not argued that whole benefit of transaction should go to tenants, any loss being borne by State (M. Finucane), III., 16141.
    - Percentage of Revenue left to spend (H. Doran), I., 1878.
    - Process could not go on at prices now paid for Estates (M. Finucane), III., 16091, 16119-20, 16124, 16128, 16138, 16143.
      - Dillon Estate Instance (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 800-3, 805, 809.
    - Rent collected averaged 5 per cent. on cost price, Reduction often pressed for but seldom given (H. Doran), I., 1879-84.
      - Dillon Estate, reduction given, but tenants made to pay a substantial sum in discharge of arrears and a full year's rent before abatement was agreed to (H. Doran), I., 1885.
      - Reduction should be immediately made to tenants not benefiting by improvements (A. M'Namara), IX., 49753, 49755-71.
    - Tenants got entire benefit (H. Doran), I., 3223-5.
  - Memorandum, III., App. VII., p. 316.
  - Money obtained out of premiums on land stock and used for improvements—Money was public property, and therefore different from that taken out of tenants' pockets (M. Finucane), III., 16139.
  - Powers of Estates Commissioners to retain Estates—Reasons why Commisioners had not exercised their power (M. F. Finucane), III., 16143.
  - Tenants content to wait for transfer, question of (J. O'Malley), IX., 47759-69; (F. Scanlan), IX., 47952-8008; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49478-82.
  - Time during which Estates should remain in hands—
    - Five years allowed by Act of 1903—Witness would have preferred eight (G. Wyndham), V., 22816-7.
    - Interval between purchase and re-sale should be as short as possible (H. Doran), I., 3221-2.
    - Limitation desirable, otherwise system was good (J Gallagher), IX., 48413-9.
    - More than five years, ten perhaps required in worst cases (G. Wyndham), V., 22871.
    - No time specified by the Act, it was a mere question of expediency (M. Finucane), III., 16144.
    - Two years' sufficient (P. M'Dermott), VI., 30234-5, 30238; (F. Scanlan), IX., 47972-9, 47985.

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- Simultaneous purchase of estates in order to carry out broader and more economic and scientific improvements on estates, *see* Purchase of Land.
- Tenant Purchaser, Improvements by—
  - Amount of work done by tenants on estates purchased by Estates Commissioners (M. Finucane), III., 16164.
  - Loans by the State for improvement purposes—
    - Statistics showing that annuity *plus* improvements would be less than existing rent (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40221-38.
    - Supervision of expenditure of loan (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40230.
  - Ownership, effect of, *see* Ownership.
- Zone System, abolition of with a view to inspection and improvement of holdings, *see* Zone System.
- *See also* names of Estates, etc., and *for* particular improvements *see* titles Drainage, Fencing, etc.

IMPROVEMENTS—TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS.

- Compensation for Disturbance given by Act of 1870 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16356.
- Encouragement by Act of 1881 (H. Doran), I., 2577-8.
- Everyone living on a farm should do some draining, manuring, and liming (W. Montgomery), II., 8129.
- Landlord's Interest, Effect on (Sir J. Barton), V., 22615-8.
- Local Taxation, effect on housing improvements, *see* local taxation.
- Meaning of "Improvements" in Ireland (W. F. Bailey), III., 16356, 16378.
- Presumption of Law contrary to fact, tenants required to prove that improvements were theirs (M. Finucane), III., 16188-9.
  - Contradiction—All presumption on tenant's side, with certain exceptions (W. H. Boyd), V., 25286-91, 25295.
  - Instance to the Contrary (W. H. Boyd), V., 25189, 25285, 25292-4, 25296-302.
- Price, effect on—Price demanded by landlords included improvements confiscated before 1881 (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50153.
- Reclamation by the family—Economic, advantage, etc.—(Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48156-63.
- Reluctance of Occupiers to put Capital into the land (W. H. Boyd), V., 22970-3, 22978, 22981.
  - Accumulation of Capital in Post Office and Joint Stock Banks, Evidence of Reluctance—Witness made no such suggestion (W. H. Boyd), V., 23027.
  - Contributing cause of Congestion in the sense of poverty (W. H. Boyd), V., 22974-5.
  - Ignorance, Reluctance largely due to (W. H. Boyd), V., 22982-4, 23043.
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  - Raised before 1881, but not since (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50143-51, 50161-2.
  - *Refer also* to title Fair Rents.
- Value of much bad land almost entirely due to work done on it by occupier (W. F. Bailey), III., 16330-2, 16348-50; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43160.

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- Congested Estates bought *in globo* as a rule—Estates Commissioners stood in relation of landlord to tenant when an estate was bought *in globo* (J. O'Connor), III., 13222A-3.
- Interest paid to landlord—Where estates were sold *in globo* landlord was sure of getting his interest whether Estates Commissioners recovered it from tenants or not (W. H. Stuart), III., 17622.

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- Fishing not so good as formerly (C. Craig), II., 6782.
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INCOME TAX.
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- *See* title Circumstances and Resources, *also* Family Budgets.

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- Fair Rent System, *see* that title.

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  - Country regarded as dependent on—Industrial basis also required (D. Bingham), IX., 48370; (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49928-38.
  - Stability of industries as means of livelihood compared with ordinary Agriculture (J. Marron), II., 10058-62; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16760-1.
  - Supply of labour for—Effect of industries, Question of (J. Sharkey), X., 59090-5.
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- Authority for Establishment of Industries—
  - Congested Districts Board—
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    - Transfer of Functions to Department of Agriculture not discussed formally, although mentioned at time of transfer of agricultural work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4513-6.
  - County Council—
    - Local knowledge greater than that of Congested Districts Board or Department, Power to give Grants in aid at less expense (J. Dunleavy), II., 10790-2.
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  - Apathy in Ireland due to knowledge that English Government or English manufacturers would cut down any profitable trade in Ireland (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42294-7.
  - Congested Districts Board, capital outlay rendered matter too large a problem for—Amount of capital outlay per work in various industries (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19457.
  - Failure in the past caused persons with capital to refrain from starting industries (M. O'Neill), VI., 28741, 28745.
  - Government must lay an industrial foundation before people would invest (J. Morrin), IX., 51677.
  - Granite and Marble Quarries, *see* that title.
  - Industries were crippled if started without sufficient capital (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19458.
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  - Furniture, Rent, Fire, Light, etc., provided by the Board (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19193.
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  - Celbridge, instance (W. M'Mahon), VIII., 42291-3.
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  - Extent to which development of Industries could be expected to relieve Congestion (W. F. Bailey), III., 16710, 16805.
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- Development of Industries—
  - All handicrafts or home industries could be developed if they were fostered (J. Marron), 10065.
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  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Capital.
- Difficulties—Hindrances to Industrial Progress—
  - Apathy on part of people and large percentage of illiterates, difficulty of (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19372.
  - Competition with old-established places, No advertisement, Imposition of other people turning out laces, etc., as Irish, which were not Irish (J. Marron), II., 10065.
  - Emigration of workers when trained (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19372.
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  - Readiness to follow requirements of market depended on a higher standard of education and early instruction in drawing (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19372.
  - Remote Districts—Difficulties of providing employment in districts such as Belmullet (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19251.
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    - Girls in district mentioned now making dresses which were worn in streets of Paris (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19269-70.

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- Difficulties, etc.—*continued.*
  - Unpunctuality and irregular attendance one of the greatest difficulties—Insisting upon steady attendance at school by Local Authorities proposed (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19372.
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    - Home industries a necessity if emigration was to be stopped (Rev. M. Kane), VI., 34872.
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    - Leitrim, South—Promotion of cottage industries advocated (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33873-5.
    - Only remedy for decrease in population (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45116-7, 44979.
  - Industries preferable to emigration if they would enable people to live in decent comfort (M. Finucane), III., 15396.
  - Time required before industries could be in a condition to replace emigration (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45116.
- Expenditure per annum on Industries Department of Board (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19535.
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  - Lancashire Girls unfitted for household work—Danger existed also in Ireland (G. Fletcher), IV., 21249, 21251-2.
  - Large factories recently established and prospering, instances of (W. F. Bailey), III., 17121-4.
  - Number of Working Days of Factory Operatives in Ireland fewer than in Great Britain owing to holidays.
    - Readjustment agreed to by ecclesiastical authorities in Belgium was arranged also in Ireland for Mountcharles Quarries, Creameries (H. Plunkett), III., 18187-8.
      - Where economic status of industry required it a similar arrangement was or would be made in Ireland (H. Plunkett), III., 18189-91.
    - Two holidays per week of Jewish Community did not tell against its progress and success (H. Plunkett), III., 18192.
  - Opinion against—Breaking up of home life, &c. (Rev. Precentor Townsend), VIII., 46664.
  - Raw material difficulty (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 32017.
  - Small country factories, establishment as substitute for home work proposed—Better physique of workers, etc. (T. Swan), II., 5941.
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- Foreign Countries, Promotion of Industries in—
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  - Faroe Islands—Witness had not much knowledge of conditions (H. Plunkett), III., 18157.
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  - Congested Districts Board had never had the means to encourage industrial enterprise after the earliest times (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60183-4.
  - County rate levied for Agricultural and Technical Instruction—Application by Congested Districts Board to promotion of industries proposed (J. O'Hare), VII., 35424-6.
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    - Revival of industries decayed owing to direct or indirect interference—Irresistible claim for aid out of Exchequer funds (W. L. Micks), I., 76-82; (H. Murphy), X., 55408-99, 55504-7A.
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    - *Refer* also to sub-heading Initiation and Subsidising of Industries.
- Home and Cottage Industries—
  - Artificial, might not have much permanent success (A. J. Balfour), V., 22192.
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    - Witness did not share opinion that girls would be unfitted for home life (G. Wyndham), V., 22928-9.
  - Distinction between a home industry and one which should be carried out under factory conditions, need for (G. Fletcher), 21245, 21251-2.
  - Donegal Co.—Statistics of Home Industries Societies for 1905, II., App. XII., p. 316.
  - Fine sewing and other industries, starting of, proposed as supplement to lace industry (Rev. J. Flatley), X., 52307-11, 52313.
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  - Leitrim County—Promotion of cottage industries in South Leitrim proposed, industries suggested as suitable (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33851-80.
  - Limit of usefulness reached when local market was completely supplied, for anything beyond that a small factory was necessary (G. Fletcher), IV., 21247, 21254.
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  - Rural Districts, Cottage Industries most suitable in—Factories never flourished unless the population was very dense (Canon M'Fadden), II., 8054.
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    - Cork County, VIII., App. IX., p. 379.
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    - Jealousy of Trading and Commercial sections in Great Britain of any attempt to develop resources of Ireland by a body responsible to Parliament (W. L. Micks), I., 584.
  - Avoidance of Competition with or discouragement of private enterprise, necessity for (H. Plunkett), III., 18135, 18143, 18149, 18151, 18160, 18180 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26166-9.
    - Board had power to compete, though if powers were exercised they would be withdrawn by legislation (H. Plunkett), III., 18135-6.
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    - No help to be given to extend or establish rival firms in locally-established trades (T. Swan), II., 5941.
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  - Creation of Industrial Condition without actually running an enterprise was a safe principle (H. Plunkett), III., 18175-7, 18182-3.
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- Initiation and Subsidising of Industries—*con.*
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  - Jam Industry—Withdrawal of Department's Grant, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 584-592, 594; (H. Plunkett), III., 18137-8.
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- Abolition of, was one of the special reasons for rise in price of land (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10394; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415.
- All Holdings, Inspection of, proposed (H. M'Clafferty), II., 8463; (P. Dyar), VI., 30559; (T. Moran), VI., 30897, 30902, 30918; (J. Lennon), VII., 35377; (M. (Mescal), VII., 40323; (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46155; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979.
  - Necessary preliminary to purchase (P. Meehan), VI., 28434; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41323-30, 41333; (T. Feeny), X., 57620.
- Appeal, Right of, needed—Appeal should be to an equity judge (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27110-1.
- Congested Districts Board—
  - Joint Inspection, Decrease in number (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 630-1, 635, 659-60.
    - Disadvantage of Joint Inspection trips—Considerable expense and danger of raising local hopes in connection with applications (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 634.
    - Individual members frequently made inspections (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 631-2, 635, 660, 663.
    - No difficulty in getting a fair number of members of the Board to inspect whenever there was urgent need (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 661.
    - Not so necessary as at first (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 632-4, 662.
    - Renewal of Work of Inspection, Opinion in favour of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 636.
  - Property purchased by—Inspection before purchase proposed (T. Moran), VI., 30897, 30902, 30918.
  - Relations with Land Commission, I., App. II., p. 234.
  - Secretary of Congested Districts Board, Duty of Inspection (W. L. Micks), I., 4.
- Congested Districts Board always inspected land before purchase—Estates Commissioners inspected where they bought themselves, but in case of Direct Purchase there was no inspection (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10465-8.
- Considerations affecting value—Future probabilities must be taken into account (W. F. Bailey), III., 16509-10.
- Cost of Inspection—Difference in cost entailed by methods of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners, question of (H. Doran), XI., 59536—Discussion among Commissioners, 59536, 59547.
- Delay necessitated by Inspection for value as compared with Inspection for boundaries and occupation (W. F. Bailey), V., 16494-8.
- Direct sales—Special need for inspection (P. Dyar), VI., 30559; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56609.
  - Improvident bargains, risk of (P. Rooney), VI., 32161-73; (M. Connolly), VI., 32417; (J. Carney), VII., 39026, 39033.

INSPECTION OF ESTATES—(*continued*):
- Direct sales—Special need for inspection—*con.*
  - Improvident bargains, risk of—*continued.*
    - Ratepayers interested as well as tenant in not giving too much for the land (P. Rooney), VI., 32195-6.
    - Reduction obtained by Inspection small but worth something to a poor man (P. Rooney), VI., 32174-94.
  - Instances of injustice, etc., arising from lack of inspection (M. Carter), VI., 33408-65; (Canon M'Kenna), VII., 35245.
  - Operations necessary prior to sale—Uneconomic holdings should be made economic and improvements in the way of drainage, etc., carried out (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25586.
    - Criticism of methods of Estates Commissioners, as illustrated in arrangements relating to Sandford and Cleeve Estates (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25586-91.
    - Report by Inspector to be required as soon as agreements to purchase were signed, proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25591.
  - Second term rents, desirability of seeing how they worked out compared with what an inspector would consider Fair Rents (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25586.
  - Value of land was found by Government Inspector to be below purchase price—Instances (E. Durcan), VI., 30945.
- Estates Commissioners' Inspectors were Land Commission officers (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27112-5.
- Joint inspection of Estates before purchase by Estates Commission Inspector and Congested Districts Board Inspector proposed with a view to division of work (Rev. J. Curran), X., 56391.
- Joint Inspection by Estates Commissioners' valuer and Board's valuer of Estates bought by Congested Districts Board whereas on estates bought by Commissioners there was inspection only by their own inspectors (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26890, 26904, 26914.
- Joint Inspection on behalf of Owner and Purchaser—not a fair basis of action but it might be an improvement on present plan (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27118-21.
  - Judicial Tenancies—many cases of fixing out of court without inspection (C. Phibbs), VI., 29713, 29715, 29738-40.
- Kerry Co.—Compulsion with Inspection the only remedy for exorbitant prices—details of sale of Warden Estate (J. L. Sheehan), VIII., 45214.
- Migrants or landless persons provided with farms to be at liberty to inspect them proposed (P. Rooney), VI., 32142.
- Objection to—Trouble likely to result if sale did not take place (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26886-9, 26893, 26907, 26911-2, 26999-7000; (O'Conor Don), VII., 41220, 41222-32, 41333, 41345-8.
  - Cases where there had been inspection and sale had fallen through known to witness—They were the exception because the only people who allowed inspection wanted to sell at any price (O'Conor Don), VII., 41295-9.
  - Direct and other sales took place without Inspection (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26894-9.
  - Present situation in the West not due to landlords refusing inspection (O'Conor Don), VII., 41299.
  - Untenanted land, objection equally applicable to (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27122-4.
- Security, Opinion in favour of inspection for (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415.
- Uncertainty and grave consequences to landlords, effect in preventing sales (W. F. Bailey), V., 16480-5; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24565.
  - Unpleasantness in relations betwen landlord and tenant likely to arise (W. H. Boyd), V., 24568.

INSPECTION OF ESTATES—*continued.*

- Zone System—
  - Abolition of zones with object of subjecting all holdings to inspection, *see* zone system.
  - Estate coming under Zones passed as a matter of course (W. F. Bailey), III., 16532.
    - Criticism of Statement—Witness had not found Estates Commissioners hesitate to order inspection (J. D. Crosbie), V., 25517, 25522-6.

INSURANCE:

- Boats, *see* that title.
- Live Stock, Insurance of—Type of Co-operative Society which would benefit small farmers, but could not be organised until a system of re-insurance was devised to equalise risks, several societies (R. A. Anderson), IV. 21336-46.

INTERMACERRA ISLAND:

- Compulsory purchase by Congested Districts Board advocated, and equal distribution among tenants—Value of seaweed attached to island, price per ton, etc. (P. Naughton), X., 55085-112.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD:

- Authority for Secondary Education—Constitution, etc. (G. Fletcher), IV., 21170-2.

INTIMIDATION:

- *See* Political Agitation.

INVER:

- Agricultural Bank (Canon Sweeney), II., 9745-7.
- Fishermen's Holdings, land available, etc. (P. Ward), II., 11131, 11144, 11149-52.
- Fishing Industry in Inver Bay—
  - Boats—
    - Larger boats used—formerly cost £9 or £10, present price £16 or £17 (P. Ward), II., 11094.
    - Place of shelter for—Deepening of river required, also land on which boats could be pulled up in safety (Canon Sweeney), II., 9598; (J. Campbell), II., 11625-44.
  - Distance from shore to which Fishermen went (P. Ward), II., 11089-92.
  - Earnings, Increase, etc. (P. Ward), 11087-8; (J. Campbell), II., 11654.
  - Killybegs *v.* Inver Bay as a fishing centre if the boats were larger (P. Ward), II., 11095-6.
  - Kinds of fish taken—Fishing always going on except for a part of the Spring (J. Campbell), II., 11655.
  - Nets—
    - Increase in demand for (P. Ward), II., 11078-84.
    - Shed for storing nets desired (J. Campbell), II., 11645-52A.
    - Supply of—Witness had started mainly to give the men a chance of making a livelihood, they were getting better able to supply their own nets (P. Ward), II., 11085-6.
  - Returns of fishing, 1894-1906 (P. Ward), II., 11077.
  - Salmon Fishery a failure for the last ten years—River not sufficiently protected (P. Ward), II., 11162-72.
  - "Scars," Cleaning of desired (J. Campbell), II., 11625.
  - Three times as many fishermen formerly as there were at present (J. Campbell), II., 11655.

INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL, OPENINGS IN IRELAND.

- Banking System in Ireland—Belief that it was not the same system as in England (P. Dyar), VI., 30624, 30628-9.
- Industries in Ireland—Number of people would prefer to invest in such ways, if fairly safe concerns were established (J. Morrin), IX., 51677.

INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL, OPENINGS IN IRELAND—*con-*

- Irish Government, establishment of would increase facilities (P. Dyar), VI., 30618, 30622-4, 30627-37, 30643-7.
- Private Enterprise or limited liability companies handicapped by political influences (P. Dyar), VI., 30624-8.
- Shopkeepers bought land as best investment available—If land were taken from them other facilities should be given (P. Dyar), VI., 30618-20, 30622-4.
- Scotch Exchange, Method of Appointment of Members (P Dyar), VI., 30630-6.

INVESTMENT OF PURCHASE-MONEY OF ESTATES—FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE, ETC.

- Advice to Landlords—Any landlord could consult Public Trustee and obtain estimate of probable financial result of sale (A. M'Clintock), III., 12770-1, 12773-4.
  - Heads on which Public Trustee was consulted (A. M'Clintock), III., 12864-6, 12868.
  - Improvident Sales, protection of vendors against.
    - Most vendors had not known advantages accruing to investors under Act of 1903 (A. M'Clintock), III., 13001.
    - Necessity for advice limited to Section 51 of Act of 1903 (J. A. Mullins), V., 22437.
  - Nature of previous security not considered in giving advice (A. M'Clintock), III., 12799-800.
  - No particular rate recommended—Public Trustee had to meet the views of landlords as far as possible (A. M'Clintock), III., 12882.
  - Number of vendors who had consulted Trustee (A. M'Clintock), III., 12775-6 and *note*, 12885-7.
  - Price to be asked—Question how far Public Trustee's estimate of return that could be obtained would fix price at which landlord would sell (A. M'Clintock), III., 12867-72, 12870-81, 12883-4, 13000, 13013; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22408-17, 22439-42.
    - Terms of Act of 1903—Public Trustee bound to advise landlords on financial matters (A. M'Clintock), III., 12873-5.
- Amount of work in Public Trustee's Office—Number of Estates passed through office (A. M'Clintock), III., 12899-901.
- Appointment of Public Trustee, reasons for—Question how far Trustee was needed (A. M'Clintock), III., 12999, 13048-58; (L. A. Waldron), III., 13088-95, 13106-11, 13121-6, 13128-9; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22419-26, 22430, 22435-6.
- Broker's Advice—Public Trustee invariably acted on broker's information (A. M'Clintock), III., 12822-4.
  - Court Brokers, Restriction to (A. M'Clintock), III., 12839, 12844, 12850, 12893, 12918, 12921.
    - Disadvantages of Restriction—No additional security (A. M'Clintock), III., 12855-61, 12916-7.
    - No reason to change existing practice, unembarrassed owners were free to employ their own brokers (L. A. Waldron), III., 13102-4.
  - Court Brokers under obligation to give advice—Witness had received the greatest kindness and assistance from them (A. M'Clintock), III., 13021.
  - Number of Court Brokers (A. M'Clintock), III., 12850.
  - Payment of Brokers—Vendor got broker's advice gratis through Public Trustee, brokers recouped from fees for investment (A. M'Clintock), III., 12825-40, 12842, 12844, 12851-2, 12919-20.
  - Selection of Brokers (A. M'Clintock), III., 12862-3.

Investment of Purchase-Money of Estates—Functions of Public Trustees, etc.—*continued.*

- Cases came from Land Court or Master of the Rolls—Trustee had to be appointed in every case (A. M'Clintock), III., 12768-9.
- Classes of Estates dealt with—Two kinds only in Witness's experience, Settled Estates and Estates of absolute owners (A. M'Clintock), III., 12780-4, 12923-6.
  - Absolute Owners unfettered by any obligation (A. M'Clintock), III., 12777-8; (M. Finucane), III., 15903; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52525.
    - Restriction unnecessary, they should be able to do as they pleased (J. A. Mullens), V., 22431-4, 22506.
  - Constructive Trusts—Witness had not come across anything in nature of a constructive trust (A. M'Clintock), III., 12779.
  - Settled Estates, of which proceeds could be invested only in securities answering to certain statutory definitions (A. M'Clintock), III., 12777; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51302-3; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52518-21, 52524; (Canon Macken), X., 56179.
    - Lower net income realised in case of bad estates in the West would be balanced by safety of securities invested in (M. Finucane), III., 15903.
    - Proportion of Settled Land (W. H. Boyd), V., 25034-5; (E. Browne), VII., 40072-3.
- Cost of Investment (L. A. Waldron), III., 13146.
- Cost of Public Trustee's Office—
  - Clerks, Pay of (A. M'Clintock), III., 12903.
  - Pay of Public Trustee (A. M'Clintock), III., 12902.
- Delays in completing purchase, investment of purchase money by Land Commission pending allocation—Fall in securities at time of distribution meant loss to vendor (G. Hewson), VI., 31680.
- Dublin Stock Exchange, Orders sent through (A. M'Clintock), III., 12891.
- Enlargement of Area of Investment—
  - Act of 1903, Enlargement under, *see* subheading Securities authorised by Act of 1903.
  - Desirable (A. M'Clintock), III., 13012.
  - Not necessary, better to stick to Trustee investments (J. A. Mullens), V., 22426-8.
  - Trustee Investments, Enlargement of range of very difficult, almost impossible (J. A. Mullens), V., 22404A-6.
- Fees—No fees charged by Public Trustee (A. M'Clintock), III., 12772.
- Industries, establishment of—Opening for investment by landlords (P. Rooney), VI., 32215-7.
- Investments most in demand—
  - Consols—Reasons why Consols were preferred to Colonial Stock (J. A. Mullens), V., 22377-9.
  - Government of India Securities—Public Trustee held only one India Stock (A. M'Clintock), III., 12889, 12961-2.
  - Irish Securities (L. A. Waldron), III., 3082.
  - Railways (A. M'Clintock), III., 12888, 12959-60.
- Public Trustee never parted with money till he got the scrip, nor with scrip till he got the money (A. M'Clintock), III., 12860.
- Rate of Interest obtainable—
  - Act of 1903, Average return from Investments under (A. M'Clintock), III., 12934-6, 12956-7, 13032; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22338-9, 22346-7, 22356, 22359, 22363.
    - Amount of Stock available for investment, question as to effect on rate (J. A. Mullens), V., 22362.
    - Method by which average was made up (A. M'Clintock), III., 12994-7.
  - All investments under Trustee Acts previous to Act of 1903, percentage on (A. M'Clintock), III., 12789, 12813-5, 12929, 13030.
    - Some investments made by witness himself, Stock transferred to him in other cases (A. M'Clintock), III., 12816-9.

Investment of Purchase-Money of Estates—Functions of Public Trustees, etc.—*continued.*

- Rate of Interest obtainable—*continued.*
  - All investments under Trustees Acts, etc.—*con.*
    - All Trust Investments held by Witness, including Consols, Average rate on (A. M'Clintock), III., 12785-8, 13028-9.
    - Transactions previous to Act of 1903—Stock was handed over to witness; he did not know when it was purchased (A. M'Clintock), III., 12930-2.
  - All Trust Investments purchased by witness, Average rate on (A. M'Clintock), III., 12786-8, 12820, 12928, 12965, 13036.
    - Investments made by witness himself (A. M'Clintock), III., 12821.
  - Average which a vendor might expect to get.
    - Average on ten estates held by witness, £3 10*s.* 9½*d.* (A. M'Clintock), III., 12948-52, 12956, 13037.
      - Difference between this average and that on all Trusts held by witness—Accounted for by enlargement of discretionary power under Act of 1903 (A. M'Clintock), III., 12953-4.
      - Estates taken haphazard out of total of about seventeen (A. M'Clintock), III., 13038-43.
    - Highest class of Securities, Rates on (L. A. Waldron), III., 13081-5.
    - Trustee Securities, Rate on (A. M'Clintock), III., 13074-6.
  - Compulsory powers of purchase, by reducing power of mortgaging land in Ireland, would reduce rate (W. H. Boyd), V., 25111.
  - Debenture Stock of Industrials, Permission to invest in might raise rate (A. M'Clintock), III., 12810, 12947.
    - Comparison of Security with that of Irish Land (A. M'Clintock), III., 12811.
    - Legislation required (A. M'Clintock), III., 12812, 12946.
  - Decrease in (R. Crawford), IX., 50809-12.
  - Effect of throwing very large sum on the market, question of (A. M'Clintock), III., 12806, 13007-9; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22471-5.
    - Amounts of Land Stock hitherto issued yearly had not appreciably affected the money market, but £5,000,000 would always be a more reasonable amount to put on market than £10,000,000 (L. A. Waldron), III., 13099-101, 13139-41; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22443, 22461, 22464-5, 22471.
    - Counterbalancing effect in issue of Stock by the Government, question of (L. A. Waldron), III., 13100-1.
  - English Railways, Interest obtainable on railways fulfilling conditions laid down by Act of 1903 (A. M'Clintock), III., 12987-90; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22505.
  - Extension of interest under the Act of 1903 represented by the difference between £3 11*s.* 11*d.* and £3 6*s.* 6*d.* (A. M'Clintock), III., 13033-5.
  - Financial knowledge of landlord and his friends, importance of (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 44996.
  - Future prospects—
    - Continuance of depression in first-class Securities anticipated, but it would be very rash to base any land purchase policy on assumption that existing conditions were likely to continue (J. A. Mullens), V., 22497-504.
    - Impossible to say whether present rate would continue (A. M'Clintock), III., 13026-7.
  - Improvement since 1903—Slight improvement, more favourable facilities for good investments (A. M'Clintock), III., 12804, 12991, 13025; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22496; (Canon Macken), X., 56178.

INVESTMENT OF PURCHASE-MONEY OF ESTATES—FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC TRUSTEES, ETC.—*continued.*

Rate of Interest obtainable—*continued.*

Improvement since 1903, etc.—*continued.*

Increase in Securities available, Effect of—Interest obtainable on South African War Debt, Colonial and Corporation Stocks, etc. (J. A. Mullens), V., 22481-92.

Stocks had fallen slightly, thereby increasing rate of interest (L. A. Waldron), III., 13097.

First-class securities at present time about the lowest on record (J. A. Mullens), V., 22385-7.

Russian War, depreciation of first-class securities in 1904 due to (J. A. Mullens), V., 22381-3.

Increase which would result from freedom to invest in English or Irish Railway Ordinary Stocks (L. A. Waldron), III., 13096.

Irish Railways, Rate of Interest yielded by (A. McClintock), III., 12992-4; (L. A. Waldron), III., 13082-5.

Landlords, willingness to lower price, effect on —Bulk of Irish properties in trust, landlords therefore restricted to Trustee Securities (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 44989-99.

Large sums—More difficult to get good interest for large than for small sums (A. M'Clintock), III., 13072-3.

Limit of 3½ per cent. necessary, even in case of absolute owner, 4 per cent. hardly safe (W. H. Boyd), V., 25036-47, 25105-10.

Settled estates (E. Browne), VII., 40068-9.

Settled and Unsettled estates (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43287-93.

Smaller owners, Percentage which smaller owners, apart from settled estates, could look to obtain (L. A. Waldron), III., 13130-6.

Trustee Securities, Yield of (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 44901-2.

Highest Class of Trustee Securities, rate on (J. A. Mullens), V., 22338, 22537.

Price and yield of certain typical Trustee Securities on 1st of each month in 1891, 1903, and 1906 —Table, III., App. IA., p. 278; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22390, 22380-1, 22391, 22394-6.

Very best of second class taken (J. A. Mullens), V., 22390, 22392, 22397.

Trustee Securities other than those of the highest class (J. A. Mullens), V., 22338, 22358, 22361, 22389.

Plenty of Stock available for investment (J. A. Mullens), V., 22360.

Safety of Securities—

Colonial and Foreign Railways—Quite good security (J. A. Mullens), V., 22370.

Colonial Stocks—

Hardly to be compared with Consols (J. A. Mullens), V., 22341.

Very good (A. McClintock), III., 12796.

Consols—

Highest class, but in eight years they had fallen from 113 or 114 to 86 (A. McClintock), III., 12791.

No other security so good even at same price (J. A. Mullens), V., 22343-4.

Everything uncertain (L. A Waldron), III., 13142-3.

Railways—Ordinary Stock of the great railways preferable to a Western estate (L. A. Waldron), III., 13137-8.

Realisability as the test of safety (A. McClintock), III., 12797-8, 13077-8.

Less important than in regard to any other class of securities (L. A. Waldron), III., 13087; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22429.

INVESTMENT OF PURCHASE MONEY OF ESTATES—FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE, ETC.—*con.*

Securities authorised under Act of 1903.

Colonial and Foreign Railways, etc., allowed by the Act, but held not to be available under Court of Appeal decision in Blacker-Douglass case (A. McClintock), III., 13010.

Canadian Pacific not trustee stock, because railway was not registered in England—Court of Appeal had decided that railway company registered in England was an English Company (A. McClintock), III., 12801-3, 12940, 12978-9.

Interest on Debentures, Excellence of Security, etc.—Comparison with other Colonials (A. McClintock), III., 12980-6.

Colonial Stock not allowed, unless guaranteed absolutely by Imperial Government (J. A. Mullens), V., 22367-9.

Crown Colony Stock included, but that was not absolutely guaranteed (J. A. Mullens), V., 22345-6.

Counsel advised witness that in face of decision he could do nothing (A. McClintock), III., 13016-8.

Enlarged powers under Act rendered practically a dead letter by Court of Appeal decision (L. A. Waldron), III., 13088-95.

Fact that no appeal was made meant that it was considered that judgment would be upheld (L. A. Waldron), III., 13144.

First-class Securities (A. McClintock), III., 13011.

Foreign Railways not allowed as trustee securities (J. A. Mullens), V., 22365-6.

Information before the Court, question as to (A. McClintock), III., 13015, 13019-20.

Intention of Parliament should not be frustrated by a judicial decision (L. A. Waldron), III., 13146.

Letter from Mr. M. V. Blacker-Douglass to Mr. L. A. Waldron, III., App. I.B, p. 279.

Realisation, Doubt as to possibility of—Reason given by Court for decision in regard to Buenos Ayres Railways (A. McClintock), III., 13015.

San Paulo and Buenos Ayres Great Southern within the Act, but witness was practically debarred from making use of them (A. McClintock), III., 12941-5.

Colonial Inscribed Stocks were Trustee Stocks under Colonial Stocks Act of 1900 (A. McClintock), III., 12937-8, 12974-6.—Available also under Act of 1903, 12977.

Enlargement of field of Investment (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 44997-9; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52515.

Mortgagees, Requirements of, not considered (A. McClintock), III., 12967-73.

Only real extension was admission of light railways under Mr. Balfour's Act (L. A. Waldron), III., 13090, 13092.

Four per cent. securities—There were some, but they were most difficult to get (A. M'Clintock), III., 13062-71; (Captain Darley, VI., 33403; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51301.

Higher rate of interest than 3¼ per cent. (T. W. Russell), IX., 51997.

Land Commission, List of Securities held by on 31st March, 1906, in respect of investment under Act of 1903, III. App. II., pp. 280-1.

INVESTMENT OF PURCHASE MONEY OF ESTATES—FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE, ETC.—*con.*
Securities authorised, etc.—*continued.*
Not all safe—Impossible to say that money invested in ordinary shares of a railway company would be realisable at an uncertain date (A. McClintock), III., 12808-9, 13051-8; (J. A. Mullens), V., 22346, 22348.
Good enough for ordinary investors, but not desirable for trustees (J. A. Mullens), V., 22399-400.
Some should be eliminated (J. A. Mullens), V., 22418-9, 22424.
Veto of Public Trustee was a sufficient safeguard (J. A. Mullens), V., 22398, 22402-3.
Number of Applications for permission to invest granted, Amount invested with advice of Public Trustee (J. McClintock), III., 13059-60, and *note.*
Out-of-the-way Irish Securities, *e.g.*, Baronial Guaranteed Railway Stocks (J. A. Mullens), V., 22350-1, 22373-4.
Amount available very small (J. A. Mullens), V., 22351-5, 22375-6.
Trustees would be justified in going outside Trustee Act only with approval of Public Trustee (J. A. Mullens), V., 22371-3.
Sole Trustee, Appointment of Public Trustee as—Public Trustee could be appointed solely or jointly by the Court (A. McClintock), III., 12908-9.

Stock held by Public Trustee—
All stock held, Aggregate of (A. M'Clintock) III., 12895, 12912, 13044-5.
All settled estates (A. M'Clintock), III., 13047.
Represented proportion of property of which witness had been appointed Trustee by the Court (A. M'Clintock), III., 12911, 12914.
Sum stated included only investments of which witness actually held the scrip (A. M'Clintock), III., 13047.
Consols, Amount vested in, by Public Trustee—Amount handed over to Trustee by Land Commission (A. M'Clintock), III., 12790, *note.*
Investments prior to Act of 1903, Aggregate of Stock arising from (A. M'Clintock), III., 12897.
Investments under Act of 1903, Aggregate of stock arising from (A. M'Clintock), III., 12898.
Stock bought from proceeds of sale remained in possession of Trustee, who paid out interest to beneficiary (A. M'Clintock), III., 12905-7.
Stock yielding £3 6*s.* 6*d.*, Aggregate of (A. M'Clintock), III., 12894.
Stock yielding £3 10*s.* 6*d.*, Aggregate of (A. M'Clintock), III., 12896.
Trustee Securities available—
Ample securities available (J. A. Mullens), V., 22407, 22479.
Sources of increase (J. A. Mullens), V., 22479-80.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY:
Department of Agriculture, association with—County Councils' attempts to terminate association (Rev. J. G. Digges), VI., 34514.
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Attitude of Congests—
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MIGRATION—*continued.*
Attitude of Congests—*continued.*
Old people would not go, younger people might be induced to migrate (J. M‘Garvey), II., 8880-1, 8884; (John Gallagher), II., 9021-8; (A. O'Donnell), II., 9050-8; (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9169-71, 9217-9; (P. Rooney), VI., 32142; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40180.
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Reluctance to migrate (W. L. Micks), I., 326-31; (H. Irvine), II., 8241-2, 8247-54; (D. Pearson), II., 10883, 10888; (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550; (G. Balfour), V., 22262A, 22264; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25636, 25738; (A. Crichton), V., 27316-7; (G. Hewson), VI., 31540-7; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33903; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34156-61; (Rev. R. J. Murphy), VII., 35473, 35585, 35588-90; (Rev. E. V. M‘Gowan), VII., 36102, 36117-8; (Rev. F. Laverty), VII., 36313; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40180; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41169, 41509-15, 41888; (R. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43759, 43765, 43783-5; (Rev. H. Kerin), VIII., 43928; (P. Sweeney), IX., 49077-8; (P. O'Malley), X., 52194; (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58375.
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One County to another—People would hardly go, though with great inducement they might go from one part of the same county to another (J. Hamilton), II., 10692-4.
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Public responsibility at an end if people refused to avail themselves of opportunity offered (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33923-4.
Real obstacle to migration (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26799.
Reasons assigned by poor people (P. Dyar), VI., 30512-12A.
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Some might be induced to go, but they would have to see what they were getting, and the fishing population would not move (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48185-6.
Unwillingness to remove to any distance (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26308-9; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29165; (Rev. M. Eagleton), X., 56349.
Willing for their neighbours to migrate, but people did not want to go themselves (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58380-1.
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Poorer a man was the harder it was to get him to move (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4070-3.

MIGRATION—*continued.*
Attitude of Congests—*continued.*
Small Farmers—*continued.*
Reluctant to move because he was afraid to face responsibilities of a larger holding, etc. (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50467.
Success of scheme depended on migration (W. F. Bailey), III., 16805.
Willingness to move (Canon M'Fadden), II., 7924-7, 7952; (J. P. Dunnion), II., 11394-7; (P. Dyar), VI., 30512-12A; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31349-51; (P. Reynolds), 32300; (T. F. Smyth), 33904; (Rev. J. Halpin), 40578-9; (D. Jordan), IX., 50563, 50584, 50592; (Rev. B. M'Andrew), X., 53092; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54144-6, 54188; (P. Curran), X., 54756, 54769; (P. Naughton), X., 54963-5; (H. Murphy), 55395.
Balfe Estate instance—No guide as to what would take place under less favourable conditions (W. Walpole), X., 58778A.
Glad to get the offer (W. Heron), II., 11815, 11829-31; (Rev. J. J. Maguire), VII., 41037; (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54349-50.
Groups or families, many would migrate if taken in groups or families and planted in same neighbourhood (R. MacCallion), II., 12715-6; (M. Roddy), VI., 34795; (P. O'Hare), VII., 34973-4, 35013-7; (E. Roycroft), VIII., 46009, 46011-3; (P. Finn), IX., 51528-32; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51634; (C. O'Connor), X., 53694-5; (H. A. Robinson), X., 54748-9; (P. Curran), X., 54770-1; (J. H. Joyce), X., 55127.
Very good bargain needed to attract tenant-occupiers if grass lands were broken up on a large scale (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41349.
Willing, if distance were small and inducements sufficient (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7816-9; (P. Dyar), VI., 30512A; (L. Armstrong), VI., 30679; (G. Hewson), VI., 31570; (H. Gallagher), VI., 32427-9, 32447; (M. Roddy), 34785-94; (M. Considine), VII., 39614-21; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40180-1; (P. O'Brien), VIII., 46177-8; (T. Connell), IX., 50515-20; (M. M'Loughlin), IX., 50698, 50709; (P. Finn), IX., 51524-5; (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53332-3; (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58157; (H. Doran), XI., 59585-91.
Willingness of families to emigrate, proof that they would migrate (J. Ward), II., 9417-24.
Starvation threatened at home at the time of the assisted Emigration and there were friends in America, while the people a few miles away were strangers (W. L. Micks), I., 352-6.
Willingness to go to any part of Ireland provided sufficient inducements were given (M. Harkin), II., 8386-96; (P. Doherty), II., 9130-6; (J. Ward), II., 9402-416, 9423-5, 9435-6; (J. P. Dunnion), II., 11374-83; (J. M'Naw), II., 11771-5; (J. M'Carron), II., 12166-70; (N. Noone), II., 12422-3; (J. Grant), II., 12647; (M. Finucane), III., 15389-99, 15857-9, 15972, 15979, 15982-4; (H. Brennan), VI., 27586-9; (P. Meehan), VI., 28447-60, 28463-4; (P. Rooney), VII., 32140, 32148-50; (P. Reynolds), VI., 32324-6; (Rev. J. J. Maguire), VII., 41037; (M. Fleming), VIII., 43503-5; (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44725-7, 44735-6.
Ashley Estate Instance (M. Finucane), III., 15859.

MIGRATION—*continued.*
Authority to deal with Migration—
Authority must be in close touch with popular sentiment (H. Doran), I., 2107-9.
Irish National Authority dealing with the matter—People would be more likely to listen to what they said (W. L. Micks), I., 328.
Board should be empowered to acquire all suitable grass land within 10 or 12 miles of scheduled areas, giving small holders immediate access to them for grazing, with option of migration on reasonable terms (H. Doran), I., 3122, 3125.
Class of Tenants migrated by Board—
Act of 1903 had enabled Board to move class of migrant they had always wanted to move (H. Doran), I., 3331, 3337-8.
Four migrants mentioned in witness's memorandum were the largest, in fact the only large ones—if Board had more land there would be more large migrants (H. Doran), I., 3341-3.
Practically pauper landlords (H. Doran), I., 2939, 2961, 3122.
Larger holders, Migration of desirable, so far Board had not been successful in inducing them to move (H. Doran), I., 2939, 2961-2.
Port Royal Estate Instances (H. Doran), I., 3010-1.
Range of selection extremely limited by reluctance of Congests to migrate (H. Doran), I., 2188, 3103.
Selected from Board's own estates—Board advised but did not urge migration (H. Doran), I., 2208, 2211.
Classification of Congested Districts according to possibilities of relief by Migration (H. Doran), I., 2053, 2200—Map, I., App. IV., to face p. 332.
Compulsion, question of—
Existing powers of Congested Districts Board—Powers existed, but were so cumbersome as to be unworkable (J. O'Connor), III., 13565-7, 13570-2, 13574-5, 13579-82.
Compensation of tenants compulsorily migrated (J. O'Connor), III., 13568-9, 13573.
Authority to fix compensation—County Court Judge (J. O'Connor), III., 13578.
Opinion against Compulsory Migration—Impossible and undesirable (M. Finucane), III., 15387, 15391-2, 15857-9; (W. F. Bailey), III., 17061A; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26305-7; (Lord Castletown), V., 26634.
Powers needed to deal with obstructive persons (J. O'Connor), III., 13574-7—Board should have powers (W. F. Bailey), III., 16805, 17027; (T. Moclair), IX., 49953-4.
Cost—
Amount expended by Congested Districts Board (F. S. Wrench), III., 15272.
Amount expended by Estates Commissioners in grants and advances—Amount represented material and larger work, such as drainage, etc. (W. F. Bailey), III., 17057, 17059-60.
Loss in any case, it would have to be defrayed out of Land Commission vote (W. H. Stuart), III., 17725.
Loss quoted was not loss sustained by Commission (W. H. Stuart), III., 17710.
Source from which cost was met (W. H. Stuart), III., 17712.
Reserve Fund could not be recouped (W. H Stuart), III., 17723.
Chargeable not only against benefits conferred on migrants, but also on benefit to persons whose holdings were enlarged from vacated land (H. Doran), I., 3316.
Considerable outlay required in very poor districts (D. O'Hara), I., 4216.
Cost not less than £100 per family (H. Doran), XI., 59617.

- Migration—*continued.*
  - Cost—*continued.*
    - Cost per family—*continued.*
      - Not less than £500 (A. J. Balfour), V., 22083.
        - Less on Ffrench estate, etc., owing partly to use of British credit (A. J. Balfour), V., 22122-4, 22147-8.
    - Cost per individual—
      - £100 for every tenant migrated by Board or Estates Commissioners (P. Nicholson), VI., 30435.
      - £200, cost estimated at (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747.
      - Board's Migrants, average cost of (H. Doran), I., 3310.
      - Estates Commissioners' Migrants (W. H. Stuart), III., 17704, 17711, 17721-2, 17731.
        - Comparison with cost of Migration by Congested Districts Board (W. H. Stuart), III., 17730, 17733-4.
      - Variable—Figures difficult to obtain, amount and value of labour given by tenant very difficult to measure (W. F Bailey), III., 17056, 17058.
    - Distance to which tenant was moved, effect of (W. H. Stuart), III., 17716-8, 17732, 17739-43; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55823-5; (H. Doran), XI., 59606-19.
    - Emigration, Comparison with (A. J. Balfour), V., 22083; (W. H. Boyd), V., 22935.
    - Enlargement, Comparison with (A. J. Balfour), V., 22112.
    - Excessive (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44149; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747.
      - Congested Districts Board, Cost of operations carried out by—witness could not maintain his opinion that cost would be prohibitive (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44750-5.
      - Objection to migration merely on account of Cost (A. J. Balfour), V., 22142, 22144-5.
      - Wiser to spend money on Reclamation works (A. Crichton), V., 27316.
    - Good investment at £150 compared with loss from emigration (H. Doran), I., 3322.
    - Houses and Buildings required, Cost dependent on (A. J. Balfour), V., 22120.
    - Increase in cost anticipated (H. Doran), I., 3316; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17704.
    - Increase since March, 1905 (H. Doran), I., 3316.
    - Re-arrangement, Comparison with (H. Doran), I., 3317; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17718-20.
      - Clare Island instance (H. Doran), I., 3320-2.
      - *Refer also* to Improvements—Loss, and for details of Cost *see* titles Equipment of new holdings and Houses and Buildings.
  - County Council taking over work of Congested Districts Board and Department—Question of how migration would be managed (J. Dunleavy), II., 10780, 10813-7.
  - Cultivation, etc., on new holding—
    - Letting out land in con-acre, etc. (P. Nicholson), VI., 30353, 30382.
      - Advances offered by Board not often availed of, migrants preferred to let part of new holding (H. Doran), I., 3026-30.
      - Accommodation rent paid, it did not follow that whole holding was worth same acreable rent (H. Doran), I., 3031.
      - *See also* sub-heading Tiding over first few years.
    - Same crops grown as on new holding, but larger area cultivated (H. Doran), I., 3024-5; (P. O'Malley), X., 52210-2.
    - Tillage, encouragement of, question of compulsion—
      - Advantage of migration (W. L. Micks), I., 221-3.

- Migration—*continued.*
  - Cultivation, etc., on new holding—*continued.*
    - Tillage, question of—*continued.*
      - Clause in agreement that land should be worked in a certain proportion proposed (D. Pearson), II., 10914-5; (D. Beirne), X., 59377.
      - Compulsion should be applied—Legislation proposed (M. Harkin), II., 8424-30; (J. G. Quilty), VI., 28477.
      - Compulsion unnecessary (J. Sharkey), X., 59061-70.
  - Development of every locality to its greatest extent before moving people into a different locality proposed (Canon M'Fadden), II., 7932, 7951.
  - Difficulties—
    - Enormous difficulties during witness's Chief Secretaryship (G. Balfour), V., 2226A.
    - *See also* sub-headings Attitude of Congests, Cost, Local Opposition, etc.
  - Distance of new holding from old—
    - Greatest distance from which Board had migrated a man, Circumstances of case (H. Doran), I., 2974-86, 3004-5.
    - Migrant not necessarily brought from a different estate or different part of the country (W. H. Stuart), III., 17682-3.
    - Short distance preferable (Rev. T. Hosty), X., 54930-2; (Rev. J. Craddock), X., 55659.
      - If there were no land near migrants must go further (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40577-8.
  - Emigration *v.* Migration—
    - Cost—Much cheaper to emigrate than to migrate (A. J. Balfour), V., 22083.
    - Families willing to emigrate should be given the alternative (C. Phibbs), VI., 29960-1, 29964-74.
    - Sligo small farmers' views (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29336.
    - Migration preferable—Ireland had not enough population (H. Doran), II., 3057-60; (J. R. O'Brien), III., 1605B, 1616; (H. Doran), XI., 59781.
  - Enlargement of Holdings—
    - Migration, as a rule, a necessary preliminary (H. Doran), I., 3104, 3318, 3322; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17672, 17695; (D. Jordan), IX., 50591-2; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54274.
    - Preferable to migration (H. Doran), II., 2939, 3326-9; (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9219; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22112; (F. Scanlan), IX., 47838.
  - Estates Commissioners' Operations—Powers of Commissioners, etc. (W. H. Stuart), III., 17704; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41303-7.
    - Estates Commissioners to have same powers with regard to migration as the Congested Districts Board, proposed (J. A. Glynn), X., 55947-9, 55952-3.
    - Extent of work done, methods pursued (F. S. Wrench), III., 15144, 15147, 15149; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55694-6.
    - Wrench's, Mr., statement of Views, III., App. VIA., p. 303.
  - Extension of Migration Department of Board suggested—Evidence before Commission on Distress for Want of Employment, 1896 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26142, 26190-5.
  - Extent of Board's migration work compared with other work (H. Doran), XI., 59567.
  - Failure—Migrants, as a rule, doing very badly (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41578.
  - Fines charged to Migrants—
    - Ability of the people to pay (A. Crichton), V., 27308, 27315, 27327.
    - Advanced by Shopkeepers in many cases (H. Doran), I., 3055.
    - Advantage of taking fines, selection of suitable migrants would be facilitated, feeling of inequality lessened, etc. (A. Crichton), V., 27306-10, 27315.
    - Amount of Fine—One-tenth of total received by Landlord proposed (A. Crichton), V., 27311-3.

MIGRATION—*continued.*

- Fines charged to Migrants—*continued.*
  - Charge made in comparatively few cases and that was before Act of 1903 (H. Doran), I., 3056.
  - Congested Districts Board, Practice of—Board bought landlords' and tenants' interest, and based annuity on purchase money, which represented both interests (Chairman), V., 27241-3.
    - Better to collect a small amount in hard cash, which would be taken in reduction of amount of purchase money (A. Crichton), V., 27244-50.
    - More definite rules needed (A. Crichton), V., 27305.
    - Tenant did not come into transaction at all till Board got possession of land, and landlord was not affected by payment of fine nor by its amount (A. Crichton), V., 27251-3.
  - Estates Commissioners should be empowered to take fines (A. Crichton), V., 27236-7, 27304, 27327.
  - Gombeen men, danger that tenants would go to—Co-operative banks would get over that difficulty (A. Crichton), V., 27314.
  - Loans for purchase of tenants' interest (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1662.
- Groups of families, migration by, Opinion in favour of (W. L. Micks), I., 332, 339, (W. F. Bailey), III., 17027-8; (H. Plunkett), IV., 21550; (Lord Castletown), V., 26667; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31351; (P. O'Hare), VII., 34975-84, 35003; (Canon O'Riordan), VIII., 43545, 43552; (P. Finn), IX., 51531; (H. A. Robinson), X., 54748-9; (Rev. J. Craddock), X., 55659; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56461, 56616.
  - Board had always met wishes of intending migrants in this matter (H. Doran), I., 2195-6, 2206-7.
  - Group system not advocated to exclusion of migration of large occupiers—Both methods should operate (W. F. Bailey), III., 17028.
  - Local opposition, difficulty would be met, neighbours could protect one another (P. O'Malley), X., 52195-9.
  - Objection that many persons would be moved who were very unsuitable for it (W. L. Micks), I., 340-1.
  - Opinion among people themselves (Lord Castletown), V., 26623.
  - Wholesale migration from one district would be inadvisable—Migrants should be acquaintances, not necessarily neighbours (P. O'Malley), X., 52227-32.
- Houses for migrants, *see* title Houses.
- Inducements needed—
  - Capital—Sources where capital could be obtained (H. Doran), I., 3064; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29938-40.
    - America, money sent home from (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54367-75.
    - Bonus of some kind proposed (Canon Loftus), VI., 30069-70, 30072; (P. Curran), X., 54755.
    - Co-operative credit societies, establishment of in every district, proposed (M. A. Lyons), X., 54530-1.
    - Grants—Difficulties could be overcome (M. Maye), VI., 30958.
    - Loans proposed (P Rooney), VI., 32151; (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54361-6.
  - Education, capital, time, and good holdings at a fair price (H. Doran), I., 2188, 2194, 2987, 3036, 3067, 3148.
  - Education needed (H. Doran), I., 3148; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33922.
    - Education and reasonable aid to develop resources would produce a better class of migrants and put migration on a sounder footing (H. Doran), I., 3067.
    - Ignorance more than anything else kept people devoid of enterprise (H. Doran), I., 3148.

MIGRATION—*continued.*

- Inducements Needed—*continued.*
  - Knowledge of what migrant would get and what he must pay (H. Brennan), VI., 27589-99.
    - Inspection of holding by tenant before migrating, proposed (P. Finn), IX., 51533.
  - Organisation needed for co-operation in marketing produce, etc. (H. Doran), I., 3067.
- Instruction and training in agriculture and habits of industry needed — Necessary preliminary to successful migration (W. H. Boyd), V., 22935, 23297, 23300-19, 23317, 23574, 23576; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29937; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44144-5; (M. A. Lyons), X., 54513, 54515, 54513-6; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283.
  - Communal System would afford the necessary instruction (Lord Castletown), V., 26628-32.
  - Department should be represented at transfer of land, whichever improving body bought an estate, to establish schools, etc. (Canon Lyons), IX., 49412.
  - Essential to success, but should follow, not precede, migration (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56609.
  - Kerry, difficulty that land in general was better suited to pasture than to tillage (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44146-9.
  - Method in which instruction should be given—There should be some one on the spot to give advice and example (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30094-8; (P. O'Malley), X., 52213, 52231.
  - Migrant more likely to profit by instruction than stay-at-home (H. Doran), I., 3068.
  - Percentage of migrants who would have sufficient agricultural knowledge to work their new farms (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29165.
  - Time required—
    - Matter of generations, and even then success was not assured (H. Burke), X., 52037 — Contradiction (P. O'Malley), X., 52207-8.
    - Not a very long time (P. O'Malley), X., 52206-8.
    - Training could be given between a man's giving up his old holding and taking a new one (M. A. Lyons), X., 54523-4.
    - Varying in different cases (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659, 56734-6, 56805-8.
- Jealousy, difficulty owing to—Intending migrant afraid that a relative would get the farm he was leaving (Lord Castletown), V., 26667-8.
- Land suitable for Migration—
  - Good Lands, Migration of Congests to.
    - Migration should be by Colonies and migrants would require nursing for a year or two, while they were adapting themselves to changed conditions (W. F. Bailey), III., 16720.
    - Opinion in favour of, where there was a fair certainty of improving prospects of migrants (W. F. Bailey), III., 16764-6.
  - Land should be such as could be treated in the way migrants were used to (W. F. Bailey), III., 17028; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44142, 44158, 44194; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49439-43; (C. O'Connor), X., 53691-5.
  - Most suitable lands would be those nearest revised scheme of Congested Districts (W. H. Boyd), V., 22935.
  - No difficulty anticipated on account of change in nature of soil (P. Reynolds), VI., 32319-24.
- Landlords, Attitude of—
  - Description of migration scheme carried out by witness's father, under which tenants drew lots as to which were to move (R. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43751, 43772.

MIGRATION—*continued.*
- Landlord, Attitude of—*continued.*
  - Difficulty of Estates Commissioners in migrating tenants without objectionable interference in relations between landlord and tenant (M. Finucane), III., 15585-98.
    - Co-operation of landlords more probable than objection (G. Hewson), VI., 31734-7.
    - Migrating tenant might be allowed to sell interest to adjoining tenant (G. Hewson), VI., 31737, 31764-6.
  - Impossible to carry on migration unless there were certain conditions, one being the control of the estate or area from which tenants were migrated (L. Edmonds), X., 58114.
- Language question (W. F. Bailey), III., 16751.
  - Migration of people from congested districts would spread the Irish Language (Canon Macken), X., 56280.
- Local Opposition Difficulty — Strong feeling against introduction of "strangers" into some of the untenanted areas in non-scheduled districts (H. Doran), I., 2094-6, 2118-9A, 2191; (G. Balfour), V., 22263-4; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26090; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29153-65; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31351; (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40580-1; (P. J. Kelly), X., 56655.
  - Cause and Remedy—*refer* to title Distribution, sub-heading Priority of Claims.
  - Concurrence of local public opinion essential to successful migration (H. Doran), I., 2104, 2106.
  - Extent to which migration was prevented (H. Doran), I., 3344, 3349; (M. Finucane), III., 15972-3.
    - Board had never yielded to the feeling, but up to the present they had not overcome it (H. Doran), I., 2102.
    - Law and Police should be invoked if other measures failed (M. Finucane), III., 15972, 15974-5, 15976-7.
  - Higher influence needed to change feeling, persons of public influence would be followed by bulk of people (H. Doran), I., 3159-60; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26091-2; (Lord Castletown), V., 26671-4.
    - Help obtained from local influence where feeling was in favour of Board's work (H. Doran), I., 3035.
    - Influential and representative people would assist in overcoming opposition (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47304-8.
  - Hospitality of the Irish people, as a rule—Nothing to prevent migration being used as a means of relieving congestion (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33905-8.
  - Inadvisable to force migrants on a hostile community, prejudice and selfishness should not be given way to, but considered, and leading men of district should be consulted (W. F. Bailey), III., 17133; (H. Doran), XI., 59932.
  - Influence and confidence enjoyed by the Board had been a great help in overcoming opposition (H. Doran), I., 3352-4.
  - Instances (W. L. Micks), I., 343-4; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25751, 25779-86; (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28093-105; (G. Hewson), VI., 31570-85; (Rev. J. Callanan), X., 56556-8; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57172.
  - Migrants were welcome only where there was a very limited population near lands given them (H. Doran), I., 2192-3.
  - More frequent when estates were situated in different parishes (W. H. Stuart), III., 17695.
  - National feeling in favour of migration, need for (H. Doran), I., 3061.
    - Means for creation of desired feeling (H. Doran), I., 3062-3.

MIGRATION—*continued.*
- Local Opposition, Difficulty of, etc.—*continued.*
  - Not so great as was represented (M. Finucane) III., 15979; (Canon Loftus), VI., 30065, 30069-70.
  - Objection to people from next village or parish in some cases—Ought not to be any difference between one county and another (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26093-9.
  - Public opinion was beginning to have a better appreciation of what public policy ought to be in connection with these matters (D. Jordan), IX., 50595-600.
  - Public sentiment would respond to large and generous action on part of Government (H. Doran), I., 3348, 3350.
  - Removal not a matter of certainty, Change in local opinion required (H. Doran), I., 3345-7, 3351.
  - Scotland, Extent of local opposition in (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 22041-52.
  - Strength of feeling in various localities (C. Phibbs), VI., 29937, 29941-6, 29953-8; (Canon Quin), VII., 35287; (J. Guilfoyle), VII., 39472; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44131-3; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46838, 46844; (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46877-80, 46884-99, 46915-28; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47304-8; (M. M'Loughlin), IX., 50710; (P. O'Malley), X., 52194; (R. J. D'Arcy), X., 56103; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56659; (M. Finnerty), X., 58018.
    - Athenry—No objection provided number was not too great and needs of local people were fairly satisfied (M. Finnerty), 58091-4.
    - Introduction of strangers resented even by comparatively well-to-do people (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41606-7; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44160-4.
    - Small men would object whether their holdings were economic or not (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28075-85.
  - Susceptible of being overcome (W. H. Stuart), III., 17695.
    - Bullock walks not so paying as formerly (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31352.
    - Instances (M. Finucane), III., 15859-63, 15865; (W. H. Stuart), 17672, 17675.
  - Threats resulting from Board's Posters inviting Applications from would-be migrants (H. Doran), I., 2214, 2222.
- Number of persons migrated by Congested Districts Board (H. Doran), I., 2189.
- Number of tenants migrated by Estates Commissioners, Number gone into occupation (M. Finucane), III., 15864, App. XI., p. 365.
- Opinion against migration as a theoretical remedy (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747-9.
- Opinion in favour of migration, cure for congestion, etc. (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9171; (K. J. Brennan), II., 9426-8; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23093, 23318, 23326; (P. M'Mananny), VI., 30880; (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32333, 32410; (W. Vaugh), VI., 32584, 32629-31; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619; (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40576-7; (Canon O'Riordan), VIII., 43539; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47297; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49406; (M. L. Lyons), X., 54488; (J. H. Joyce), X., 55127; (Rev. J. Craddock), X., 55659.
- Powers of Congested Districts Board—Act of 1903 gave power to resume a tenancy in connection with migration—It ought to be possible to get an advance for the purpose (G. Wyndham), I., 22873.
- Priests, attitude in regard to migration (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51634.
  - Encouragement given to migrants (Rev. M. Eagleton), X., 56350.
  - Influence used to prevent migration, alleged (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49857-903, 49909-16.
    - Contradiction (J. Morrin), IX., 51680-94; (T. Roughneen), IX., 51698-710.
    - Statement in corroboration by Mr Jordan (P. D. Kenny), IX., 51552-68.

MIGRATION—*continued.*
- Prospects of Success—Witness was anxious to put difficulties fully before the Commission, but he had every hope that things could be put right (H. Doran), I., 2995-7.
- Public Money, Distribution of, for purpose of assisting migration—Unfair treatment of Congested Districts Board alleged (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1765.
- Purchase a necessary preliminary (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 736-7.
  - Fact no doubt early recognised by Congested Districts Board (A. J. Balfour), V., 22113-7.
- Rosses, *see* that title.
- Scottish Congested Districts Board, Experience of—Sutherland Estate, &c. (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21750-82, 21792.
- Scale on which migration should be caried out, rate of procedure advisable—*see* Distribution of Land, sub-headings Postponement and Rate at which distribution should proceed.
- Selection of Migrants—
  - Board or whatever authority had to carry out the scheme, Selection should be left to—Not possible to lay down hard and fast rules (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26354-5.
  - Capacity to make use of land, thrift and industry, weight to be attached to (W. Vaugh), VI., 32579-84; (D. Kirwin), X., 55361.
  - Capital desirable (D. Kirwin), X., 55361; (J. Neary), X., 58628-30.
  - Care needed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25594-7, 25645, 26113, 26234; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44756.
  - Class of tenant migrated by Congested Districts Board, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Estates Commissioners' Methods (W. F. Bailey), III., 17077-9; (W. H. Stuart), III., 17560.
  - Farm of 300 acres purchased by witness from Lord Trimbleton—Selection of tenants by witness (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25938, 25949, 25959-60.
    - Wives expected with fortunes of £150 or £200 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25960-1, 25964-8.
  - Habits of migrant should be similar to those of new neighbours (G. Hewson), VI., 31490-538, 31737-63.
  - Larger occupiers should be induced to migrate (F. S. Wrench), III., 14644, 14683; (W. F. Bailey), III., 16799-802; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44757; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47331-5; (Rev. J. Fallon), X., 50472; (D. Jordan), X., 50601; (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53334.
    - Change of conditions would be less, and consequently chance of success would be greater (F. S. Wrench), III., 14683.
    - Choice of district should be left as far as possible to migrant—Largest tenants would get best land (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26783-5.
    - Cost of housing, etc., would be less, and land vacated would do more to enlarge adjacent holdings (M. Finucane), III., 15854; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25636-40, 25646, 25737-8; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26783; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082, 30091-2, 30105-7; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30315, 30434-5; (R. Crawford), IX., 50759-64.
    - Farm for eldest son in addition to new holding for himself, proposed (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25637.
    - Good Lands, Large occupiers might be transferred to with advantage (W. F. Bailey), III., 16717-8.
    - More likely to migrate than smaller occupiers (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 50642.

MIGRATION—*continued.*
- Selection of Migrants—*continued.*
  - Larger occupiers should be induced to migrate—*continued.*
    - More successful men would be those most likely to go—It would be a misfortune if dead level of small holdings was created (F. S. Wrench), III., 14688.
    - Most intelligent farmer rather than largest holder should be chosen (W. H. Boyd), V., 23320-2.
    - No attempt in County Sligo to migrate these men to witness's knowledge (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30104.
    - Not necessarily better farmers than the small holder, but stronger in means, as a rule (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25638-9.
    - Number of such tenants in scheduled areas (M. Finucane), III., 15855-6.
    - Occupation interest of vacated holding—The greater the interest, the less loss to the Board (H. Doran), XI., 59710, 59768-73.
    - Small tenant had found out what was offered, but large landowner had not taken the trouble to enquire into inducements (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25788.
    - Uneconomic holdings were invariably on fringe of these large farms (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082, 30091-3.
    - Willingness to move given sufficient inducements (F. S. Wrench), III., 14684; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30315, 30434-5.
  - Qualifications needed (Lord Ashtown), X., 57283, 57378.
  - Ratepayers should have a voice in the selection of migrants, as they were liable in case of failure (J. P. Hayden), X., 58305-21; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58339.
  - Scottish Congested Districts, Statutory limitations on selection, etc. (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21793-803.
  - Strong tenant should be the one encouraged to migrate, no matter where he migrated to (W. H. Stuart), III., 17704-5, 17735-8; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25598; (P. O'Malley), X., 52233-5.
    - Meaning of a "strong tenant" (W. H. Stuart), III., 17706, 17708-9.
  - Test of Capacity for Success (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25625-35, 25677-80, 26173-4.
  - Unfit person or persons for whom land could not be found (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26143, 26170-2, 26323-40.
    - Classes of (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40176-8.
    - Discretion must enter largely into the carrying out of a scheme of migration (M. Finucane), III., 15493-4, 15496.
    - Holdings should be sold to occupiers who should be helped to improve houses, etc. (M. Finucane), III., 15491.
    - Industries should be created (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26143-7.
    - No legal disqualification proposed (M. Finucane), III., 15471, 15477-9, 15483-6, 15489-90, 15495.
    - Proportion of total population of congested districts (M. Finucane), III., 15474, 15498.
    - Should be left where they were (M. Finucane), III., 15471-5, 15479-82.
  - Western Seaboard, Farmers of—
    - Fisheries might be starved if people were removed too far from coast (M. Cullinane), X., 52009-11.
    - People whose condition could be improved should not be given inducements to migrate (W. F. Bailey), III., 16780-90.
      - Distinction not geographical but economic (W. F. Bailey), III., 16796-8.
      - Option should be with the people if there was land, but there should be no persuasion (W. F. Bailey), III., 16782-7, 16795.

MIGRATION—*continued.*

- Selection of Migrants—*continued.*
  - Western Seaboard—
    - People whose condition could be improved—*continued.*
      - Recruiting could begin when inland uneconomic holders having no resources but the land and volunteers from seaboard were exhausted (W. F. Bailey), III., 16791-4.
    - Qualities of the people—No reason to apprehend failure (P. O'Malley), X., 52205-9; (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54357-60; (H. Murphy), X., 55458, 55593-9.
    - Risk in transferring these men to land of entirely different character requiring different method of farming (W. F. Bailey), III., 17063-75, 17080-4, 17086, 17113; (P. O'Malley), X., 52210-2.
      - Intelligent and energetic men willing to migrate should not be refused the opportunity (W. F. Bailey), III., 17068A, 17072, 17076.
  - Young men able to work should be chosen (P. Rooney), VI., 32141; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47319-23.
- Summer and Winter Houses, Population living part of the year on the shore and part of the year on the mountains (W. L. Micks), I., 351.
- Success of Board's Migrants—None had failed to pay their way though class of people migrated was not always what Board would have chosen (H. Doran), I., 2188, 3033-5, 3064, 3067, 3103; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29614-5
  - Bodkin Estate Scheme—Most successful act of whole of Board's proceedings (J. A. Glynn), X., 55829.
  - Doran's, Mr., conclusions should not be accepted without thorough investigation—Good deal of evidence existed in contradiction of Mr. Doran's views (W. H. Boyd), V., 23323-5.
  - Policy of the Board was to make migrants feel that they must sink or swim by themselves—No time asked for, it was known that it would not be given (H. Doran), I., 3022-3.
  - Port Royal Estate Instances (H. Doran), I., 3014, 3018.
  - Selection in future could not be so careful as in the past, when things were being done on a small scale (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41573-7.
- Suitable migrants allowed to emigrate—Neglect of Congested Districts Board (Canon Grealy), IX., 48749-62, 48764-74; (J. M'Govern), IX., 49140.
- Taxation of migrants, complaint as to excessive taxation (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50480-1.
  - Exemption for ten or fifteen years, proposed (Rev. J. Fallon), X., 50478.
- Tenant Right of old holding, question of Compensation for surrender—Question whether landlord's and tenant's interest or tenant interest only of new holding was vested in migrant—
  - Allowance might be made of the difference in price between the place tenant was going to and the place he was leaving (Canon Sweeney), II., 9804-9.
  - Amount allowed—Small amount in case of a small holding, very small effect in reducing rent of new holding (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25788; (H. Doran), XI., 59620-1.
    - No loss to Board, sum allowed being charged to new tenant of vacated holding (H. Doran), XI., 59623-5, 59627, 59769-713.

MIGRATION—*continued.*

- Tenant-Right of Old Holding—*continued.*
  - Attitude of Congests—
    - Advantage of selling old holding and getting another for nothing would suit the people best (P. Rooney), VI., 32143-5.
    - Some tenants would not be inclined to ask for tenant-right of old holding (M. Considine), VII., 39617-21.
  - Compensation should be given, and used for purpose of helping to establish migrant in new holding (H. Brennan), VI., 27613-8, 27621; (Canon Loftus), VI., 30072.
  - Exchange for Tenant Right of holding to which Migration took place, question of (Canon M'Fadden), II., 7957-60, 7977-95.
    - Willingness to exchange (J. P. Dunnion), II., 11384-9; (J. M'Carron), II., 12214-8.
  - Full Market Value of holdings relinquished should be paid (T. Molloy), II., 10985.
  - Hard to be obliged to leave all improvement to the neighbours—Witness would go if advantage offered were greater than that obtained by man who benefited by his going (P. Reynolds), VI., 32300-18.
  - Incoming tenant should pay reasonable sum to be assessed by Board or other Body (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47336-45; (R. Crawford), IX., 50823-8; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51281-9.
  - Inducement to migrate if people were allowed to sell their old holdings and get new ones for nothing (J. Hamilton), II., 10690.
  - Loans should be made, if necessary, to assist compensation (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47339, 47346.
  - No right to ask anything for old holding if new one were better (P. Doherty), II., 9134-6; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9809A-10; (J. M'Naw), II., 11776.
  - Tenant-right in future whether they got the holdings for nothing or not, question of (J. Hamilton), II., 10690-1.
- Tiding over first few years, difficulties likely to arise, etc. (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28130-4; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29151-2; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41555-9, 41580-1; (F. M. Shawe-Taylor), X., 56770-2; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57300-3.
  - Letting out land, meadowing and con-acre resorted to (M. O'Neill), VI., 28796-7; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44151-7.
  - Supervision by Board of new tenants desirable for a few years, Loans for short periods being made where necessary (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44151-7; (D. Kirwin), X., 55361.
- Tillage, encouragement of, *see* sub-heading Cultivation.
- Time of year for moving Migrants, Arrangements for enabling them to get along till their crops were grown (H. Doran), I., 2965-73.
- Turbary, Want of, an obstacle (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26302; (G. Hewson), VI., 31493-500, 31532-8, 31737-58; (G. F. Stewart), VI., VI., 34180-1; (J. Irwin), X., 58733-4, 58738-43.
  - Commonage proposed as a substitute for migration when the grass lands were some distance from a bog (J. Irwin), X., 58733-4.
  - Instance of Holding on which tenant farmers were comfortable owing to good land, although they had to travel four or five miles for turbary (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26302.
  - Lower price for land distant from turf, question of (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26303.
  - Not insuperable and not a justification for abandonment of the principle of Migration (J. Sharkey), X., 59040-1, 59043-4, 59045-9.
  - Peat—Compressed Peat Industry suggested (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25748-50, 25790-1, 26299-300.

MIGRATION—*continued.*

- Vacated Holdings used for enlargement of adjacent holdings (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26134-8; (H. Brennan), VI., 27606-12; (M. O'Neill), VI., 28648-9A.
    - Objection to system—Holdings might be still uneconomic (P. Dyar), VI., 30512A.
- Value of migration work (H. Doran), XI., 59767-8.
- Water Supply an essential consideration (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34182.
- Year's Grace for Migrants before beginning to pay instalments, proposed (F. S. Wrench), III., 15249-52.
- Young people, offering new holding to—Experiment never tried, Board never dealt with anyone except the occupier of a holding (H. Doran), I., 3037; (Mgr. Walker), II., 6880-1.
    - Old people would not move later if they did not go with the young people (H. Doran), I., 3038-9.

MIGRATORY LABOUR:

- Advantages of (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20838-40, 20850-3; (A. B. Turner), VIII., 48511.
- Afforestation would afford employment to migratory labourers in winter (A. Moran), X., 56930, 56957.
- Alteration in nature of would not make much difference to condition of areas where it existed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23179.
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MULHERN, Mr. T.—*Chairman of Letterkenny Urban Council and Representative of Dunfanaghy Division and County Council of Donegal:*
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MULKEEN, Mr. MARTIN.—*Farmer at Greenwood, on Knox Estate:*
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Mullen, Mr. John.—*Member of Portumna Rural District Council*:
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- Evidence, V., 22335-506, App. I., p. 231.

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- Evidence, II., 5433-519, App. I., p. 238.

Mulvey, Mr. Patrick.—*Farmer from Currabeer Ballinamore, and Supervisor of Parish Committee Schemes*:
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- Evidence, X., 55391-658a.

Murphy, Mr. John.—*M.P. for East Kerry.*
- Evidence, VIII., 43067-170.

Murphy, Rev. R. J.—*Parish Priest from Lower Mourne.*
- Evidence, VII., 35450-643.

Murray, Mr. John.—*Representing Clare County Council.*
- Evidence, VII., 40271-321.

Murray, Mr. Patrick.—*Farmer from Eagle Hill, Glendun.*
- Evidence, VII., 37352-85.

Murray, Mr. Patrick.—*Representing District Between Loughslandreavy Mountains and Ballinahinch.*
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- Congested Districts—Quite as good mussels on the other parts of the coast where there were no transit facilities (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5061.
- Special Development in Killorglin District due to provision of railway facilities (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5059-60.

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- Congestion and poverty, means of livelihood, etc. (C. O'Connor), X., 53692, 53695-6, 53699.

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- *See* Education.

National Education Board:
- Authority controlling primary education—Constitution, etc. (G. Fletcher), IV., 21167-70.

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Naughton, Mr. P.—*Representing Oughterard Rural District Council.*
- Evidence, X., 54961-55121.

Neary, Mr. James.—*Chairman of Strokestown District Council.*
- Evidence, X., 58600-48.

Neilan, Mr. William.—*Resident at Rathglass, Woodlawn.*
- Evidence, X., 56995-7020.

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- Cost of gear of a boat; gear and nets were probably obtained wherever the boats were obtained (Canon Sweeney), II., 9644.
- Loan system, Nets on.
  - Central depot where nets and ropes complete could be supplied at short notice proposed (P. Ward), II., 11101-4.
  - Not taken much advantage of owing to the trouble involved (P. Ward), 11100-1.
  - Shopkeepers used to get the orders in the old times—If the Board obtained nets from the shopkeepers that would obviate the difficulty (P. Ward), II., 11105-7.
- Loans, *see* title Boats.
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- Mending of nets done by crews—Instruction given in repairing nets (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19098.
- Prices—Complaints of prices charged by Board; possible to purchase elsewhere at 5*s.* per net cheaper (H. O'Donnell, of Meenaneery), II., 11214A-5, 11233-44.
- Storage of nets, lack of accommodation at Inver and S. John's Point—Erection of sheds proposed (P. Ward), II., 11108-9.
- Two different sets of nets, with large and small mesh desired at Ardglass if no close season were arranged for (Rev. J. J. Donnelly), VII., 35693, 35704, 35778.

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- Price, prosperity of tenant purchasers, etc. (J. Cunningham), X., 57533, 57538, 57555-6.

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- Act of 1903, tenancies created since, without legal status (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52574-5.
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- Number created by Congested Districts Board (W. L. Micks), I., 515; (H. Doran), I., 1896.
  - Act of 1891 practically inoperative as regards creation of new holdings (W. L. Micks), I., 515-9.

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- Pier and harbour accommodation, Lack of (W. Doherty), II., 5396; (J. Gallagher), II., 5935-6, 5938 (J. Deeney), II., 12095.
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NEWMAN, Rev. P.—*Representing Leitrim County Council.*

- Evidence, VI., 33616-68.

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- Condition of district—Land deteriorating for want of cultivation, inferiority of holdings, etc. (Canon Grealey), IX., 48700-3, 48731.
- Emigration—Due to delay in acquisition and distribution of land and high price paid by Congested Districts Board (Canon Grealey), IX., 48743-9, 48779-98, 48809.
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  - Harbour improvements and small piers suggested (Canon Grealey), IX., 48877-83.
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NEWPORT UNION—*continued.*

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- Land operations by Congested Districts Board, Criticism of, *refer* to sub-heading Emigration.
- Workhouse, Purchase by Congested Districts Board—Suggestions for utilization of building (J. M'Hale), IX., 48539-51, 48554-73; (Canon Grealey), IX., 48868-77, 48884-5.

NEWPORT TO COSTELLO RAILWAY.

- Opinion in favour of building—would pay well (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034.

NEWRY DISTRICT.

- Congested areas, scheduling proposed—No land available for enlargement of holdings (P. O'Hare), VII., 34907.
- Congested areas south of Newry—Forkill, Jonesboro', Killeavy, and Lathbergt Electoral Divisions.
  - Assistance in providing bulls and premium boars, etc. (W. R. Bell), VII., 35340-3.
  - Condition of districts—Valuation statistics, scheduling proposed (J. M'Guill), VII., 35325, 35331, 35333-4, 35336-9; (W. R. Bell), VII., 35340-3, 35369.
  - Drainage and additional land needed (J. M'Guill), VII., 35325-30.
- Industries, development of desirable, but difficult to avoid competition with private enterprise (W. R. Bell), VII., 35370.
- Land Purchase—Increase in price since Act of 1903 (J. Lennon), VII., 35377.
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- Light Railway proposed (Rev. D. Mullaghan), VII., 35953, 35965-8; (J. M'Aleenan), VII., 35896-7, 35899.

NICHOLSON, Mr. P.—*From Tobercurry.*

- Evidence, VI., 30293-459.

NOLAN ESTATE.

- Condition of tenants, size and valuation of holdings, etc. (C. O'Connor), X., 53690; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57088.
- Graziers, failure of (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57099-100.
- Land Purchase—
  - Congested Districts Board, purchase by, proposed (C. O'Connor), X., 53898.
  - Negotiations, terms on which landlord would sell untenanted land (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57091-9, 57100-4.

NOLAN-FERRALL PROPERTY.

- Conditions of sale not carried out, tenants still paying old rents—Grievance against Congested Districts Board (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50246-50.
- Improvements, rents expended on (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50247, 50251-2.
- Terms of sale (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50101, 50158-9.

NON-RESIDENTIAL LAND.

- *Refer* to Untenanted Land.

NOONE, Mr. NEAL.—*Farmer from Clonmany.*

- Evidence, II., 12394-493.

NORBURY'S, LORD, ESTATE.

- Sale of—Terms, etc. (T. Moran), VI., 30897; (E. Durcan), VI., 30945.

NUGENT ESTATE—Purchase by Congested Districts Board—
- Promptness in carrying out improvements (J. A. Glynn), X., 55781-3, 55842.

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS.
- Number of agricultural holdings contained in scheduled areas, 84958 (H. Doran), I., 1836, 1840, 2022, 2163, 2200.
  - Number remaining to be dealt with—Those in hands of Congested Board and those over £10 valuation should be deducted (H. Doran), I., 2035-8, 2042, 2167-8.
    - Board would have to buy most of remaining holdings, but as a rule there would be no loss on economic holdings (H. Doran), I., 2039-41.
  - Number sold to tenants through Land Commission, Estates Commissioners, and Congested Districts Board (H. Doran), I., 2024-9, 2165.
  - Total number of holdings (H. Doran), I., 2200.
- Roscommon—Statistics of number of holdings (J. Fitzgibbon), X., App. VIII., p. 292-3.
- Queen's County—Number of holdings of various sizes (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39263-6, 39272-6, 39461, App. VII., pp. 269-70.
- Statistical information with Memorandum by Secretary, I. App. VII., pp. 351, 353, 355.
- Total number of holdings and number of each of eleven classes, arranged according to valuation—
  - Clare Co., VII., App. II., pp. 277-81.
  - Cork Co., VII., App. IX., pp. 301-8.
  - Donegal Co., II. App. XII., pp. 261-5.
  - Kerry Co., VIII. App. VIII., pp. 228-31.
  - Leitrim Co. VI. App. X., pp. 329-31.
  - Mayo Co. IX. App. IV., pp. 212-5.
  - Sligo Co., VI. App. IX., pp. 280-1.
- Total number of holdings and number of various sized holdings in 1906.
  - Cork Co., VIII. App. IX., pp. 333-6.
  - Donegal Co., II. App. XII., pp. 278-81.
  - Kerry Co., VIII. App. VIII., pp. 244-7.
  - Leitrim Co., VI. App. X., pp. 341-2.
  - Mayo Co., IX. App. IV., pp. 232-5.
  - Sligo Co., VI. App. IX., pp. 288-9.

NUMBER OF TENANTS DEALT WITH BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.
- Fifteen thousand out of the 98,000 with uneconomic holdings (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1490.

NUMBER OF TENANTS IN IRELAND.
- Total number (W. F. Bailey), III., 16555.
  - Kinds of holdings included, Number coming under operation of Act of 1903 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16558-65, 16571-3.
  - Sources whence figures were taken (W. F. Bailey), III., 16566-70.
    - Census Returns said Holdings, but witness understood they meant holders (W. F. Bailey), III., 16569.

NURSES.
- Lady Dudley Nurses—
  - Boon to sick poor—Excellent work done in congested districts (Mgr. Walker), II., 7215; (Rev. J. Flatley), X., 52391-2; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034, 54190-1.
  - Extension of system—
    - Assistance should be given by the Board (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034.
    - Cottage hospitals, necessity for, obviated (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034.
    - Depended entirely on funds provided by subscriptions (W. J. D. Walker), X., 53524.
    - Educative effect as a preliminary step in increasing receptivity of population preparatory to other measures (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19546.
    - Extension might take place in connection with possible abolition of Workhouse System (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19545.
    - Very desirable, Difficulty at present was want of funds (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19545.

NURSES—*continued.*
- Lady Dudley Nurses—*continued.*
  - Funds—
    - £1,500 a year necessary, fund entirely raised by outside subscriptions (W. J. D. Walker), X., 53527.
    - Contribution by the Board to nursing in very poor districts would be well within its powers in witness's opinion (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19550-1, X., 53527, 53545, 53549.
    - Insufficiency of—Numerous applications for nurses had had to be refused (W. J. D. Walker), X., 53524.
  - Furniture, Grant by Congested Districts Board in a few cases (W. J. D. Walker), X., 53526, 53543.
  - Houses built for Nurses by the Board where no suitable house could be obtained (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1195; (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19536.
    - Assistance of the kind was within the province of the Board—Not tied down by rules like other Departments (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19547-9.
    - Money lent by the Board, Interest paid by Nursing Fund, Number of houses, etc. (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19538-38A, 19540-2; X., 53526, 53542.
  - Influence of Nurses (Mgr. Walker), II., 7216; (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19536, 19543-4; (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44125; (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53515-7; (W. J. D. Walker), X., 53527, 53529; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034, 54180-1.
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    - Members who made it their special business to pay attention to Parish Committees (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4356-7.
  - Transfer of Work, *see* sub-headings Transfer and Department.
- Constitution (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 941-4, 948; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4263-6.
  - Agricultural Banks, Comparison with (M. A. Lyons), X., 54617, 54623-30, 54638-42.
  - Chairman—Parish Priest as a rule (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4362; (R. Wallace), VI., 33942.
  - Defective Organisation (H. Plunkett), III., 18261.
  - Elective Element, etc. (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41442-3.
    - Method of election (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4267-8.
    - Period of Membership, Eligibility for re-election (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4358-61.
  - Local representatives of districts not notified of meetings (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33883-7, 33891-901.
  - Members unpaid with exception of Secretary and Supervisor (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 948.
  - Not representative (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26959.
  - Number of members in each Committee—Total number of members located all over the Congested Districts (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4336-9.
  - Ratepayers, Committee composed of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4269-70.
  - Residence in Parish a necessary qualification for membership (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4341.
  - Shopkeepers—Question whether shopkeepers should be allowed to be Members (P. O'Malley), X., 52125-8, 52132-50, 53158, 52151-8.
- Cork—Total Amount of Grant in one year (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4411.
  - Statement of Parish Committee Scheme and Sanitary Expenditure, VIII., App. IX., p. 343.
  - Statistics of grants and expenditure, VIII., App. IX., p. 343.
- Creation of by Congested Districts Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 936-7; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4310; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23617.
- Date of formation—First Committee started in Swinford Union, etc. (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1630; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20052-4.
  - Western (or subsidy) scheme came before the Donegal system (Professor Campbell), IV., 20054-5.
- Definition of Congestion, Absurdity of—Many necessitous people at present excluded from help (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 32006-7.
- Demoralising Effect of Parish Committee Work, Question of (W. Doherty), II., 5378-80; (Canon Sweeney), 9661; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54256-7, 54259, 54286 (M. A. Lyons), 54621-2.
  - Bribery, Demoralising Effect of (T. Porter), III., 13953-60.
  - No Pauperisation where a large amount of work and often considerable expenditure was required from recipient of grant (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 916.

Parish Committees—*continued.*

- Department of Agriculture—
  - Department of Agriculture could not do the work—No Public Department had ever instituted a similar system (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 932-5.
    - Estates Commissioners did something of the sort in connection with erection of houses on new holdings (A. MacDonnell), I., 938-9.
    - No department in Ireland had similar Committees with exception of Congested Districts Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 940.
  - Local Committees under Department doing similar work, Question of—
    - Amount given very small, Inspector sent round once a year and Report made (Canon Sweeney), II., 9685-6.
    - Comparative merits of Parish Committees and local Committees under Department, Question as to (H. Plunkett), III., 18452-3; (Professor Campbell), IV., 20036-9, 20046-7.
    - Comparative value of work produced, Question as to (Professor Campbell), IV., 20041-2, 20048-9.
    - Object the same as that of Parish Committees, Danger of clashing with Parish Schemes (Professor Campbell), IV., 19862, 19865-17.
    - Opinion in favour of Department's scheme—Could be worked in very poor districts given proper organisation (Professor Campbell), IV., 20043-5, 20050-1.
    - Organisation—If priests took the work up energetically things went well (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46632-4.
  - No work done through Parish Committees up to the present (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4455.
  - Overlapping of Parish Committee work by supplemental work of Department, *refer* to Agricultural Development — Supplementary Work.
  - Transfer of Parish Committee work from Congested Districts Board to Department, Question of
    - Mistaken Policy (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4456, 4462-3; (P. Dyar), VI., 30512A.
    - No difficulty now that the local Committees were started except that people were not so satisfied with other work done by the Department (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4452-4.
    - No part of Parish Committee work ever transferred to Department (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4524, 4526.
    - Supervisors—Appointed by the Board and supported in their work by the credit of the Board (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4457-60.
- Development of Work, Question of (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31150.
  - Agricultural Development, Question of working through Parish Committee (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4484; (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 31991-3; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48249-77; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50424-8.
    - Association of Committee with schemes of Agricultural Department desirable (Rev. J. M'Donnell), IX., 51448-9.
    - Permanent instructor with preliminary training, Opinion in favour of (Rev. M. Keaveny), IX., 51637-8, 51645-7.
  - Agricultural Implements, hiring out of—Parish Committee a suitable agent (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44007.
  - Considerable number of local needs could be better dealt with than by County and Rural Councils (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9269-71.

Parish Committees—*continued*.

- Development of Work, Question of—*continued*.
  - Desire to see work extended (H. M'Clafferty), II., 8482-3; (J. R. Baillie), II., 10495; (J. Quigley), II., 12615; (Lord Castletown), V., 26495-7; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29261; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619; (M. Roddy), VI., 34784; (T. O'Flaherty), VIII., 42858; (J. Riney), 45237; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50423-4; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51636; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59142, 59151-3.
  - Devising of local schemes should be left to discretion of Parish Committees (P. Dyar), VI., 30512A.
  - Drainage, Fencing, Road-making, etc., might be carried out by Parish Committee (R. Wallace), VI., 33941; (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34330-2, 34364-72; (M. Roddy), 34797-803; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41430, 41436; (J. Riney), VIII., 45237; (Canon M'Donnell), 45305-7.
    - Beyond the scope of Parish Committees (D. Kirwin), X., 55279, 55281-5.
    - Maintenance of drainage—Parish Committee a suitable authority (D. Kirwin), X., 55307-10.
  - Estates bought by the Board—Parish Committee to carry out operations amongst poorest tenants until estate had been raised a certain level, proposed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4620.
  - Milk Supply to Cottiers, etc.—Retail scheme, under supervision of Parish Committees, proposed (M. O'Connell), VIII., 42195-204.
  - Planting, *see* that title.
  - Seeds, distribution, etc.—Parish Committee would be a good agency (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53347-58; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54198-9.
  - Spraying operations could be carried out through Parish Committee (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4485-8
  - Whole parish to be under operations of Parish Committee, Opinion in favour of (R. Wallace), VI., 33937.
- Distribution—Well spread over Congested Districts (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4342; (H. Doran), XI., 59899, 59906-7.
- Donegal Co.—
  - Benefit resulting—Man who did not get a prize still had his improvements (James Gallagher), II., 5877, 5886, 5888.
  - Statistics of Grants, II., App. XII., p. 289.
  - Statistics of Parish Committee Scheme and Sanitary Expenditure, II., App. XII., p. 288.
- Driving power—Funds received were the means of setting the work in motion (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 945-6.
- Educational Value of Work (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1658-60; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260, 4430-2; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50430; (Rev. J. M'Donnell), 51448.
- Estates other than those of the Board, Similar Operations carried out on (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1647-8; (H. Doran), XI., 59899, 59906-7.
  - Possibility that the Board might ultimately have to buy back its own expenditure, Question of (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1649-52.
- Funds and Expenditure—
  - All Irish money except a very small sum (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4425-6.
  - Allocation of funds among different parishes—
    - Care should be taken to give no occasion for jealousy (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50062.
    - Unequal distribution of fund—Grievance in Erris (J. O'Malley), IX., 47770-802; (F. Scanlan), 47968-71.
  - Description of work done, number of Grants or Prizes, Estimated Cost and Total Expenditure for six years ending March 31st, 1906 (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1630.
    - Comparison of Witness's figures with Memorandum handed in by Mr. Mitchell, Explanation of differences (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1632-4.

Parish Committees—*continued*.

- Funds and Expenditure—*continued*.
  - Difference between sum transferred by Congested Districts Board to Department and sum previously spent by Board on Agricultural Schemes practically diverted to Parish Committee Work (H. Plunkett), III., 18217, 18222, 18224-6.
  - Explanation of how a Local Committee obtained funds from Congested Districts Board (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4271.
  - Increase of Expenditure (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4137.
    - Additional increase proposed (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60175-8.
  - Increase of Funds necessary (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4343, 4418; (Rev. S. H. Orr), II., 9252, 9265; (J. R. Baillie), II., 10495; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31235; (P. Finn), IX., 51472-80; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51636, 51641, 51651; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54265, 54291-5.
  - Penny in the pound rate at present raised for Agricultural and Technical Schemes in the County should be given to Congested Districts Board, and each Parish should get expenditure of its own money (J. Marron), II., 10069-70.
  - Supply of Funds by the Board (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1653.
  - Surplus funds in possession of any Committee had to be returned at the end of the year (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4373.
    - Frequent return of unexpended balances—Strictness in requiring performance of work within a certain time (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4433-4.
    - Reckless expenditure at end of year rather than return money, Question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4436.
  - Total Expenditure, including Supervision (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1630; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260, 4389-94.
  - *Refer also* to sub-headings Grant System and Prize System.
- Grant System—
  - Amount of grant to individual Committees—
    - Larger grants proposed (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7890; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619.
    - No local subscriptions (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4272-5.
  - Amount of Grant to one individual—
    - Complaint of differences in grants in different districts (J. Doran), VIII., 42675.
    - Cost of labour and cost of material—Consideration of in making grants (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4330-2; (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32367-77; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41433, 41449.
    - Depended upon amount of work contracted for—No distinction between cost of labour and cost of material (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4330.
    - Free grants of half estimate for valuations of £5 and under (J. Doran), VIII., 42676; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30361.
    - Method of determining amount of grant, etc. (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32345-52, 32365-77.
    - No one was to get as much as £10 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4282.
    - Not sufficient inducement, about 50 per cent. should be offered (Canon O'Leary), VIII., 43060-2.
  - Applications for grants—No Parish refused, except in cases where the working was unsatisfactory (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4414-6.
  - Competition for Grants—
    - Numbers of Applications for new houses in Spiddal (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54240, 54259.
    - Surprising number of offers in some cases (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4290.

Parish Committees—*continued.*

- Grant System—*continued.*
  - Conditions regulating Grants to Committees—
    - Extent of Parish and number of families under £7 valuation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4372.
      - Some scheduled districts did not think it worth while to avail of Board's offer under existing rules—Duagh and Ballyconry (J. Doran), VIII., 42677.
  - Conditions regulating Grants to Individuals—
    - Congested Districts Board approved all specifications and supervised work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4333, 4367-71.
    - Largest amount of work for least amount of money—Preference given to offers of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4279-80.
    - No grant previously—Applications considered first on their merits (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4281.
    - Removal of Cattle and Manure Heap from proximity of dwellinghouse (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260, 4284-8; (M. Keaveny), VI., 32114-5; (R. Wallace), 33946, 33957-9; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50062, 50096.
    - Rules for guidance clearly given and supplied to every person working under the scheme (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4333.
    - Urgency of work taken into consideration (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4281.
    - Valuation must be under £7 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4372, 4374, 4429; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50069, 50072-5, 50094, 50098-9.
      - Raising valuation limit to £10, proposed (P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31149-50; (Rev J. Meehan), 31233-5, 31238-41; (J. Gilmartin), 32345; (R. Wallace), 33932, 33967-72; (Rev. P. Dolan), 34377; (M. Roddy), 34784, 34808-9; (J. Doran), VIII., 42676; (Archdeacon O'Leary), 44979, 44980-1; (Rev. M. Keaveney), X., 51643, 51653; (Rev. B. M'Andrew), 53080-3.
      - Useless to raise valuation limit unless grants were also increased (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31235, 31241-6.
  - Grants given every year, provided work was satisfactory—Stimulus to neighbouring parishes, Explanation of increase in the total grants (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4418.
  - Opinion in favour of (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51652-3.
  - Payment of Grant to individual only after the work was done (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4289, 4439-40.
    - Burdensome condition—Credit had to be obtained for material, etc.—Ballyduff case (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42349-53
    - Change of system proposed, labour and material to be paid for as needed (Rev. B. M'Andrew), X., 53084-7.
    - Instalments, Provision for payment of under old schemes, Provision continued in Mayo and Galway (Dr. O'Donnell), VIII., 42351.
      - Same condition applied in other places (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42351.
    - Rule not always carried out—Carna (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53343.
  - Payment of Grants to parishes—Half the amount sent at first, second half sent when funds were exhausted and additional applications came in (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4373, 4437-8, 4441.
  - Persons eligible for Grants—
    - Cottiers with less than one acre of land excluded for two years (J. Doran), VIII., 42670, 42674.
    - Revision of rules desirable—Exclusion of artisans and sub-tenants to farmers (J. Doran), VIII., 42670-5, 42676.

Parish Committees—*continued.*

- Grant System—*continued.*
  - Proportion of grant to value of work required (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4291; (R. Wallace), VI., 33945; (Rev. P. Dolan), 34374-6; (J. Morrin), IX., 51695-7.
  - Purposes for which grants were made—Draining and fencing not allowed until the houses were done (J. Doran), VIII., 42676.
  - Specification made out before any work was done (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4249.
    - General specifications given in instructions and particular specifications given by supervisor (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4352-3.
      - Printed forms giving plan and scheme for building of a house or out-office, drawn up by Mr. Doran (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4395-6.
  - System worked well in Mayo (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41441.
  - Temporary system which would ultimately merge into a system of prizes (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 949.
- Houses, improvement in—Grants for building new houses, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 434-5; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3543; (W. Doherty), II., 5342; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54240-64, 54295-7.
  - Class of house built—Spiddall (P. M'Donagh), X., 54241, 54249-55.
  - Comparison of cost of houses built by the Parish Committee and the Board—Spiddall (P. M'Donagh), X., 54257-9.
  - Comparison of house improvement scheme of Congested Districts Board with house improvement work of Parish Committees (H. Doran), XI., 59896-902.
  - Congestion not increased by building new houses (P. M'Donagh), X., 54242.
  - Demolition of old houses—Not a condition of receiving grant, but an invariable practice (P. M'Donagh), X., 54243-7.
  - Disadvantage, because valuation put upon poor people was unfair (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50429-30.
  - Grant given for purchase of materials, Amount, etc.—Spiddall (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54241, 54249-50.
  - Labour given by people themselves, Cheapness of house due to—Spiddall (P. M'Donagh), X., 54259.
  - Old houses often a cause of fever and spread of infection—Spiddall (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215.
  - Prize system was encouraging to the people (J. Deeny), II., 12100.
- Independence of Congested Districts Board had made the work easier (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4419.
  - Irish people disliked anything with a taint of the Castle—Officials regarded with suspicion (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4420-4.
  - Nothing to prevent success of a Government Department except sentiment—Experience showed that Castle administration was not as successful as local administration (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4446-51.
- Initiation of Committees—
  - Any district could propose to start a Committee, but it rested with the Congested Districts Board to say whether they would operate or not (W. H. Boyd), III., 23770-1.
  - No difficulty in getting Committees (W. L. Micks), I., 441; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1654.
- Instructions from the Board—*See* sub-heading Rules and Instructions.
- Kerry—
  - Amount of grants (J. E. J. Julian), VIII., 42349, 42403-4.
    - Larger amounts given than elsewhere, because Board had not been able to acquire land for improvement in Kerry (Dr. O'Donnell), VIII., 42404.
      - Witness was not aware of the fact (T. Baker), VIII., 42738-9.
  - Total amount of grant (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4411-13.

PARISH COMMITTEES—*continued.*

- Kerry—*continued.*
    - Formation of a few Committees, with what success witness did not know (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4348.
    - Statement of Parish Committee Scheme and Sanitary expenditure, VIII., App. VIII., p. 254.
    - Statistics of grants and expenditure, VIII., App. VIII., p. 254.
    - Success of work varied according to circumstances (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 44979.
    - Value of work done in Cork and Kerry together (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4410.
- Landlords and others doing work similar to that of Parish Committees—Premiums offered on Hill Estate, II., App. III., p. 241.
- Large amount of improvement carried out for a comparatively small outlay, *see* sub-heading Working of Parish Committees Value.
- Leitrim Co., Parish Committees in (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31226-33, 31311-31.
    - Comparison of grant to Leitrim with grant to Co. Donegal (M. Keaveny), VI., 32090-2.
    - Every parish entitled to a Committee if whole county were scheduled (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34399-401, 34406-8.
    - Increase in grants needed (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31121-4; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31306-10; (M. Keaveny), 32093-5; (Rev. D. Gray), 34619.
        - Holdings could be made to yield double as much as at present under Parish Committees with increased grants (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619.
    - Parish Committee System particularly good, because it was not possible to reach Board in any other way (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31255; (M. Keaveny), VI., 32100.
    - Statement of Parish Committee Scheme and Sanitary expenditure, VI., App. X., p. 347.
    - Statistics of grants and expenditure, VI., App. X., p. 347.
    - Value of work done in comparison with grant (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31130-2.
    - Working of—Success in North and South Leitrim (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619, 34740.
- Local Co-operation—Advantages, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 443; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1653; (R. Wallace), VI., 33943-4; (Canon M'Donnell), VIII., 45308-9; (Rev. M. M'Gowan), VII., 37674-5.
    - Advantage of Co-operation of a number of people who could act simultaneously all over the area (W. L. Micks), I., 443.
    - Consultation of Parish Committee by Congested Districts Board concerning principal necessities of district proposed (Rev. M. Kane), VI., 34869, 34893.
    - Local people carried out the scheme, subject to supervision (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1653.
    - No other branch of Congested Districts Board's work called forth so much local assistance (W. Doherty), II., 5382, 5387.
- Mayo Co.—
    - East Mayo, improvement largely due to Parish Committees (W. L. Micks), I., 185.
    - Statement of Parish Committee Scheme and Sanitary expenditure, IX., App. IV., p. 241.
    - Statistics of grants and expenditure, IX., App. IV., p. 240.
- Memorandum—Statement of work done under the scheme, etc., I., App. II., p. 273.
- Migration—Advice from Parish Committees was most useful (P. Dyar), VI., 30512A.
- Nature of Work (R. Wallace), VI., 33960; (O'Conor Don), VII., 41430-5, 41445-9; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54099, 54215; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54241-64, 54265, 54291-5; (D. Kirwin), X., 55278-80.
    - Agricultural Methods, Question how far such work had to do with (H. Plunkett), III., 18240-1.

PARISH COMMITTEES—*continued.*

- Nature of Work—*continued.*
    - All kinds of improvements—Parish Committee had a Land Scheme, etc. (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 924, 930-1; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4200-1, 4363-6.
- Number of Committees (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1630; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260, 4347.
    - Increase in number proposed (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60175-8.
- Object of the Board in starting Parish Committees (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1630; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4268.
- Opinion in favour of (J. Doherty), II., 5362; (T. Swan), II., 6004.
- Organisation, *see* sub-heading Constitution.
- Out-offices—Number built during last year (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260.
- Period during which scheme was in operation (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215.
    - Extension of period if season were too bad for carrying out of works undertaken or in districts where labour was migratory (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4480-4.
- Poor people who could contribute something, but not enough, to be able to avail themselves of grants—Board had helped at Carna by supplying iron cheap, Development of system proposed (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53324-28.
- Poorest people who could not contribute in any way, Case of (B. M'Enroy), VI., 34581-5.
    - Board should be empowered to make grant on recommendation of Committee, Work could be done by contract (J. Gallagher), II., 5900.
    - Difficulty in working scheme, owing to extreme poverty of very small landholders—They had not material or money for improvements (J. Gallagher), II., 5900.
    - Power for Parish Committee to dispense with contribution from grantee, proposed (R. Wallace), VI., 33932-6.
    - Power for Parish Committee to improve dwellings, etc., proposed (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10151; (P. Mulvery), VI., 34896-900, 34901-5.
        - Difficulty that people who were in a position to pay would plead poverty (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10163-5.
        - Guardians could not repair houses, only way witness could see of doing it was through Congested Districts Board (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10152-3, 10161, 10175.
        - Houses mentioned were unfit for habitation—Money should not be spent on houses unfit for human habitation (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10178-81.
        - Improvement of houses only was intended (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10176.
        - Line drawn between people who could pay and those who could not, Question of—Parish Committee knew the people intimately, and were in a position to tell (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10159-60.
        - Not many cases in any one locality (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10162, 10173-4.
        - Popularity of Parish Committee, Risk of injury if two sorts of procedure were introduced (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10166-8.
        - Proportion of total grant to be expended each year on poorest cases, proposed (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10170-2.
        - Work by people themselves should be expected where possible (Rev. W. J. Bewglas), II., 10158, 10182.
- Prize System—
    - Information as to cost, Amount to be given for special work, etc., could be obtained in instructions for supervision (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4400.

PARISH COMMITTEES—*continued.*

Prize System—*continued.*

No blanks, Everyone who did a certain kind of work received a prize (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4300-1.

Period during which plan had been in existence, Question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4397-8.

Same lines as grant system—Main feature of both was the grant of a sum of money for a definite amount of work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4292-9, 4354-5.

Procedure—Schemes drawn up by Committees and approved by Congested Districts Board—

Committee required to work within scheme laid down (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4277-8.

Committee took applications for works the people intended to do, Board supplied rules and regulations (W. Doherty), I., 3589.

General policy laid down, but Committees were allowed to follow it out for themselves (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4444-5.

Names of persons receiving prizes returned together with Inspector's Report as to performance of work and distribution of money (Canon Sweeney), II., 9683.

Relations with Congested Districts Board, not with Department (H. Plunkett), III., 18246.

Retention of Parish Committees—

Agricultural Board's feeling in regard to retention of Parish Committees (H. Plunkett), III., 18364.

Retention if Department became authority, *refer* to Authority.

Rules and Instructions—

Applicable to whole of Congested Districts—Drawn up by Mr. Doran and carried out by every supervisor (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4478.

Pamphlets distributed directing how drains should be made (Canon Sweeney), II. 9681-2.

Strictness in carrying out rules necessary for success of scheme (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4348, 4435.

Rundale Holdings—Work of Parish Committees hampered (P. Higgins), IX., 49509-12.

Sanitary Officers' Work done by Parish Committees—Question of duplication of expenditure (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 921, 952; (W. Doherty), II., 5369; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23760-2; (Dr. O'Donnell, A. MacDonnell, Chairman, J. Colomb), V., 23763.

Amount accomplished towards improving Sanitary condition of the people greater than Sanitary Officers had ever done (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260; (P. Dunlevy), II., 10122-3.

Assistance to be given by Parish Committees to Sanitary Authorities, suggested (M. O'Connell), VIII., 42207, 42230-2, 42241-50.

Attitude of Rural Councils and Guardians—

Efficiency of Officers, etc., in Milford UnionContradiction of Rev. D. O'Hara's Evidence (H. O'Donnell, of Milford), II., 5543-6.

Guardians attached little or no importance to Sanitation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4315.

Comparison of Parish Committees and Sanitary Officers not possible—Sanitary law did not compensate a man for doing what he ought to do (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4319.

Duties of Sanitary Officers included other things besides that of looking after dwelling-houses (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1639, 1643.

Enforcement of the Law—

Compulsion by Sanitary Officers not nearly so effectual as encouragement by Parish Committee (W. Doherty), II., 5374-6, 5390.

Dislike to applying Compulsion to neighbours or to doing anything disagreeable (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4317-8.

PARISH COMMITTEES—*continued.*

Sanitary Officers' work done by Parish Committees—*continued.*

Enforcement of the Law—*continued.*

Manorhamilton Union—Sanitary officers were sporadically active (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31362-5.

Parish Committees put the people into a position to comply with Sanitary Regulations, and thereby enabled the Sanitary Officers to act effectively (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1635-9; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4322.

Spiddal—Extent to which sub-sanitary officer had succeeded in enforcing the removal of manure heaps (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54149-50.

Well-to-do allowed to fly in the face of Sanitary Laws, Question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4323.

Witness prepared to enforce law in all cases (W. Doherty), II., 5391-2.

Refer also to sub-headings Prosecutions and Salaries.

Funds, Question of (W. L. Micks), I., 436.

Allocation to Parish Committee of part of money paid to Sanitary Authorities—Matter had been considered (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 922.

Cost of Donegal Sanitary Officers, Question of claiming a proportion of cost for Parish Committee work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4346.

Local Authorities had no funds to carry out Sanitary works on the same scale as the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 919-21, 923, 953-7.

Inishowen—Expenditure in Salaries and grants in Union of (W. Doherty), II., 5364-8, 5371-2.

Jurisdiction of Sanitary Officers by law extended over whole district, but practically it was confined to towns (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 958.

Nature of Parish Committee Work—Largely Sanitary, improvements in dwelling-houses and approaches to dwelling-houses (W. Doherty), II., 5363, 5367.

Not more than one-tenth expended for Sanitary purposes (W. Doherty), II., 5376.

Prosecutions—

Guardians considered before summoning people whether it was in their power to make improvements (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4230-1.

Prosecutions generally failed (R. Wallace), VI., 33953-6.

Salaries of Sanitary Officers—

About £10 a year (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1646.

Good deal done—As much as could be expected for the salary (M. Keaveny), VI., 32113-8; (M. O'Connell), VIII., 42241-50.

Not much done for the money, and Parish Committee work had not made them any more active (R. Wallace), VI., 33947-52.

Public Health Acts, Salaries paid under, *see* title Public Health Acts .

Well paid for doing nothing (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4309, 4312-4.

Sympathy of the people desirable in any work to be done (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4316-7.

Working of Parish Committee System successful in its efforts to achieve good sanitation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4318.

Size of Schemes (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4335.

Sligo Co.—

Statement of Parish Committee Scheme and Sanitary expenditure, VI., App. IX., p. 294.

Statistics of grants and expenditure, VI., App. IX., p. 294.

Social condition of people living in congested areas—Opinion that condition was dealt with successfully by Parish Committee Scheme (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50409.

Parish Committees *continued.*

System of Parish Committees—

Excellent system (M. Keaveny), VI., 32101; (Rev. J. Manning), 32848; (R. Wallace), 33939.

On wrong lines in view of migration policy of Board—Helping people to improve houses which they would hereafter be loth to leave (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31233, 31244-54, 31294, 31299, 31304-5.

Tables summarising Parish Committee Schemes, I., App. IV., p. 333.

Transfer of Parish Committee Work—

Agricultural Banks, Transfer to, proposed (M. A. Lyons), X., 54616.

Department of Agriculture, *see* that sub-heading.

Unimproved Estates unsuited to Committee work—Improvements in houses, etc., tending to perpetuate bad conditions of rundale, etc., in such places as Clifden and Oughterard (Rev. J. Flatley), X., 52302-4.

Value of Work done, Total Value (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1630.

Variety of Schemes, Advantage of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4324-9.

Working of Parish Committees—

Attitude of people (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260; (Mgr. Walker), II., 7195-8; (P. Finn), IX., 51472; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54257, 54259.

Doubtful if permanent results could be shown—Disadvantages of central administration (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46631.

Favouritism, etc., Supervision required to prevent anything in nature of—Instances (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33883-901.

Improvements effected were the beginning of an improvement in the land system (W. H. Boyd). 23818.

Not successful at first according to Mr. Doran's evidence (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20028-32.

Skill in selection of places and people shown by Congested Districts Board (W. H. Boyd), V., 23768.

Some good done, but work given should be substantial (M. A. Lyons), X., 54617-20.

Strict supervision required to see that the work was carried out in accordance with the specification (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4348.

Striking Results—Witness did not know whether there were any complaints against the system or not (W. L. Micks), I., 442.

Success—Satisfactory working (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4283, 4418, 4428; (Mgr. Walker), II., 7242; (J. R. Baillie), II., 10495; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23514; (P. Dyar), VI., 30512A; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33902; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619, 34688, 34740; (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42824; (T. O'Flaherty), VIII., 42858; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50062; (Rev. J. M'Donnell), IX., 51448; (J. Morrin), IX., 51695-7; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51795-9; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54034; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215; (D. Kirwin), 55271-9.

Almost invariably owing to work of parish priest (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41192-3, 41437-40; (P. O'Malley), X., 52135, 52160.

Useful work, but they could not bring enough pressure (T. Molloy), II., 11016-9.

Value obtained enormous in comparison with amount of grant out of Public Funds (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 947, 948, 949; (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1655-7; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4260; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54297.

Value obtained for money expended greater than from any other system of improvement (W. H. Boyd), V., 23754.

(*For* particular Committees, *see* Names of Places.)

Parish Councils, Scotland.

Landward Committee, Reason for existence (R. R. MacGregor), II., 22001-2.

Parkmore:

Extension of railway from Parkmore to Cushendall proposed (C. M'Connell), VII., 36762-9; (S. M. Dobbs), 37009, 37010-12, 37014, 37055.

Iron ore industry—transit facilities, suggestion for further development, etc. (W. A. Traill), VII., 37060-93.

Parnell, Mr.

Emigration facilities given in Act of 1881, Opposition to—Migration suggested as alternative (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25397.

Landlordism—Assertion in 1880 that it could not survive in Ireland and appeal to the people to direct their efforts to bringing about a proper system of Land Tenure (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25397.

Price of Land—Offer of twenty years' purchase slightingly regarded by landlords; Prediction that they would eventually receive less (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25397.

Witness agreed with opinion at time it was given (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25876-7.

Parsons, Hon. Mr.

Engineer to Congested Districts Board up to 1896 (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1516.

Pasturage—Mountain Pasturage.

See Grazing and Grazing Lands.

Peacocke, Col.

Temporary member of Congested Districts Board—Original temporary member, Reason for appointment (F. S. Wrench), III., 14401-2.

Pearson, Mr. David—*Clerk of Donegal Poor Law Union.*

Evidence, II., 10868-980, App. IX., p. 248.

Peat Industries—Compressed Peat, etc.

By-products (J. Pomeroy), II., 7489 (P. Dyar), VI., 30555-6.

Value of (Professor Campbell), IV., 20021; P. Dyar), VI., 30552.

Compressed Peat industry suggested in places where it was necessary to go some miles for turbary (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25748, 26274-92, 26299-300; (J. Irwin), X., 58767, 58768-9, 58773-6.

Cobbold's, Mr., Successful experiment (J. Irwin), X., 58768-70, 58772.

Coal *v.* Peat—Comparative cost, etc. (P. Dyar), VI., 30529, 30540-1, 30547.

Continental process demonstrated by Continental machinery brought over by Department Prof. Campbell), IV., 20012-3.

Department, work of, IV., App. IVA., p. 196.

Distinction between peat and turf (P. Dyar), VI., 30543, 30547-9, 30551-2.

Factories existing—

Good factory at Portadown and one for manufacturing paper at Celbridge (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20017-8.

Portadown factory a commercial success (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20019.

Successful factory on line from Derry to Dublin (J. B. Mullin), II., 5453-6.

General peat industry such as existed on the Continent proposed (P. Dyar), VI., 30526-39, 30544, 30554-7, 30625-6.

Grants for development of proposed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825.

Improvement derived from commercial use of Peat—Question whether immediate benefit would counterbalance evils arising from future shortage of Peat (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7307-10, 7316.

Leitrim Co.—Starting compressed peat industry proposed (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619.

PEAT INDUSTRIES—*continued.*

- Only profitable form of industry to make fuel, litter and dust and brown paper (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20014-5.
- Power expensive, but not machinery (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20020.
- Reservation of some of the land for fuel, Opinion in favour of (M. Harkin), II., 8436.
- Rosses, Manufacture of Peat and Peat Moss Litter proposed (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305, 7307-11, 7310.
- Turf *v.* Peat—Comparative cost (P. Dyar), VI., 30550.

PEDRAVOHERS, SWANLINBAR

- Congested conditions, Description of—Suggestions as to planting, etc. (R. Howe), VII., 39131; (J. Cassidy), VII., 39173-6; (Rev. O. Brady), 39193, 39203-5, 39195-8; (B. M'Manus), VII., 38815.

PEEL FISHING:

- Season for fishing in Kerry (J. Hanrahan), VIII., 42642.

PELLY, Rev. J. A.—*Curate of Ballinasloe.*

- Evidence, X., 57021-231.

PERIOD FOR SETTLEMENT OF CONGESTION:

- *See* Time required.

PERSSE ESTATE:

- Evictions (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57088.
- Number of holdings, valuation, etc.—Landlord would only sell tenanted land (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57088.

PEYTON ESTATE, CASTLEBAR RURAL DISTRICT:

- Conditions typical of most estates in Castlebar—Extent of rundale, etc. (P. Higgins), IX., 49493-9.

PEYTON ESTATE, KESHCARRIGAN:

- Price (M. Carter), VI., 33408.
- Uneconomic holdings, etc. (J. Travers), VI., 34459.

PHIBBS ESTATE:

- Condition of the land, method of keeping it in heart (C. Phibbs), VI., 29801-5, 29839-41, 29830, 29838-41.
- Congested conditions in Aughanagh (P. Slein), VI., 30936-41.
- Congested Districts Board operations (P. Dyar), VI., 30512.
- Improvements carried out by owner (C. Phibbs), VI., 29903-16.
- Migrants from a distance, local opposition (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28093-105.
- Number of holdings, number of uneconomic holdings, extent of grazing land for distribution, etc. (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28111-23; (J. M'Loughlin), 29413.
- Rent, payment of—less punctual since Act of 1881 than before (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28307-25, App. I., p. 242.
- Rental of Mullane Phibbs (C. Phibbs), VI., 29612.
- Rundale striped in one townland—tenants were returned as future tenants (P. Slein), VI., 30940-1.
- Sale of property (C. Phibbs), VI., 29612-3, 29975-6.
  - Price that would be accepted, Owner willing to produce rent-books (C. Phibbs), VI., 30040-1.
  - Rise in price of property of which witness was joint owner (C. Phibbs), VI., 29720-34.
- *Refer also* to Doobeg.

PHIBBS, Mr. CHARLES.—*Appearing on behalf of the Landlords' Convention:*

- Evidence, VI., 29604-30041.

PHYSIQUE OF PEOPLE.

- Deterioration—
  - Emigration, Effect of (W. H. Boyd), V., 22953-4; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57115.
  - Not confined to Ireland (W. H. Boyd), V., 22952.

PHYSIQUE OF PEOPLE—*continued.*

- Donegal men strong—Poor physique in North Mayo and South Galway, due to poverty (W. L. Micks), I., 259-60.
- Exercises and games—Board should have power to set aside certain portions of land (T. Moclair), IX., 49954-6.
- Surprisingly good, considering history of people (H. Plunkett), IV., 21462.

PIERS, HARBOURS, BOATSLIPS.

- Applications—
  - Applications made in places where it was physically impossible to provide what was asked for without gigantic expense (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 860.
  - Position when Congested Districts Board started work and present position (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 856.
- Authorities—
  - Antagonism of Authorities—Difficulty to be avoided in any changes made—Instances of relations in 1881 between Board of Works and Committee appointed to select Sites for Works (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18528-9.
  - Congested Districts Board—
    - Powers of—Board of Trade had to be consulted, but Congested Districts Board were statutory promoters (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 878-80.
    - Transfer from Congested Districts Board to County Councils, Question of.
      - Act of 1890, Provision for Transfer (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 866.
      - Danger that County Councils would let Piers, etc., go out of Repair (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 867-70.
      - Number of Piers that the Counties were asked to take over—Attitude of Counties (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 866, 872-4, 877.
  - County Council—
    - Piers not erected by Board were under control of County Councils as a rule (J. O'Connor), III., 13590, 13592.
    - Responsible for Piers, Repairs of Piers and provision of Harbour Master (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18993.
    - *Refer* also to sub-headings Congested Districts Board and Funds.
  - Division of responsibility—
    - Report of Royal Commission on Irish Public Works (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18532-3.
    - Waste of Money in 1881 (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18538.
  - Expenditure of, say, £250,000 would be better controlled by authorities in Ireland with experience, and who understood the local conditions (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18593-4, 18600, 18607.
  - Local Authorities—Powers existed long antecedent to the Board's powers—No funds (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 881.
- Clare Co., *see* that title, sub-heading Fisheries.
- Cleaning of harbours—work that should be done locally (H. Brennan), VI., 27452-64.
- Contract, getting work done by—instance where it had proved satisfactory (T. O'Sullivan), VII., 45541-3.
- Demand for Piers might possibly be overdone—Provision of piers had not been so (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19079-81.
- Employment, Provision of—Dissatisfaction among people if not employed (B. Harte), VI., 27733, 27767-71.
- Engineers, Appointment of—Arrangements from 1891 to 1905 when Engineering Staff was transferred to Department of Agriculture (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1516.
- Funds and Expenditure—
  - Additional Expenditure advantageous, but Board was so anxious for further funds for Estates business that question of public works had not been urged (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 856.

PIERS, HARBOURS, BOATSLIPS—*continued.*

- Congested Districts Board—
  - Contribution offered and not availed of, Board should have sufficient money to enable it to carry out duties imposed upon it (R. O. Sloan), VIII., 44282-4, 44291-2.
  - Had funds to spend on anything they liked in the congested districts (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18552.
  - Power for Congested Districts Board to give grants for landing stages at such places as Prison Cove (J. Hurley), VIII., 46560-1.
- Continuation of present expenditure by Congested Districts Board assumed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 855.
- County Councils, Limit of expenditure on piers and harbours (R. P. Woodside), VII., 36417; (D. O'Loughlin), VII., 39834-5.
  - Legislation, Question of (R. P. Woodside), VII., 36412; (M. Considine), VII., 39561-71.
- Department had an annual sum allotted for Fishery purposes, including improvement of Piers (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18552-5.
- Expenditure from Public Funds on Piers and Harbours in the United Kingdom (Dr. O'Donnell), IV., 18993 and *note.*
- Fishery Loan Fund, Grant out of For expenditure on miscellaneous engineering work (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513-5.
- Marine Works Act of 1902 had given considerable assistance, Funds not yet exhausted (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 857.
- Mistaken Expenditure in the past, *see* that sub-heading.
- Need for Provision out of Imperial funds (W. Doherty), II., 5394, 5400.
- No permanent funds—Grants made from time to time and disposed of by temporary Commissions—Small proportion given in Loans (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18549-51.
  - Intermittent Grants produced an average of £3,000 a year—Unfavourable comparison with system of Expenditure in Scotland (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18556-9.
- Roads and Piers, Expenditure by Congested Districts Board, *refer* to title Road.

Kerry Coast—

- Complaint of inaction of Congested Districts Board (T. Baker), VIII., 42708-9.
- Expenditure on piers at Valencia and Meeaghahane, much better if money had been expended on Reenard pier (R. Fitzgerald), VIII., 43376-9.
- Natural advantages of—Long bays that afforded a shelter (A. T. Duthie), IV., 19082.

Large Centres *v.* Small Local Piers—

- Board of Works expenditure—Better if Board took one county every year and made one or two good harbours instead of small ones (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39652-3.
- Concentration of efforts and funds on centres containing natural facilities with professional aptitude on part of population—Recommendation of Commission of 1835 (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4985.
  - Desirable, but slips for small boats should also be provided (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45125-5A, 45661-9, 45700-1, 45705-10.
  - Opinion in favour of (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48220-1.
- Conditions under which large works would be justifiable (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5157-8.
- Congested Districts Board—Policy of improving and making a large number of small piers and landing places rather than concentrating efforts upon large piers (Rev. W. S. Green), 4950-57; (A. MacDonnell), I., 4987.

PIERS, HARBOURS, BOATSLIPS—*continued.*

Large Centres *v.* Small Local Piers—*continued.*

- Donegal Coast, Desire for a number of little piers where boats could run for shelter (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7668-87, 7690-778.
- Greater average expenditure on large works desirable in some places, but the Board had generally found that large works must be left to the chances of special Government Grants (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5157.
- Opinion in favour of construction of small number of Harbours, etc., Sites being selected on evidence of best experts obtainable (A. J. Balfour), V., 22138.
- Sheltered harbours necessary for erection of large piers—Sheltered harbours too far away from fishing grounds in some cases for small boats (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4960.
- Transit facilities, large works should always be considered in connection with (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5157.
- *Refer also* to Fisheries—Landing place for Fish.

Leases to be granted by Board of Trade and Congested Districts Board enabled to levy tolls and make bye-laws for regulation and management of piers constructed by them proposed (J. O'Connor), III., 13588-9.

- Glengariff Pier, Case of (J. O'Connor), III., 13596.
- Present position—Board could build a pier, but could not levy toll to recoup itself (J. O'Connor), III., 13597-9.
- Two sets of piers in same district, Objection to—Board was willing to hand over piers to County Council, but Council often objected, because tolls leviable were insufficient, etc. (J. O'Connor), III., 13591, 13593-5.

Light Railways, Harbour or Shelter in connection with an essential part of witness's scheme for developing Fisheries (A. J. Balfour), V., 22137.

Lights at fishing harbours, Erection and Maintenance (A. T. Duthie), IV., App. II., p. 175.

List of Marine Works constructed by Congested Districts Board, IV. App. I., p. 158-60.

List of Marine Works constructed or improved in Congested Districts between 1800 and 1892 which had proved to be of use to the Fisheries (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18527, App. I., p. 163.

List of marine works constructed under the Board of Works and various Commissions for Relief of Distress—Table given in right-hand corner of map (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., App. I., facing p. 158.

Local opinion should be consulted before making a final decision as to sites (B. Harte), VI., 27750-1, 27755-60.

Maintenance—

- Board sometimes gave a contribution as an inducement and County Council maintained work, but where there was no contribution the Board had to maintain the work in perpetuity (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 883-5.
- County Councils, Maintenance by—
  - Difficulties in taking over piers, Legal difficulties, etc. (J. O'Connor), III., 13601.
  - Objection of County Councils to take over inefficient marine works on account of heavy expense of maintenance (H. Murphy), X., 55424, 55426

Map showing locality and expenditure on works connected with Fisheries (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18510-23, App. I., facing p. 158

Memorandum on marine works (Rev. W. S. Green), I., App. VI., p. 342.

PIERS, HARBOURS, BOATSLIPS—*continued.*

- Mistaken expenditure in the past (P. O'Donnell), IX., 49130-8.
  - Congested Districts Board—Inferior works carried out and works of greater merit left undone, alleged (A. G. O'Donnell), VIII., 44345.
  - Extra expenditure owing to unsatisfactory way in which things had been done, and also to universal neglect in provision of Piers (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 857-9.
  - Not one harbour suitable for large fishing boats and unnecessarily expensive (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., 18715, 18731.
  - Piers and Roads Commission, 1882, Mistakes made in recommendations of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 857, 862-5.
    - Board of Works—No choice in the matter, Duty of carrying out recommendations (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 866.
  - Places where piers, etc., were wrongly placed or badly constructed (B. Harte), VI., 27717-83; (J. Dunleavy), II., 10766-7; (T. Mahoney), VIII., 43793-804, 43814; (A. G. O'Connell), 44346-58; (J. Hurley), 46529; (J. M'Hale), IX., 48580; (Canon Grealey), 48877; (C. O'Connor), X., 53798-9; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55958-64.
    - *Refer also* to names of Places.
- Need for additional accommodation—Difficulties of coast, Existing lack of landing facilities (J. Pomeroy), II., 7500-2; (Mgr. Walker), II., 6984, 6991; (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7668-87, 7690-778; (M. M'Nelis), II., 9995.
  - Animals, transit of—Injuries suffered owing to want of harbour accommodation at Rathlin Island (Rev. E. V. M'Gowan), VII., 36009, 36013.
  - Backwardness of industries connected with sea fisheries due to want of piers (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 860.
  - Fisheries Development, Question of (Canon Sweeney), II., 9653.
    - Greencastle to Tremore, Complaint by Fishermen (W. Lafferty), II., 12527.
    - Increased amount of fish land in Muintinarara parish since expenditure on piers, etc. (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45670-3, 45680-2.
    - Larger boats—Considerable expenditure on Piers and Harbours, etc., was desirable (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 5199-200.
    - Places where there was no accommodation or where additional accommodation was needed (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305; (P. Meehan), VI., 28434-7; (J. G. Quilty), 28477; (M. Connolly), 35424-5; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41178-83; (T. O'Flaherty), VIII., 42858; (T. Sheehy), 46492, 46515; (A. M'Namara), IX., 49736-41; (A. Larminie), 50010; (P. O'Malley), X., 52235; (Rev. J. Kelly), 52625, 52639; (Canon M'Alpine), 52691-2, 52694-6, 52743-5; (Rev. W. S. Green), 52854-6, 52858-63, 52865.
    - Rathmullan to Port Salon—Fishing Industry dying out for want of Piers or shelter places (J. Deeney), II., 12095.
- Number of piers, etc., constructed and now maintained by Congested Districts Board (J. O'Connor), III., 13602, and *note.*
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  - Cork County, VIII., App. IX., p. 344.
  - Donegal County, II., App. XII., p. 295.
  - Kerry County, VIII., App. VIII., p. 255.
  - Mayo County, IX., App. IV., p. 241-2.
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- Supervision, Caretaking, etc., Apart from repairs—Annual cost (F. W. D. Mitchell), I. 867.
- Works proposed demanding careful consideration (Rev. W. S. Green), IV., App. I., p. 164-5.
- (*For* particular districts and piers, *see* their names.)

PIERSE, Mr. GARRETT.—*Rural District Councillor from Gullane.*

- Evidence, VII., 42693.

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—*Advisor in Forestry to Estates Commissioners and Chief of Mapping and Surveying Department.*

- Evidence, VII., 41985-42126, App. IV., pp. 337-41.

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- Armagh Co.—Improvement in breed of pigs, Local efforts (W. R. Bell), VII., 35344.
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- Disease—Veterinary attendance required (J. Morrin), IX., 51677-80.
- Feeding Question—
  - Breaking up of grass lands would reduce number of cows, effect on pig-breeding of smaller milk supply (W. Walpole), X., 58816.
  - Constant production of milk did not necessarily imply constant production of pigs, because milk could be used for other stock, but the more tillage the more pigs (Professor Campbell), IV., 20338-42.
  - Fuel supply necessary—Cooked food needed for pigs (J. Irwin), X., 58730, 58732.
  - No difficulty in getting farmers to keep pigs once they were assured of a food supply (Professor Campbell), IV., 20344.

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Fluctuations in Pig-breeding—

Not decreasing (T. Porter), III., 13727.

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Market—Regulation of market and railway rates by Department desirable (Rev. J. M'Donnell), IX., 51449.

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Results obtained (J. McArthur), II., 6731.

Excellent—Influence of boar quickly felt (Professor Campbell), IV., 20312.

Pigs exported, good bacon trade, etc. (Professor Campbell), IV., 20322-4, 20327.

Fattening done at home, pigs killed at nine or ten months and sold at £3 10*s.* to £4 (Professor Campbell), IV., 20325-6.

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Supply Difficulty—Simultaneous Action of thirty-three County Committees seriously interfering with even distribution of available animals (Professor Campbell), IV., 20311-2.

Agricultural Stations at Athenry, etc., had enabled Department to reserve for Connaught more than its due share of sires (Professor Campbell), IV., 20311.

Swine fever—No trouble, except in case of a farmer wanting to import from England from a district where disease was prevalent (Professor Campbell), IV., 20315-7.

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Poor people unable to go into Court settled with landlord out of Court—Question as to reduction obtained, Charge for right to mountain not mentioned in agreement (M. Masterson), IX., 49182-8.

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PILCHARD.

Well known on West Coast of Kerry formerly, but not for the last thirty years (Rev. W. S. Green), I., 4801.

PLANTING OF TREES.

Acquisition of land for planting, Amount of land available, etc.

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Congested Districts Counties—Under compulsory purchase State would become proprietor of practically all the waste lands, suggestions as to setting apart lands for economic forestry (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42093.

County Councils to have compulsory powers, proposed (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39314-6.

Difficulty of dealing with existing woods would be increased while means of acquiring waste land suited to planting would be greatly facilitated (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42065.

Congested Districts Board, areas owned by (Lord Castletown), V., 26411.

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Direct sales, increase in difficulties in utilising such lands (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42093.

Immediate action to secure suitable waste or barren lands imperative owing to operation of Act of 1903 (Lord Castletown), V., 26386; (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42018.

Impossible to estimate what proportion of total area of mountain land, etc., might be acquired for forestry purposes—Statistics of untenanted land (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42085.

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Returns in answer to circular issued by Irish Forestry Society—40,000 to 50,000 acres meeting all requirements (Lord Castletown), V., 26405-8; (A. Moeran), X., 56937-42.

Incomplete return representing an infinitesimal amount of what could be acquired—Circular sent to few people at short notice (A. Moeran), X., 56944-5, 56950.

Mountain holding of 1,000 acres offered at moderate price, tenants having refused land as worthless to them—700 acres planted and doing well could also be acquired (Lord Castletown), V., 26411-2, 26413.

Sporting rights would be enhanced in value as a result of planting, and proprietors might be willing to part with mountain land providing sporting rights were retained (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42085.

Total amount of mountain and heath land (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42079-80; (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39315.

Western counties offered greatest scope both for protection of existing woodlands and for reservation of lands for afforestation (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42093.

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  - Memorandum, VII. App. IV., pp. 337-41.
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  - Bavarian Hills, something done (F. Mowatt), V., 26392.
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- Area of existing woods and plantations—
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  - Increase in area if percentage of forest land in Ireland were increased to same percentage as for the United Kingdom (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42085.
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- Authority to acquire and plant land and to control and manage plantations (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33747; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43169.
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- Congested Districts Board's Operations—
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  - Expenditure (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4594-5A, 4605-6.
  - Forestry one of the first problems of congested districts, and so came within Board's province (A. Moeran), X., 56985.
  - Knockboy Plantations, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Not much planting done besides that at Knockboy, Kiltimagh, and on the Dillon Estate (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4597.
  - Power under Act of 1891 (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42088.
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  - Damage done, prevention desirable, etc. (J. R. Baillie), II., 10566-7; (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30087; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47356; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59189-90, 59192-3.
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  - Instruction as to the necessity of planting and preserving trees, opinion in favour of (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33750-1.
  - Landlord cutting down and removing timber prior to sale, question of ,powers of landlord, etc. (J. R. Baillie), II., 10562-3, 10565; (B. M'Manus), VII., 38819-22, 38824-8; (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42021-9.
    - Case in which landlord wished to cut down trees and tenants refused either to buy wood or to allow it to be cut down (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42029-32.
    - No case known to witness (J. R. Baillie), II., 10565; (E. F. Bowen), X., 59194-5.
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  - Protection of isolated trees, shelter belt or hedgerow timber desirable, amendment of the law proposed (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42094-7.
  - Small outlying woods were an embarrassment under existing circumstances, frequently cut down (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42065.
  - Tenant purchasers cutting down trees, tendency to cut down instead of planting (J. R. Baillie), II., 10557-9; (W. Vaugh), II., 32651; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33746; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34186-7; (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42022-6.
    - Difficult to prevent—Provision might be made requiring the consent of the authorities (E. F. Bowen), X., 59164-5, 59190-2.
    - Instance of farm where timber was cut down as soon as land was transferred (G. Hewson), VI., 31570, 31582-4.
    - No clause inserted in agreement on resale of land—Very few trees on most of the properties, tenant would probably be able to evade any restricting clause (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4646-7.
    - Tenants more anxious to cut timber than tenant purchasers (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33748-9.

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  - Failure to take up afforestation as they should—Avondale forestry school not much use as there was no forestry work (Lord Castletown), V., 26455-64.
    - School consisted of a few acres (A. Moeran), X., 56988.
  - Memorandum IV., App. IV.A, p. 194.
  - Powerless to do anything for want of money and legal authority, insufficient powers of holding land and inadequate funds (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42087-8, 42093.
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  - Amount afforded by 1,000 acres—Return to be put in (Lord Castletown), V., 26420-1.
  - Continuous employment—System of planting in sections by rotation proposed, so that employment would be continuous (A. Moeran), X., 56955-6, 56968, 56971.
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  - Local industries would grow where timber was started (Lord Castletown), V., 26383; (F. M'Carthy), VIII., 46367.
  - Temporary employment, Purchase of Estates with a view to provision of, Board not allowed to expend any of its funds for relief as such (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4648-9.
    - Expenditure involved, question of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4651-2.
    - No funds for the purpose and no suitable properties for sale (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4649.
  - Winter employment (Lord Castletown), V., 26431; (A. Moeran), X., 56930, 56957.
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- Financial Question, Provision of Funds, etc.—
  - Cost of planting and profits to be made, *see* those sub-headings.
  - County Councils empowered to strike a rate for forestry purposes, but the money was in most cases already hypothecated to other purposes (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42087-8, 42089-92; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47370, 47376-8.
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  - Attitude of occupiers, question of value of rights (A. Moeran), X., 56942-3, 54946.
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    - Difficult to get occupiers to surrender mountain slopes (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42071, 42085.
    - Kerry mountains could usually be grazed but if land were more valuable under trees there would be no difficulty (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42835-42.
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  - Exchange of mountain land for smaller area of good land near the homesteads, possibility of (J. L. Pigot), VII., 42085.
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  - Constable Estate Instance, *see* Constable's, Major Chichester, Estate.
  - General return of prices given by the two bodies for untenanted land was ready (M. Finucane), III., 16009-10.
  - Memorandum, III., App. VII., p. 316.
- Disinterested medium wanted through whom vendors and purchasers could be approached sympathetically without having their cases prejudiced (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27000.
- Distance from market not considered by landlord in purchase price—Cost to tenants of taking produce to and from market on Lord Cork's Estate (T. Baker), VIII., 42715A.
- Estates Commissioners, prices paid by—
  - Comparison with prices paid by Congested Districts Board, *see* sub-heading Congested Districts Board.
  - Evicted tenants, land for reinstatement of, consideration affecting price—Advances to incoming tenants ought not to be considered (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45912-7.
  - Farm bought by witness at a lower price than Estates Commissioners had been prepared to give—Witness desired sale of estate at the higher price, but the Commissioners did not carry out his view (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25950.
  - Forcing down price—Estates Commissioners' policy (W. H. Boyd), V., 23912, 23914; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41221, 41228; 41334-9, 41341-3, 41347-62, 41401, 41732.
  - No fixed principle—Very difficult to get hold of one (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26999.
  - Position of Commissioners, restricted powers—15 per cent taken off in practice for risk (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41315-20.
  - Refusal by landlord of price offered, unpleasantness likely to arise between landlord and tenants (W. H. Boyd), V. 24988-92.
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  - *See also* sub-heading Untenanted Land.
- Evicted Tenants' Bill, terms proposed for purchase of land (T. W. Russell), IX., 51942, 51947-50.
- Excess lands required for enlarging holdings in case of future tenants—
  - Compensation for Ejectment fixed by law (M. Finucane), III., 15954, 15963.
    - Men whose valuation was above £100, proposal confined to (M. Finucane), III., 15964-5.
  - Class of future tenant contemplated was grazier who had a yearly tenancy and could be evicted on notice to quit (M. Finucane), III., 15954, 15960-2.
  - Differential treatment of present and future tenants advocated—There was a substantial distinction in many cases (M. Finucane), III., 15955-7, 15966.

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- Excess lands required for enlarging holdings in case of judicial tenancies—
  - Fair price must be given, and if resulting annuity were larger than incoming tenant could pay, either land should not be bought or the State should make good the loss (M. Finucane), III., 15954.
  - Two possible principles for determining price of tenant's interest (M. Finucane), III., 15954.
- Excessive prices, *see* sub-heading Improvident bargains.
- Fair price should be given—Opinions as to what was a fair price (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3743-6, 3866, 3905, 3911; (J. M'Loughlin), V., 29370-4; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30334-7; (G. Hewson), VI., 31614-43; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34621-2, 34640, 34643; (A. Black), VII., 36946-52; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44605-11, 44612-4; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52504-5, 52539.
  - Ashbourne prices should set the standard (P. Rooney), VI., 32166-7, 32197-9; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44478-9; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52507.
    - Variation due more to varying strength of tenants' organisation than to difference in quality of land, Land could not be treated on same system as other commodities (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44480-92.
  - Market Value—
    - Market price should be given, bonus being allowed to stand for compulsion (T. W. Russell), IX., 51952.
    - No such value existed (T. W. Russell), IX., 51988.
    - Very difficult to find (W. F. Bailey), III., 16958-60, 16970.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Net income.
- Fair rent as basis—Judicial basis, and the only one available (W. F. Bailey), III., 16831-2.
- Fifteen per cent. under valuation accepted as a fair rent and basis for price—Contradiction, price accepted under quasi compulsion (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41683.
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- Grazing rents as basis, *see* sub-heading Untenanted Land.
- Improvements—
  - Information difficult to get—Twelve years back might be obtained (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51336-8.
  - Landlords, improvements made by, on faith of title given by Landed Estates Court conveyance—Landlord ought not to lose any of his expenditure (C. Phibbs), VI., 29903-16; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50163-7.
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Bonus added under Ashbourne Act would have hastened sales in the poor districts. and Act of 1903 would have been unnecessary (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48134-7.

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Comparison with previous Acts misleading—Sales under previous Acts mostly bad character of forced sales—Act of 1903 anticipated rise in price (W. H. Boyd), V., 23914, 24000-8, 24017-8, 24020; (E. Browne), VII., 40054-6; (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45739, 45742-4, 45765-70.

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PRICE OF LAND, &c.—*continued.*

- Increase in price—Increase under Act of 1903 as compared with previous Act—*continued.*
  - Effect on problem of congestion—
    - Tenanted land, increase in price of, had no material bearing on problem—Purchase of untenanted land first provided for by Act of 1903, so that problem was really a new one (G. Wyndham), V. 22880.
    - Very few purchases made by Congested Districts Board in Donegal since 1903 (Canon Sweeney), II., 9774-5.
  - Estates Commissioners' Report—Mr. Wrench differed from majority of Commissioners (W. H. Boyd), V., 23914.
  - First and second term rents—Difference would account to some extent for rise in number of years' purchase (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44512-8; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50187-94.
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  - Inspection, doing away with, one of the special reasons for higher prices (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10394; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415.
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  - Landlords' action—Rise in price not due to any desire on part of landlords to inflate prices (W. H. Boyd), V., 24252-8.
    - Landlords buying cheap and selling dear alleged—Instance to the contrary (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41071-98.
  - Low rate of repayment made price appear high under test of "number of years' purchase" (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43750.
  - Lower rate for voluntary purchase outside zones provided for (W. H. Boyd), V., 25055-6.
  - Meaning of increased price—
    - Enhanced price spoken of in Act of 1903 meant enhanced price given by purchaser to Board and had nothing to do with price originally given to Board (G. Wyndham), V., 22802.
    - Increased number of years' purchase (F. S. Wrench), III., 15098, 15104; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24019.
    - Not a question of over-valuing poor lands (W. H. Boyd), V., 24229-30.
  - Mortgages, facilities for clearing off, under Act of 1903 (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50214-5.
  - Necessity for rise in price in order to keep land purchase going, question of—
    - Bankrupt landlords had all sold (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44833-4.
    - Financial arrangement, Alteration in, sufficient without any bonus—Or, given the other inducements, no need to increase number of years' purchase (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25423-31, 25501-3.

PRICE OF LAND, &c.—*continued.*

- Increase in price—Increase under Act of 1903 as compared with previous Acts—*continued.*
  - Necessity for rise in price, etc.—*continued.*
    - Number of Landlords who could afford to sell at a loss was exhausted (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 832.
      - True to a certain extent, but price of fee-simple of land had increased though value of land had not (H. Doran), I., 1937-9.
    - Object of the Act was to enable poorer landlords to sell (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44072, 44120-4.
    - Properties being offered in Congested districts up to the last moment (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48139-40.
    - State assistance necessary to prevent continuation of deadlock (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 812, 830.
    - Still plenty of landlords insolvent, and refusing to sell (J. Corcoran), IX., 47217-8.
  - Present terms much the same as under the Ashbourne Act if everything that was paid from beginning to end of the transaction was taken into account (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34143-51.
  - Previous Acts gave purchaser better bargain (H. Doran), I., 1990, 1994-6; (E. Browne), VII., 40054, 40060.
  - Price not mentioned at all in Act of 1903—It was a voluntary Act (W. H. Boyd), V., 24126, 24128.
  - Proceeds of sale exceeding vendor's net income, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Quality of land sold before and after Act, question of (H. Boyd), V., 24132-3.
  - Rate of interest, effect of lower rate (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50195, 50198.
  - Tenant-right (H. Doran), I., 1957; (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10395; (C. Phibbs), VI., 29716.
  - Unjustified increase (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45201.
  - Wyndham, Mr., Estimate of money side of problem—Act designed to dispose of rental of £4,000,000 when reduced to basis of second term rents, capital sum appropriated £100,000,000 or twenty-five years' purchase of second term rents (W. H. Boyd), V., 23914, 24121, 24398-404, 24836-40, 24848.
    - Actual selling price was 24·8 years' purchase of second term rents—well within Mr. Wyndham's estimate (W. H. Boyd), V., 23914, 24248-9.
    - Average of twenty-five years' purchase was underlying idea (W. H. Boyd), V., 24404.
    - Debate quoted was part of an attempt by tenant to knock bottom out of zones (W. H. Boyd), V., 24847.
    - Explanation of witness's meaning (W. H. Boyd), V., 25053-4.
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    - Rental of £4,000,000—Assumed rental, question how it was arrived at (W. H. Boyd), V., 25144-6.
    - Twenty-two years' purchase, Bill providing for—Mr. Wyndham's statement later in same speech (Dr. O'Donnell), V., 24125.
      - Minimum price provided for by Bill (W. H. Boyd), V., 24842.
      - No importance to be attached to what was said in course of debate (W. H. Boyd), V., 24405-8.
    - Valueless Estimate—135,000 holders had applied and their applications involved capital sum of £46,000,000, therefore about £40,000,000 more than Mr. Wyndham's £100,000,000 would be needed to deal with remaining 140,000 holders (Chairman), III., 25129-35, 25142.

Price of Land, &c.—*continued.*

Increase in price, etc.—*continued.*

Zone system, Effect of (W. F. Bailey), III., 16502-3; (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415.

See also sub-heading Untenanted Land.

Inspection for Value, *see* title Inspection.

Investment of purchase money, *see* title Investment.

Land Conference terms, *see* sub-headings Net income and Number of years' purchase.

Landlord, position of—Price which a landlord ought to get—

Amount made by Rent over and above the original price should be taken into consideration (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3896-902.

Free market, question of—no free market between landlord and tenant (F. S. Wrench), III., 14530-2; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27000, 27126; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48170-1.

Question how far existing Land hunger left the tenant a free market (F. S. Wrench), III., 14575-6.

Full compensation for income and disturbance—Landlord ought to be secured in his net income and in costs, etc., less 10 per cent. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24997-9.

Hitherto uncertain income permanently secured, *see* sub-heading Security.

Land Conference terms would be accepted as equitable (D. Pearson), II., 10892; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24708, 24713-4, 24802-3, 25117.

Price asked by landlords was, generally speaking, the fair price (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41352-6, 41362.

Reduction which landlords would be willing to give—Prior parish and surrounding districts (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44069-72, 44080-1.

Thirty years' purchase of Griffith's valuation, Landlords would be content with (W. H. Boyd), V., 24658-9, 24662, 24677-8.

Twenty per cent. bonus and sum which invested at 4 per cent. would give net income would satisfy landlords (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47486.

Twenty years' purchase paid at once, plus bonus—Witness would be very glad to take it, but he could only speak for himself (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44082.

Twenty-six times net income proposed—twenty-six made up of twenty-eight times 75 per cent. of net income and twenty times remaining quarter (A. Crichton), V., 27333-5.

Value of landlord's interest (G. L. Young), II., 5768.

Decrease (J. Dunleavy), II., 10846, 10851-2, 10854-5.

Landlord's Interest was not only the rent, but all other things included in fee of holding (W. H. Boyd), V., 25178-88.

Variation in terms demanded—explanation (The O'Conor Don), X., 58897-901, 58945, 58949.

Refer also to sub-headings Improvements, Loss on transfer, Net Income, etc.

Landlord's and Tenant's Interest, Proportion of (W. H. Boyd), V., 25175; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47170.

Impossible to say, tenant-right sometimes sold for ten times landlord's interests (F. S. Wrench), III., 14524-7, 14560-5.

Loss on Transfer of Land—Gap between expectations of vendor and purchaser (G. Balfour), V., 22255.

Compulsion would involve increased loss (G. Wyndham), V., 22821, 22829.

Expectations of both parties quite reasonable (G. Balfour), V., 22256.

Gap sometimes very wide (H. Doran), I., 2637-9, 2658-9.

Improvements, loss on, *see* title Improvements.

Price of Land, &c.—*continued.*

Loss on transfer of land—*continued.*

Incidence of loss involved by State Policy—

Bonus not sufficient to bridge over difference between expectations of vendor and purchaser (T. Rutledge), IX., 49323-4.

Re-arrangement of bonus so as to bridge gap proposed (W. F. Bailey), III., 16846; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57150, 57203.

Congested Districts Board to bridge gap out of their own revenues, proposed (A. Crichton), V., 27327.

Division between landlord and tenant proposed (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44244-7; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52594.

Could usually be bridged by a bargain without resorting to a Bonus (G. Balfour), V., 22258.

Guiding principle should be that those to whom compulsion was applied should not be left in a worse position than before land was taken (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34715.

Landlord might justly be called on to bear some loss (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3747-9; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34623-9, 34637, 34641-2, 34645-73, 34694-6; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50110-25; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51172-8, 51238-40, 51282-92; (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56466-8, 56559-60.

Fair Rent procedure, precedent (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56468, 56479-80.

Net income likely to decrease as judicial rents were further lowered (Canon Macken), X., 56329.

Net income should be secured to landlord as a rule, but not in certain exceptional cases (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45067-81, 45169-75.

Precedents, question of (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34631-6.

Landlord ought not to suffer (G. Balfour), V., 22326; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23436, 23440-3; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 39328-30; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48062-3, 48094, 48097; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51217; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52508, 52510.

State should bear the loss, not any particular class (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3867-8; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9531-2; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23447; (W. Mitchell), VI., 28870-5; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32843; (Rev. D. Gray), 34739; (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35152-4; (A. Black), 36974-7; (G. F Trench), VIII., 43295; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47538-9, 47542-8, 47560; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48064, 48096-105; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49322, 49324, 49335; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49422; (P. Higgins), IX., 49526-31; (R. Crawford), X., 50793-8; (Rev. J. Pelly), X., 52598; (Rev. M. Conroy), X., 54156; (M. A. Lyons), X., 54572; (Canon Macken), X., 56230-4, 56232-4; (Canon Lyons), X., 56284-5; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57203-4, 57220, 57228.

Tenant being part owner ought to bear his share of loss (W. H. Boyd), V., 24565.

Tenant should pay something by way of fine (M. C. Henry), IX., 51289.

Non-congested districts—Purchasers should be compelled to bridge gap out of their own savings by payment of fine (A. Crichton), V., 27327-32.

Loss inevitable on poorer class of holdings—such losses ought to be recouped from Parliamentary Vote (M. Finucane), III., 16012-9.

PRICE OF LAND, &c.—*continued.*

- Loss on Transfer of Land—*continued.*
  - Mortgaged Estates, question of loss on (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47536, 47556.
  - Not contemplated that there would be loss on tenanted land, Board could minimise loss on untenanted land by saving out of margin between interest on advance and grazing rents received—Example how loss would work out (G. Wyndham), V., 22811.
- Lowest price under first and second zones in 1903 (W. H. Boyd), V., 24127.
- Method of payment—
  - Discount on Land Stock—Amount that had to be issued to enable the tenants to pay £100 cash to landlords (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48128.
  - Increasing interest on land stock to 3 per cent. and paying landlords two-thirds in stock proposed (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48128-32, 48141-4.
- Mortgaged Estates—All charges should be transferred to money paid for estate and be paid off by Bank Authorities (W. H. Boyd), V., 24745-63, 24797-801, 24903-4, 24916-7.
  - Advantages to landlords under Act of 1903 (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50214-5.
  - Bonus, graduation of, so as to equalise tenants' payments in case of mortgaged and unmortgaged estates, suggestion—Criticism (W. H. Boyd), V., 24933-9, 24942-7.
  - Deduction of interest on charges from gross income in calculation would be a very serious injury to owner—Unsound in principle and unjust in practice (W. H. Boyd), V., 24931, 25157.
    - Remainder-man, position of (T. Rutledge), IX., 49285-6.
  - Every charge paid off was redeemed (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27083.
  - Increased income which landlord would receive—
    - Interests represented, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24764-83, 24907-14.
    - No reason why tenants should get land cheaper because it had been mortgaged (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25808-11, 25883; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27090-6; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34267.
  - Landlord, not State should redeem mortgage—All charges must be redeemed out of purchase money, any charge that could not be cleared must be deducted (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27084.
  - Price of property, not net income was what had to be calculated (W. H. Boyd), V., 24793; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27086-7, 27089, 27099, 27105.
  - Rate of interest on mortgages, proportion of value likely to be advanced (W. H. Boyd), V., 24642-6.
  - Tenants, Price charged to—Question of advantage of cheap sale, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24771, 24786-92, 24893-9, 24906, 24917, 24921-30, 25003-4; (J. Fitzgibbon), 25399, 25808; (D. T. Crosbie), 27090-6; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34267.
- Net income as basis for price—Land Conference terms, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24591-4, 24608-9; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27000; (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28163-6; (Capt. Darley), 33402-4; (Col. Knox-Gore), X., 47420-4.
  - Additions to net income (W. H. Boyd), V., 24957-8.
    - Arrears, Extraneous sources of revenue, such as sporting rights, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24957-8.
    - Proprietorial Rights, recognition of, proposed, in estimating price of land, question of what constituted proprietorial rights (D. Kirwin), X., 55311-32.
    - Quarries, Bogs, etc., would be treated in same way as agricultural property—No hard and fast rule could be laid down (W. H. Boyd), V., 24740-2.

PRICE OF LAND, &c.—*continued.*

- Net Income as basis for price, Land Conference terms, etc.—*continued.*
  - Additions to net income—*continued.*
    - Some arrangement would have to be made to secure landlord against losing sources of profit (W. H. Boyd), V., 24743-4, 25000.
    - Sporting rights—value, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24734-9, 24743, 25000-2, 25119-21; (G. Hewson), VI., 31680.
    - Tribunal would be necessary, probably with right of appeal from it (W. H. Boyd), V., 25123-8.
  - Alternative Proposal—Annuity direct from the Government equivalent to income or such a lump sum as would yield net income (Canon Sweeney), I., 9514-24, 9526.
  - Basis for calculation of Net Income—
    - Average rental over a term of years, number of years to be taken, etc. (F. S. Wrench), III., 14477, 14479; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47159, 47173; (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47314; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47423-4; (H. L. Blosse), X., 51299-301, 51311-7, 51323-5, 51367; (T. W. Russell), X., 51995, 51998-9.
    - Considerations which should influence fixing of net income (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52589.
    - Estate accounts, or failing those, Income Tax Returns should be consulted (M. Finucane), III., 15902, 15907, 15923-5; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26010-5; (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44673-4; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45196; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48110; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52509.
      - Books—Not submitted to tenants, no reason why they should be—witness had never been asked for such a thing (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45751-8, 45760.
      - Confidential nature of Income tax returns—Not confidential as against the State (M. Finucane), III., 15925.
      - Estates Commissioners, submission of books to—Excellent suggestion (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45761-4, 45771-2.
      - Negotiations would be expedited if landlords were willing to submit their books—Tenants would be willing to satisfy reasonable demands (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26010-5.
      - Net income and income on which Income Tax was paid not the same thing (T. Rutledge), IX., 49283.
      - Willingness to produce books, Question of (M. Finucane), III., 15918-9; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45197-8, 45202-4; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47449-64; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49279-82.
    - Gross income, less percentage for administration expenses, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24605-8, 25147-8; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45195.
      - Deduction should be put under head of taxes on grass lands—Witness took gross income less poor rate and drainage maintenance, which often came to more than 10 per cent (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27098, 27100-1, 27106.
    - Gross Rental and Net Rental, Difference between—Sometimes a large sum—Sale of Townawilly Estate (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10403-12, App. V., p. 245.
    - Land Conference had defined Net Income without reference to Estates Books—Witness was not aware of it (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26022-3.

PRICE OF LAND, ETC.—*continued.*

- Net Income as Basis for Price—Land Conference terms, etc.—*continued.*
  - Basis for Calculation of Net Income—*cont.*
    - Normal Net Income and Second Term Rents, *see* those sub-headings.
    - Rental of estate in first instance (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45746.
      - False basis for price—Nolan Estate instance (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57100-13.
    - Untenanted Land, Case of—
      - Actual Receipts, less all charges and expenses (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51323-8, 51339-44, 51363-9—Impossible definition (M. Finucane), III., 16077, 16080-1, 16088-91.
      - Gross estimated rent fixed by Estates Commissioners' valuers (M. Finucane), III., 16074-9, 16087.
      - Land Conference terms made no distinction between tenanted and untenanted land (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25451.
      - Land taken from tenants without compensation — No deductions should be made for tenant-right confiscated (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51329-33.
      - Tenanted and untenanted land, capitalising could not be put on same basis—Less secure income from untenanted land (H. Doran), XI., 59736-8.
      - Very good grass land, value for accommodation purposes greatly in excess of agricultural value (H. Doran), XI., 59788-90.
  - Boycotting and Intimidation affecting income, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Compulsion would not be necessary if these terms were given (F. S. Wrench), III., 14478; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44814; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47403-5, 47410, 47418, 47420-4; (Capt. A. Maude), 47605.
  - Deductions from Net Income—
    - Arrears—
      - Allowance should be made if estate had been properly managed (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51312-7.
      - Liability to landlord after purchase, question of—Liability cancelled by purchase agreement (T. Rutledge), IX., 49321-2.
      - No deduction for (T. Rutledge), IX., 49287-320.
    - Bad debts, question of inclusion of (W. H. Boyd), V., 25069-71; (W. Hutcheson Poë), X., 58330.
    - Expense of sale should be withdrawn (W. H. Boyd), V., 24728-30, 25005-6.
      - Details of Costs (W. H. Boyd), V., 25007-14.
      - Investment, Cost of, might be borne by vendor (W. H. Boyd), V., 25074-5.
      - Loss during progress of Sale—Interest paid only on portion of purchase-money, rent dropped from last gale day to date of signing agreement, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 25012-4.
      - Proportion of bonus swallowed up by—Proportion on large and small estates (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47508-10, 47537.
      - Sum given should be given plus the bonus unless costs were borne (W. H. Boyd), V., 24955-7, 24964-6.
    - Management, Costs connected with—Deduction up to 10 per cent. proposed (W. H. Boyd), V., 24719-27, 24731-2; (D. Doran), VIII., 44934; (W. Rochfort), 44962-73; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50106.

PRICE OF LAND, ETC.—*continued.*

- Net Income as Basis for Price—Land Conference terms, etc.—*continued.*
  - Deductions from Net Rental—*continued.*
    - Management, Costs connected with—*cont.*
      - Grounds on which figure was fixed at 10 per cent. (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50126-30.
      - Rent collection was a redeemable charge, and should not be included (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27096, 27106.
      - Ten per cent. not enough in all cases (W. H. Boyd), V., 25023-30, 25071-3; (P. Flynn), VI., 33263-70; (T. J. O'Sullivan), VIII., 44665-70; (Rev. T. Harrington), 44884, 44901-10.
    - Percentage of deduction (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48107-9; (Canon Macken), X., 56234-9.
    - Purely estate outgoings only should be deducted (T. Rutledge), IX., 49322.
    - Railway rates deducted in fixing second term rents (Captain Darley), VI., 33399-401.
    - Twenty-three years' purchase, with bonus, invested at 3½ per cent. producing more than present net income, alleged—Various deductions and other financial difficulties had apparently been forgotten (G. Hewson), VI., 31680.
    - Western estates, percentage of deduction required (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25433-50, 25510-15.
  - Definition of a net income (Rev. T. Harrington), VIII., 44880-1, 44883-6; (Canon Macken), X., 56174.
  - Difficulty of ascertaining net income (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51366-7, 51382; (D. Kirwin), X., 55322-3, 55332-41; (J. Keaveney), 59023.
  - Estates Commissioners could not approach those terms at present (F. S. Wrench), III., 14572.
  - Exact amount of net former rental could not be expected by landlords, presumed that they would be willing to sell at some reduction (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 832.
  - Fairness, question of—
    - "Equitable price" included some inducement to landlords to sell, *i.e.*, the bonus (W. H. Boyd), V., 24565, 24631-2.
    - Fair compensation for man obtaining income from, but not actually living by, the land (F. S. Wrench), V., 15048-9.
    - Fair terms (W. H. Boyd), V., 24701; (Rev. T. Harrington), VIII., 44876-7; (J. Corcoran), IX., 47212-7; (J. M'Hale), 48646-7.
    - Impossible to answer offhand—It might differ on different estates (G. Balfour), V., 22317-8.
    - Nearly the net income would be fair (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47311; (T. Gallagher), 50018.
    - Not a fair price, landlords would not get the full value of their properties (W. H. Boyd), V., 25065-8.
  - Foreign Competition, reduction to be made for increase of, proposed (B. Fox), VI., 32942-6, 32948-60.
  - General transfer of land would result (Capt. A. Maude), IX., 47605-8.
  - Grazing tenant—Same principle should be applied to grazing tenant whose land had to be acquired (Canon Sweeney), II., 9527-8.
  - Increase in Landlord's net income of late years (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3796-802, 3841.
    - Graziers paying too high a rent in the hope that the State would advance the money to buy them out (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3803-7.
  - Landlords, Attitude of—
    - Depended entirely on circumstances (A. Crichton), V., 27336-7.

Price of Land, etc.—*continued.*

Net income as basis for Price—Land Conference terms, etc.—*continued.*

Landlords, Attitude of—*continued.*

Nearly net income would satisfy witness (J. Corcoran), IX., 47154-77.

No landlord would refuse to exchange his income from untenanted land for an investment at 4 per cent. (H. Doran), XI., 59808.

Unwilling to accept net income (P. Higgin), IX., 49517-20; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48060, 48067-93.

Willing to accept terms proposed (D. Pearson), II., 10892; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24708, 24713-4, 24802-3, 25117; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47403, 47420, 47448, 47450-64; (E. T. O'Donel), 49004-12, 49021-2, 49049; (T. Rutledge), 49269-76, 49383, 49389; (The O'Conor Don), X., 58897, 58945.

Loss involved (F. S. Wrench), III., 15096-7, 15219-24, 15272.

Board should not be compelled to acquire property at a price which would mean a heavy loss, Compulsion to be exercised on requisition of tenants, terms being clearly understood (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52585-93.

Minimum that should be given (F. S. Wrench), III., 14480; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51293, 51297, 51299, 51382.

More land would become available (J. Gore-Booth), VI., 28343.

Normal net income obtained during five or ten years preceding sale, sum (including bonus) yielding such income (M. Finucane), III., 15902.

Criticism of proposal, Neglect of sentimental considerations and increase in value likely to accrue by advance of civilisation, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24565, 24610-31.

Net income used with different meaning from that given in Estates Commissioners' Report (1906) (W. H. Boyd), V., 24565, 24587-91.

Price of an estate of £746 gross rental, according to (1) Land Conference terms, (2) Mr. Finucane's proposals (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27001-9.

Opinion against proposed terms (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3903-4.

Value of landlords' interest in land had gone down 50 per cent. within last twenty-five years, no knowing how far it might yet go down (J. Dunleavy), II., 10846, 10851-2, 10854-5.

Same principle did not apply to tenants, because value of tenant-right had been rising (J. Dunleavy), II., 10853.

Opinion in favour of proposed terms (Canon Sweeney), II., 9525; (Mgr. M'Glynn), II., 10402; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14473, 14571-2; (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27107-8; (C. Phibbs), V., 30034, 30040-1; (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32820-4, 32831-9; (A. Davis), IX., 51085-6; (M. C. Henry), IX., 51164-5, 51169, 51238, 51240, 51284-5; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51989, 51991, 51994; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52509, 52561; (Canon Macken), X., 56173-6, 56224-6, 56319, 56327-9, 56331-2; (Rev. M. Eagleton), X., 56369.

Points of conflict and overlapping between Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners would disappear if principle were adopted (F. S. Wrench), III., 15213-4.

Prices prevailing since passing of the Act of 1903 were a fair criterion generally, though there were probably exceptional cases (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45207-13.

Rate of interest, *see* that sub-heading.

Price of Land, etc.—*continued.*

Net Income as basis for Price—Land Conference terms, etc.—*continued.*

Saving that would be effected—There would not be much saving as to inspection and valuation, valuation just as necessary for re-distribution as for purchase (F. S. Wrench), III., 15215-8.

Second term rents as basis for arriving at net income (W. H. Boyd), V., 24948, 25015, 25019.

Additions and deductions, *see* those sub-headings.

Criticism that terms were too high, particularly for land in the West (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25399-40, 25460-5.

Difference between second term rents and real letting value (W. H. Boyd), V., 24144-5, 24158-61.

Estates Commissioners, Basis taken by (W. H. Boyd), V., 24129, 24142.

Fair principle on good land, not on bad land (Canon Quin), VII., 35312.

Grading down of first term rents question (W. H. Boyd), V., 25155-6.

Gross Rental, not gross received rents to be taken (W. H. Boyd), V., 25021-2.

Gross second term rents meant second term rents fixed by the Sub-Commission Court (W. H. Boyd) V., 25017-8.

Impossible for small holder of indifferent land to compete with the foreigner in the finished article—Consideration taken into account where sales were based on judicial rents (F. S. Wrench), III., 14699-701.

Income taken as represented by rental, it would be arrived at from rent-book (W. H. Boyd), V., 24718, 24720-1.

Landlords admitted second term rents as safe basis, there was no other to take (W. H. Boyd), V., 23912, 24143, 24148-57, 24951, 24954.

Bonus included in price to be paid to landlord in voluntary sales (W. H. Boyd), V., 24805, 24811, 24946.

Net income would not realise as much (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25433-4.

Not an equitable basis of Purchase Price owing to rack rents and tenants' improvements—Instance of O'Beirne Estate at Castlefore (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34616-19.

Tenant purchaser, position of—Question whether 40-acre tenant could pay such a price and prosper (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47425-9.

Terms not carried out (W. H. Boyd), V., 24594-5; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51989-91, 51995.

Number of years' purchase—

Ashbourne Act (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27192-5; (R. Crawford), IX., 50801-5.

Eighteen years' purchase as maximum, proposed (J. Corcoran), IX., 47209.

Fixed number of years' purchase, opinion in favour of (W. H. Boyd), V., 24705, 24707.

Gross not net rent always taken into account (F. S. Wrench), III., 15121.

Land Conference Report, number of years' purchase proposed for first and second term rents (E. Browne), VII., 40050-4, 40057-9, 40065-7.

Twenty years' purchase of first term rents for tenanted and untenanted land, proposed, twenty-three years on second term rents (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50101-6.

Arbitrary scale fixed without regard to income (W. H. Boyd), V., 24710-2.

Various classes of land—Number of years' purchase suggested, graduating bonus according to quality of land, and giving no bonus on sales of 24½ years' purchase (Canon Quin), VII., 35312-8, 35319-23.

Price of Land, &c.—*continued.*

- Occupation interest of land in landlords' hands, Value, etc. (M. Finucane), III., 15761-3, 56027-35, 16039-47, 16053-4—Note by Mr. Finucane), III., App. VIIc., p. 324.
  - Amount a landlord could make from tenanted land in his own hand was an element to be considered (F. S. Wrench), III., 14566; (A. Crichton), V., 27295.
  - Average price of grass land before 1903 and bonus of 20 per cent. in addition proposed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3816-8.
  - Compulsion would be avoided by recognition of landlords' two interests (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43240.
  - Congested Districts Board—
    - Prices given by for grass lands in Roscommon—Valuation which was basis of price was Mr. Doran's valuation (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41860-6.
    - Recognition of value of occupation interest (W. H. Boyd), V., 25273.
  - Criticism of Mr. Finucane's contention (C. Phibbs), VI., 29975-6; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43283; (D. Bingham), IX., 48365-70, *and note*.
    - Instance in point (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43246, 43266-83, 43277-9.
  - Definition of occupation right claimed for landlords—Difference from tenant right, etc. (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43247-66.
    - Legal definition of tenant right (by Act of 1871) necessarily defined landlord's interest also (The O'Conor Don) X. 58918-25.
  - Difficult to estimate, vendor should be dealt with liberally (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27135, 27137.
  - Estates Commissioners—Prices given for tenanted and untenanted land—
    - Difference in number of years' purchase given (W. H. Stuart), VII., 17567-70, 17581-95.
      - Net fair rent in tenants' case, gross fair rent in case of untenanted land, price calculated on—Question as to effect on relation between the two prices (W. H. Stuart), III., 17583-6, 17593-5.
    - Methods of valuing untenanted as compared with tenanted land, question as to (F. S. Wrench), III., 14540-2.
  - First legal recognition, date of—Question whether authority fixing price could consider what happened 60 or 70 years ago (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52574-81.
  - Future tenant, case of—Compensation for disturbance a very different thing from occupation right (M. Finucane), III., 16036-8.
  - Government arbitrator should settle price (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43240-1.
  - Income tax assessment (Government valuation plus one-third), vendor having option of proving that his net income should be taken at a higher figure (W. H. Boyd), V., 25303-15, 25318, 25343; (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28146-53, 28181; (R. St. G. Robinson), 29181, 29214; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41835-6, 41849, 41869; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44215, 44252.
    - Deduction for collection, etc.—Ten per cent. should be upper limit (W. H. Boyd), V., 25316-8.
    - Estates Commissioners could recover price of property sold on such terms (W. H. Boyd), V., 25351-3.
    - Landowner's Convention, suggestion made by (W. H. Boyd), V., 25344-5.
    - Rent, relation of valuation to, there were often no second term rents on grass land (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41846-7, 41850-2, 41857-8; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44253-4.
    - Too low (Colonel Knox-Gore), IX., 47528-33; (D. Kirwin), X., 55342-6, 55351-5.

Price of Land, &c.—*continued.*

- Occupation interest of land in landlord's hands, value, etc.—*continued.*
  - Independent person should make a valuation of letting value, and add landlord's interest (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44251.
  - Legal absurdity—Judge Ross's statement, etc. (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52546-52.
  - Mere matter of words—There was nothing but the value of the land which belonged to landlord, and was what he was selling (M. Finucane), III., 16023-6, 16048-51, 16053-63; (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29327.
  - Nature of landlord's interest and process by which grass lands had been created should be considered (E. Browne), VII., 46080-3; (A. Davis), IX., 51059-63, 51093-5.
    - Bogus interest set up by landlord on land recovering from deterioration (A. Davis), IX., 51039-42.
    - Interest acquired for nothing, as in case of evicted holding, question as to right of landlord to demand payment for (M. C. Henry), IX., 51291-2; (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51329-33; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52554-6, 52565-8, 52576; (Canon M'Alpine), X., 52691; (Rev. J. A. Pelly), X., 57141-9, 57202, 57219-20, 57222, 57224.
    - Interest existed where landlord had bought tenant-right; it was not to be inferred that it existed where there had never been a tenant (A. Hutcheson Poë), X., 58335-8.
    - Landlord having probably bought the tenant-right ought to be paid for it as well as for the landlord's interest (Major Hamilton), II., 10675-8.
  - Net income as basis for price of untenanted land—Adoption of principle would do away with difficulty (M. Finucane), III., 16064-5; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52363.
    - Landlord should get what was his net income when he had tenants on the land (A. Davis), IX., 51063, 51084-6.
    - Occupation interest not covered, basis should be net income, plus landlord's goodwill (R. St. G. Robinson), VI., 29214-49; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57459-74.
  - Number of years' purchase of rent, measurement by, usual but absurd practice (W. H. Boyd), V., 25188.
  - Owners possessed of both fee and occupation interest (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979; (W. Hutcheson Poë), X., 58335-8.
  - Prohibitive price would result if interest were recognised (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52546-8.
  - Real interest when legitimately acquired, but did not double the value of the land (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52569-74, 52582.
  - Sale of, by landlords dividing up their own grass lands, profits realised, etc., *refer* to title Untenanted Land—Landlords taking fine.
  - Same price as if landlord and tenant were separately dealt with should be given (H. Doran), I., 2253-9.
    - Grazing rents should be taken as basis of compensation to landlords, to give effect to Mr. Doran's principle (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51357-9, 51362-5, 51368-70.
  - Second term rents, plus one-third, proposed as basis for price of untenanted land—
    - Difficulty of fixing second term rent on untenanted land, inequality and inadequacy of rents paid, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 25323-31.
    - Variations in valuation would be avoided to some extent (D. Kirwin), X., 55357-60.

Price of Land—*continued.*

- Occupation interest of land in landlord's hands, Value, etc.—*continued.*
  - Second term rents, plus seven to ten years' purchase, proposed (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747.
  - Substantial value (W. H. Boyd), V., 25209-10; (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44215; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49322, 49325-6; (D. Kirwin), X., 55311, *et seq.*; (Lord Ashtown), 57283; (The O'Conor Don), 58924-5.
  - Ten or twelve years' purchase was not a high price (M. J. Melvin), IX., 46956-61.
  - Untenanted land always higher in price than tenanted where landlord's interest only was bought (F. S. Wrench), III., 14520, 14538-9, 14553-4, 14969, 14976.
  - Very little value to be placed on occupation interest at present—Untenanted land should be valued independently (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56561-9.
- Parnell's, Mr., view that 20 years' purchase was necessary for land suitable for migration (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25397, 25876-7.
- Pre-emption, right of, enabled landlord to obtain land at a less price than in the open market—Bias of Land Commission valuers alleged (D. Doran), VIII., 44927-33.
- Present prices too high (H. Doran), I., 1946; (T. Heraghty), IX., 50306; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51871, 51954.
  - Impossible with compulsion in addition (T. W. Russell), IX., 51947, 51954-5.
  - Landlords in poor districts looked to make a fortune (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IV., 48135.
  - *Refer* also to sub-headings Compulsory Powers, Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners, Improvident Bargains, and Proceeds of Sale.
- Proceeds of sale exceeding vendor's net income (M. Finucane), III., 15855, 15891-6; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51999.
  - Not many such cases (F. S. Wrench), III., 15109.
  - Ulster cases in general (M. Finucane), III., 15897-8.
- Protection of tenant-purchaser from making improvident bargains, *see* sub-heading Improvident bargains.
- Rate of interest that should be made basis for securing net income of landlord—
  - Act of 1903, rate on securities eligible under Act (T. W. Russell), IX., 51997-2000; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52515-21, 52524.
  - Classifying estates according to security afforded, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Difficulty that no one could agree as to what rate of interest could be obtained for purchase money (W. Rochfort), VIII., 44974.
  - Four per cent. ought to be satisfactory (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3843-6.
  - Landlord's rights not more sacred than other rights, No reason why he should get a gilt-edged security because he was an Irish landlord (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3847; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52509, 52511, 52517, 52522, 52525.
    - Holdings in Connaught on which a fair rent should never have been fixed, and out of which no economic rent was payable (T. W. Russell), IX., 51998, 52009-11.
  - Landowners' Conference recommended 3 and 3¼ to 3½ would be satisfactory, bonus included (W. H. Boyd), V., 24715-7, 25032-3.
  - Reasonable rate—
    - Definition (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52511.
    - Variation according to district in which estate sold was situated (F. S. Wrench), III., 14474-6.
  - Three-and-a-half per cent. for settled estates, four for estates owned absolutely (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43288-95.
  - Three-and-a-half per cent. in ordinary cases (F. S. Wrench), III., 15086-7.
  - *Refer also* to title Investment.

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- Reduction, purchase by, substituted for purchase by number of years' purchase by Act of 1903—Evils of change (T. W. Russell), IX., 51954, 51958-61, 52003-5.
- Rent as basis for price—
  - Encumbered Estates Court Act, effect of—Landlord striped land and raised rent, no justification for taking rental as basis for price (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3855.
  - Grazing rents, *see* sub-heading Untenanted Land.
  - Only guide (A. Black), VII., 36837-41.
  - Rack-rents as basis—Objection to (Canon Grealey), IX., 48791, 48797A-8; (Rev. M. Henry), IX., 51667.
  - Revision required before purchase transactions were undertaken—Uneven renting of farms on Lansdowne Estate, Kerry (J. Riney), VIII., 45237, 45264-6.
- Security afforded by Irish land—
  - Amount divided into number of years' purchase as basis of purchase proposed (A. Black), VII., 36972-3.
  - Classifying estates according to security afforded, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Further reduction in rent, etc., Possibilities of—Question how far relief from uncertainty should compensate landlord for a lower price (W. F. Bailey), III., 16965, 16972, 16975-7; (Archdeacon O'Leary), VIII., 45160-1; (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47468-88, 47492-9, 47550-3, 47559; (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50131-2.
    - Advantage taken into account but it could not be considered sufficient compensation for compulsion (G. Balfour), V., 22319-21.
    - Good and bad future possibilities must receive equal consideration (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41706-8; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48103-4.
    - There need be no uncertainty if long enough period was taken (F. S. Wrench), III., 14479, 14481.
  - Good and bad properties—
    - Inherent recuperative qualities of good land much greater than that of bad land (W. Hutcheson Poë), X., 58324-6.
    - Slum properties—Owners could not justly expect prices on same basis as for good properties (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42796; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51998. 52009-11.
    - Well secured rental more valuable than one badly secured—Reason why greater number of years' purchase should be given for better land (W. H. Boyd), V., 24015, 24021-6, 24028-42, 24231.
- Separate sale of tenanted and untenanted land—
  - Higher price should be paid and dual interest should be valued (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47464.
  - Owners refusing to sell untenanted land alone (The O'Conor Don), X., 58901.
- Small owners generally expected higher prices than large owners (The O'Conor Don), X., 58899.
- Splitting up estates into sections to be sold directly or indirectly, according as they did or did not require treatment, effect on price, *see* Direct Sales—Estates and portions of estates.
- Sub-division and sale of grazing land by owner himself, fines obtained for occupation interest, profit that could be made, etc., *refer* to title Untenanted land—Landlord taking fine.

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- Tenant-Right, Value of—
  - Competition for small holdings, value of tenant-right often in inverse proportion to valuation of holdings (H. Doran), I., 1957, 2130-1; (G. L. Young), II., 5749, 5770-1, 5774; (J. Pomeroy), 7448; Mgr. M‘Glynn), 10413-4, 10416; (Major Hamilton), 10636-40; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23345, 23428, 23430, 25188; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30432-4; L. Armstrong), 30703; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34078-9, 34081-2, 34109, 34121-2; (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45923-5; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49231-3.
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    - Hill's, Capt., estate at Gweedore (H. Irvine), II., 8324-42—Statement as to sale of tenants' interests since 1882, II., App. IV., p. 244.
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    - Pratt's, Mr. J., Estate, two last sales on, IX., App. I., p. 192.
    - Sligo and Roscommon—Statistics of sales of Tenants' Interests since 1882, VI., App. IV., p. 248.
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    - Style's, Sir W., Estate, Statement as to sales of Tenants' Interests since 1887, V., App. II., p. 242.
    - Tyrone Co.—Statistics of sales on witness's estates (W. H. Poë), X., App. VII., p. 291.
    - Ventry Estate, VIII., App. VI., p. 218.
    - Young's, R. G., Estate., Sales of Tenants' Interests since 1 Jan., 1882 (G. L. Young), II., 5747-54, 5759-60A, 57562-6, 5769.
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  - Legislation by Act of 1870 of Ulster Tenant-Right and any analogous customs (W. H. Boyd), V., 25188.
  - Limitation of price proposed (Maj. Hamilton), II., 10634; (R. Crawford), IX., 50784, 50792-3, 50796, 50825-8.
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- Tenant Right, Price of—*continued.*
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  - Occupation Interest of land in landlord's hands, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Proportion of landlord's interest, *see* sub-heading Landlord's and Tenant's interest.
  - Purchasing Owner, Tenant Right of, and Purchasing Right of Tenant—Question of Comparative Value (Mgr. M‘Glynn), II., 10438-42.
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  - Security for advances, effect on, *refer* to title Advances—Security—Uneconomic holdings.
  - Ten years' purchase of valuation—Estimate (M. Finucane), III., 15756, 15761A, 15771.
  - Variation in prices given at different times and in different districts—No fixed rule for arriving at value (Mgr. M‘Glynn), II., 10415; (M. Finucane), III., 15761A; (G. F. Stewart), VI., 34083-4; (J. Ryan), X., 57757-8.
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  - Average prices given by Congested Districts Board—
    - Act of 1891 (H. Doran), I., 1925, *note*, 2299, 2311.
    - Act of 1896 (H. Doran), I., 1925-6, 1928, 1930, 2301-5.
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    - Fair Rents estimated by witness with assistance of Valuers (H. Doran), I., 1932.
    - Prices quoted included Rent and Arrears due at time of purchase (H. Doran), I., 1931.
  - Price should not be any higher because Tenant Right and Landlord Right would be in the hands of different parties instead of both in the hands of one (M. M‘Nelis), II., 10038-42; (H. Doran), XI., 59710-41.
  - Reasons for increased price (F. S. Wrench), III., 15103.
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  - Desirable to ascertain tenants' views prior to purchase of land (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3929; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52585.
    - Both sides should be treated alike and a reasonable price should be insisted on (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3930-1.
    - Congested Districts Board, practice of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3981.
    - Manner in which tenants should be consulted (Canon Lyons), IX., 49413-22, 49456-60.
  - Duty of Commission to prevent any force or unfair dealing (F. S. Wrench), III., 14980-2.

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  - Tenants' Position—*continued.*
    - Fair rents, Act for fixing had given every tenant an opportunity of having his position defined as to improvements (F. S. Wrench), III., 14985.
    - Landlord's interest only bought, not tenant's own tenure (F. S. Wrench), III., 14977-9, 14984.
    - Tenant-farmer always willing to pay a fair price (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3874.
    - Tenant had to pay a fair rent and take his chance of further depreciation in value of land (W. F. Bailey), III., 16963-4, 16966-7.
  - Two Purchasing Authorities, effect on price, *see* Authority—Two or more Agencies.
  - Uniformity of Price—
    - Direct sales—Uniformity of price could not be secured (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25399.
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    - Bonus, increasing to 20 per cent., proposed—Saving effected by raising annuities to 3½ per cent. would pay for proposed increase (A. Crichton), V., 27281.
    - Congested Districts Board, average prices paid by—
      - Act of 1891 (H. Doran), I., 1927, 2300.
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        - Bonus not included (H. Doran), I., 2313.
      - Board in some cases paid more than land was worth (H. Doran), I., 2746-7.
      - Table (H. Doran), I., 1911.
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    - Considerations to be regarded in determining price (M. Finucane), III., 15932, 16082-4; (D. Bingham), IX., 48365-70.
    - Decrease in price of grass lands probable, cause, etc. (M. Finucane), III., 15756.
      - All grass lands had depreciated for the last 20 years, not so much for the last 10 years, and still less for the last five (H. Doran), XI., 59741, 59808-18.
      - Shortage of money during last two years made Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners anxious to buy only when they could do so very cheaply (The O'Conor Don), X., 58949-50.
    - Deductions, question of (H. E'Sstrange), VI., 28178.
      - Anything for which purchaser had to pay afterwards could be deducted; nothing redeemed should be deducted (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27015-6.
    - Difference in views of different valuers, enormous differences (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41869.
    - Estates Commissioners' Purchases—
      - Cases where landlords had refused prices offered, Proportion of Cases, &c. (W. H. Stuart), III., 17571, 17573-4, 17602-5.

- Price of Land—*continued.*
  - Untenanted Land—*continued.*
    - Estates Commissioners' Purchases—*continued.*
      - Comparison of number of years' purchase paid by Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners (M. Finucane), III., 15756.
        - Poor Law Valuation taken as standard (W. H. Stuart), III., 17596-7.
      - Gross Fair Rent, Price estimated on (W. H. Stuart), III., 17563-4, 17566.
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      - Higher price than would bring in late owner's income—Witness did not think Estates Commissioners had ever given such a price (F. S. Wrench), IV., 15093-5.
      - Inadequacy of prices offered, loss to landlord involved (Col. Knox-Gore), IX., 47533A-6, 47540-1, 47550-3; (Lord Castletown), X., 57283, 57496-7.
      - Instructions to Inspector to fix second term rent and deduct 15 per cent. to obtain basis on which to calculate purchase-money (W. H. Boyd), V., 25190, 25207.
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    - Herds' Freedom—Valuable asset (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27019-20.
    - High price asked in case where land was worked in conjunction with demesne—People fixing price should take circumstance of extra value of land into account (H. L'Estrange), VI., 28155-9.
    - Impossible to buy cheap enough to be re-sold at a price which would leave the annuity at all comparable with that paid by the ordinary tenant-purchaser (W. Walpole) X., 58778-8A.
    - Increase in price—
      - Diminishing supply due to policy of purchasing untenanted land, effect of (H. Doran), I., 2316-7, 2363-4, 2365; (M. Finucane), III., 15937-40; (G. Wyndham), V., 22917.
      - Increase greater than in case of tenanted land (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3915-7.
      - Increase in prices since the making of Griffith's Valuation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3872-3.
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      - Value not increasing (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25918-26A.
    - Intimidation affecting price, *see* sub-heading Boycotting and Intimidation.
    - Landlords, Price that would satisfy—Twenty-five times average net income (A. Crichton), V., 27282-5.
      - Increase in bonus from 12 to 20 per cent. would not make the price high enough (A. Crichton), V., 27285-6.
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- Untenanted Land—*continued.*
  - Not in the market to an appreciable extent before Act of 1903 (G. Wyndham), V., 22880.
  - Occupation interest of land in landlord's hands, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Open competition the only way to get a fair price for grazing land (Lord Ashtown), X., 57336, 57465.
  - Precariousness or stability of income should effect price—Rent to be obtained from a solvent tenant yearly or on lease should be basis of price (M. Finucane), III., 15932-5, 15936, 15945-54.
  - Price always high (G. Wyndham), V., 22880.
  - Price should be worked out and then inspection made—If further inspection were required there should be an appeal to an absolutely independent tribunal (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27078-9.
  - Quality of land, effect on price—Importance of buying land of right grade, not the best or even very good grazing land (G. Wyndham), V., 22881.
  - Rent as basis for price, grazing rents, etc. (J. Ryan), X., 57719-20.
    - Deterioration of land affecting rents (W. F. Bailey), III., 16844; (A. Davis), IX., 51057-63, 51093-5.
    - English rents, comparison with grazing rents (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41723-8.
    - Estates Commissioners—Purchases of grazing land were all voluntary, price in no case based on grazing rents (W. F. Bailey), III., 16838-42, 16861-2.
      - Question how far owners selling on these terms were representative (W. F. Bailey), III., 16847-51.
    - Fair basis where same rent had been paid for years by the same tenant who could make money and flourish (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41708-22.
    - Fair for Commissioners to look back and see how long land had been let, and whether price asked by landlords was exorbitant (Lord Ashtown), X., 57328.
    - Judicial rents too low, grazing rents not too high (Lord Ashtown), X., 57334.
    - Market value calculated on net rent for average of ten years should be given (R. Crawford), IX., 50784, 50794-8.
    - Rent paid by a solvent and thrifty tenant if law were enforced and individual protected was the proper basis (Lord Ashtown), V., 57283.
    - Rent paid when held under English or Scotch systems as basis proposed (T. Heraghty), IX., 50299.
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  - Tenants' offers often in excess of what land would be security for (W. H. Stuart), III., 17768.
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- Valuation—false basis (Lord Ashtown), X., 57407-8, 57480.
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  - Ascertaining value of land, means of (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41322-32.
  - Decline in last 25 years (H. Maguire), VII., 39189.
    - Land had not fallen in price except officially (H. L. Blosse), IX., 51376-9.
  - Estimate of value of land if turned into tillage satisfactory basis for calculation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3815.

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- Value of Land—*continued.*
  - Graziers had been paying an increased rent for years in the hope of establishing a claim to purchase—Griffith's Valuation might be taken and a certain number of years' purchase given on that valuation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3806-14, 3820-2, 3868, 3874-5, 3890-1.
  - Instance of landlord receiving £3,000 or £4,000 for grass lands—Willing to accept 24½ years' purchase on the valuation (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3877-84.
  - Meaning of "True Value" (P. Nicholson), VI., 30321-40.
  - Net income fairly represented the value prior to 1896, but was above it since 1896 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3906-10.
  - Schedule that all the landlords would accept as the present fair value of grass lands—Fair basis (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3984.
  - Value would be greater for tillage, but witness did not think the price would be much raised (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3986-7.
- Western districts, Land acquired in, at as high a price as elsewhere in Ireland—Opinion among people themselves, Opinion very difficult to combat (Lord Castletown), V., 26623.
- Woods—Existence of extensive woods were an element in price of land (B. M'Manus), VII., 38823-4.
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- Agricultural Prices, *see* title Agricultural Produce.
- Commodities—
  - Advanced price paid for everything in a remote district (J. Riney), VIII., 45237.
  - Charges not excessive in Western Districts, Competition amongst shopkeepers (W. L. Micks), I., 290.
  - Ownership, Effect of—Cheaper price for goods on account of improved credit of customers (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3601.
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- Parish Committees, Work of, generally a failure unless a priest was on the Committee (P. O'Malley), X., 52135, 52160.

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- Condition of land—Estate a wilderness, with signs of cultivation everywhere (Rev. B. M'Andrew), X., 53052.
- Depopulation through famine and evictions (B. M'Andrew), X., 53052.
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  - Acquisition by Congested Districts Board and re-distribution, proposed (Rev. B. M'Andrew). X., 53053.
  - Congested Districts Board had meant to buy, but had been forestalled (Rev. B. M'Andrew), X., 53048-51.

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  - Felt two miles inland—Not many people who had not some connection with fishing (Rev. H. Kerin). VIII., 43929-31.
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- Fishing Industry—*continued.*
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  - Trawlers, both steam and sail, should be kept further out to sea (Rev. H. Kerin), VIII., 43890.
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  - Compulsory powers unnecessary when men were willing to sell at 5*s.* or 6*s.* reduction in the £ on second term rents (M. Fitzgerald). VIII., 44069.
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- Corn—Ireland was as suitable as any country in Europe to produce corn (Canon Grealey), IX., 48736.
- Deterioration of land, Causes, etc. *see* that title.
- Doubling of—
  - Parish Committees with larger means would so help farmers that they would double their output and the value of their holdings (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619, 34688-9, 34740.
  - Quite possible with drainage, reclamation, and a better system of agriculture (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3629-31, 4242; (N. Noone), II., 12420; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14458; (Rev. M. Keaveney), IX., 51636.
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  - Accumulation of capital in Post Office and Joint Stock Banks, Evidence of fertility of soil (W. H. Boyd), V., 23036, 23041.
  - Better system of agriculture, value of land could be vastly increased by (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747, 44820; (A. Larminie), IX., 49987-8.
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  - Extent of witness's experience (W. H. Boyd), V., 23037-40.
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- Not as productive as formerly—Change in climate (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40642-3.
- Rent, relation to—
  - Not fair to raise rents or keep them high because by outside help and stimulus a tenant was enabled to double his output (Rev. D. Gray), 34745-66.
  - Ordinary produce of soil under ordinary circumstances, rent should be fixed on (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34741-5.

PROTECTION *v.* FREE TRADE:

- Free Trade suitable to England but ruinous to Ireland—Principal cause of agricultural depression, etc. (W. L. Micks), I., 364; (Rev. T. L. F. Stack), VII., 37782-4, 37800-3, 37794; (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39661-7, 39731-45 39763-74; (Canon Lyons), IX., 49434.
- Improvement in existing holdings—would follow Fiscal Reform (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39734-7, 39741-5, 39763-74.
- Population of Ireland, decrease in since introduction of Free Trade (Canon Lyons), IX., 49434.
- Prosperity of Ireland under Protective Laws (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39764-74.
- Small farming could not be started on a large scale without protection (G. Hewson), VI., 31644, 31646-7.
- Tillage blotted out by Free Trade (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39661-6; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41493-3A.

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- Loans and assistance and education, not doles, were what witness desired (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6066, 6069.
- Opinion against "Free Grants" (T. Swan), II., 5941, 5960.
- Pressure on custodians, Precautions needed to prevent custodians from being subjected to pressure (A. J. Balfour), V., 22137.
- Test should be applied—Local people must prove their readiness to help themselves, if not by money contribution then by labour (T. Swan), II., 5962-7.

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- Salaries paid under, for year ended March, 1906, Statistics—
  - Clare Co., VII., App. II., p. 302.
  - Cork Co., VIII., App. IX., p. 352.
  - Donegal, II., App. XII., p. 299.
  - Kerry Co., VIII., App. VIII., p. 260.
  - Leitrim Co., VI., App. X., p. 350.
  - Mayo Co., IX., App. IV., p. 247.
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- *See* Liquor Traffic.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE, UNDER ACT OF 1903.

- Functions, etc., *refer* to title Investment of Purchase Money of Estates.

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- Department of Public Works, Need for, to supervise Drainage schemes, etc. (H. Doran), VIII., 42513-5.
- Inland Works—Total number carried out by the Board, Number of contributions—Decrease in expenditure on roads (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 896-7.
- Maintenance of all works of utility carried out by Congested Districts Board—Government supervision suggested (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30087.

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- Mackerel fishing fairly good—Mackerel were fished round the coast in the whole district (J. O'Donnell, of Shalwey), II., 11567-8.
- Nets and Stores, Accommodation needed (J. O'Donnell, of Shalwey), II., 11520, 11562-5.

PULLAHORRA—*continued.*

- Pier and Boatslip—Extension and repairs needed (J. O'Donnell, of Shalwey), II., 11520, 11524-5, 11527-30, 11537-41, 11559, 11578.
  - Maintenance of Pier, Question of (J. O'Donnell, of Shalwey), II., 11531.
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- Country district with scattered houses (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19271, 19273.
- Crochet Class.
  - Inducements to work—Earnings of workers (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19251-62, 19268-9.
  - Proportion of earnings to valuation and rent (W. J. D. Walker), IV., 19274-7.

PURCHASE OF LAND.

- £1,000,000's worth of land to be dealt with annually by Congested Districts Board, proposed, untenanted land being bought in proportion of one-third—Loss which would be incurred, etc. (H. Doran), XI., 59632-5, 59645, 59650, 59692, 59705, 59781, 59837; (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60170-4.
  - Additional income required for Board, provision of funds, etc. (H. Doran), XI., 59690-1.
    - Annual grant—Preferable to give a fixed annual grant to be applied at Board's discretion than to fix their revenue on a varying percentage of loss (H. Doran), XI., 59829, 59861, 59883-8.
    - Borrowing—Enhanced value up to which Board could borrow from Board of Works (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60128-32.
      - Capital, use of, instead of borrowing difference in cost, etc.—Powers of Board in cases of emergency, difficulty in respect of guarantee given on funds of the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60133-51.
    - Floating capital required to tide over delays in recovering proceeds of estates on re-sale (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60159-69.
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  - Amount of land it would be necessary for Board to hold (H. Doran), XI., 60008-10.
  - Amount of untenanted land in congested counties—information available (H. Doran), XI., 59973-6, 6004-7.
  - Amount of untenanted land which should be kept in hands (H. Doran), XI., 59963, 60009.
  - Better estates, inclusion of, within area of Board's operations would substantially reduce amount of anticipated loss (H. Doran), XI., 59636-9, 59646-9, 59656-64, 59683, 59821, 59861-3, 59942, 59946-7.
  - Distance of untenanted land from estate requiring treatment, effect on percentage of loss—percentage low when untenanted land was within ambit of estate (H. Doran), XI., 59598, 59606-18.
  - Distribution of classes of estates within area proposed to be handed over to Congested Districts Board, question of—Importance of ascertaining distribution (H. Doran), XI., 59934-44, 59957-62.
  - Estates Commissioners, continuation of purchase, by, pending legislation, Congested Districts Board being debarred from purchase in the meantime—Remaining area would be too small and scattered for Board to deal with satisfactorily, better to let Commissioners finish the work (H. Doran), XI., 60071-83.

PURCHASE OF LAND—*continued.*

- £1,000,000's worth of land to be dealt with annually, etc.—*continued.*
  - Estates Commissioners, etc.—*continued.*
    - Executive order by Irish Government prohibiting continuation of purchase by Estates Commissioners—Judicial decision that order would be *ultra vires* (A. MacDonnell), XI., 60075.
  - Fifteen per cent. loss on each million's worth of land dealt with was the least which should be allowed for (H. Doran), XI., 59821.
  - Further increase inevitable if untenanted lands were not bought at prices at which they could be re-sold, or if the revenue from the lands while on hands were substantially reduced (H. Doran), XI., 59692, 59708-10, 59782, 59856-9, 60026.
  - Larger occupiers, question as to reduction in estimated increase if larger occupiers could be induced to migrate—Unlikely contingency, and in any case reduction would be small (H. Doran), XI., 59710, 59768-73.
  - Law Officers' expenditure, increase estimated (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60117-24.
  - Lowest class of estates, percentage of, which should be purchased—10 per cent.
    - Justification for small proportion—Estates would remain bad no matter what Board did, condition of people might be ameliorated by means of industrial development, etc., but migration was impracticable and emigration undesirable (H. Doran), XI., 59819, 59822-8, 59833-52.
  - Parish Committees, proposed increase in number and grants (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60175-8.
  - Possibility of acquiring amount of untenanted land desired, question of (H. Doran), XI., 59829, 59964.
  - Reasons for anticipating a large increase in loss—Untenanted land the most expensive to buy and treat, scarcity of labour in open areas, etc. (H. Doran), XI., 59689, 59761-7, 59949.
  - Selection and grouping of estates—Reasonable discretion should be given the Board in regard to selection and grouping of estates in order to keep the total loss within a fixed average (H. Doran), XI., 59694, 59708, 59819-20.
  - Selection of districts for purchase, principle to determine, in the event of the Board having powers and funds to deal with £1,000,000's worth of land annually (H. Doran), XI., 59951-6.
  - Staff and administration expenses, additional staff required, cost, etc. (H. Doran), XI., 59553-60; 60018-23, 60055-6; (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60023, 60109-13.
    - Details of proposed increase—number of inspectors and clerks, proposed methods of training inspectors, etc. (H. Doran), XI., 60027-9, 60055-6; (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60094-8, 60107-9.
    - Exclusion of administrative expenses, reduction which would be effected by (H. Doran), XI., 59859-61; (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60170.
  - State should bear loss by giving a special grant (H. Doran), XI., 59765-6.
  - Variable losses incurred in dealing with different classes of estates—Percentage of loss named must be understood to be the average for all classes (H. Doran), XI., 59889-92.
  - Worth while to incur greater loss for the sake of the more satisfactory results obtained from migration work (H. Doran), XI., 59767-8.
- Acceleration of Purchase, *see* sub-heading Facilitation.
- Additional land a necessity (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848.
- Advantage of the Board's ownership was to be seen in working of sales already affected (Canon M'Fadden), II., 8048.

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- Advances, *see* that title.
- Agreements as to price made between landlord and tenants before approaching Board—Objections to purchase under such conditions (H. Doran), XI., 59468-9.
- Allotment of part of land was part and parcel of fundamental arrangements of Mr. Wyndham's Act (A. J. Balfour), V., 22146.
- American earnings, land bought with—Farmer never bought land with capital realised off his farm (F. Reynolds), VI., 34492
  - Instance of farms purchased with profits made by bee-keeping (Rev. J. G. Digges), VI., 34514.
- Arrears of Rent, *see* that title.
- Authority for purchase of land—
  - All sales to be made through Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners proposed (D. J. Sullivan), VIII., 44415; (C. J. Kennedy), X., 55991-2.
  - *Refer also* to title Authority.
- Authority purchasing should have some grass lands on hands before dealing with congested areas (O'Conor Don), VII., 41363.
- Borrowing for purchase of tenants' interests; powers required for the Board—No provision at present (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1349.
  - Amount required £20,000 or £40,000 a year—All repayable by the tenants (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1354.
  - Chancery, estates in—Proper person to take the initiative in the matter of a sale, question of (H. Robinson), X., 54647-52.
- Classes of estates bought by the Board—
  - Classification of estates purchased as A, B, and C according to proportion of loss incurred (H. Doran), XI., 59561.
    - Proportion of the different classes bought by the Board (H. Doran), XI., 59561-70, 59573.
  - Estates containing large areas of partly or wholly untenanted land and the worst class of tenanted estates, which ought not to be sold without special treatment (H. Doran), I., 2743-4; XI., 59399, 59403-4, 59407, 59644.
    - Future purchases same principle should, and probably would be adhered to (H. Doran), XI., 59405, 59412.
  - Poorest class of tenanted estate and such untenanted land as could be acquired with a view to enlargement of holdings (H. Doran), I., 1853.
    - Proportion of uneconomic holdings still on hands (H. Doran), I., 2049-50.
    - Some estates bought were not of the poorest character (H. Doran), I., 1868-9.
  - Quality of land purchased before and after 1903 (H. Doran), I., 1940.
- Classes of land to be acquired—
  - £200 valuation to be left to occupier and surplus lands to be acquired by State (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40173-73A, 40247-9.
  - Clare Co. Valuation Statistics—Sufficient land would be provided to raise all holdings under £10 valuation to £10 (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40173A.
  - All congested areas scheduled and unscheduled and all grass lands throughout the country to be acquired by a single Board proposed (T. Molloy), II., 10982.
  - All land in congested districts below valuation of £6 to be bought by Congested Districts Board proposed (J. M'Carron), II., 12131.
  - Grazing land and untenanted land (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 737; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3732; (P. Rooney), VI., 32137-9, 32204; (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40173; (J. M'Nulty), IX., 46820-2, 46824.
  - *Refer also* to titles Breaking-up and Compulsory Powers—Class of Land.

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- Classes of Sales—
  - Ashbourne Act—Loophole permitting of Land Purchase by a class of tenants which were not intended to take advantage of the Act (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25844, 25865-73.
  - "Glebe" farms bought under Act of 1869—Terms, etc. (P. M'Bride), VII., 38625-6.
  - Two classes of sales which Estates Commissioners were entitled to carry through (F. S. Wrench), III., 15260.
- Commendation of the Board's operations—No difficulty in selling to the Board (E. Browne), VII., 40065.
- Compulsory Powers, *see* that title.
- Congestion being stereotyped by purchase of small holdings—Nominal relief given by Act of 1903 (Rev. P. Glynn), VIII., 40239-40A.
  - Example of a miserably poor estate purchased at a high price—Complaint that Estates Commissioners re-sold to tenants without making any improvements (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40249-53.
- Constitution of Congested Districts Board in relation to land purchase—Increase in work thrown on Board if foreseen would have made no difference to witness's decision in regard to constitution of Board—Work continued to be of same character (A. J. Balfour), V., 22178, 22181 and 22187-8.
  - Act of 1891 contemplated that everything without limitation should be done to diminish agricultural congestion (A. J. Balfour), V., 22191.
  - Parliament would not object to Board's controlling large sums required for more extended operations (A. J. Balfour), V., 22185-6, 22188.
- Cost of selling small estate almost prohibitive—Instances where solicitors' costs came to 10 per cent. on purchase money (G. Hewson), VI., 31680.
- Cottiers possessed of less than ¾ of an acre—Amendment of the law proposed in order to admit of purchase (J. Doran), VIII., 42663-4.
- Criticism of Board's operations—
  - Incorrect information, Criticisms based on—Witness did not think it necessary to enlighten people who did not take the trouble to get correct information (H. Doran), I., 3417-20.
    - Public support desirable if it could be gained by doing the right thing (H. Doran), I., 3415-6.
  - Mainly to the effect that Board had done well what it had done, but that it had not done enough (H. Doran), I., 3367, 3410.
  - Not purchasing enough properties—Board had done all they could with powers possessed (H. Doran), I., 3365-6, 3368-9.
- Crofters Act—Provisions in regard to compulsory purchase of residential holdings (H. Doran), I., 2711-2, 2730-1, 2733.
- Delays in completing purchases—
  - Advance to landlords, Delay in making, a deterrent to sale—Attitude of landlords, etc. (A. Crichton), V., 27330; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41221, 41228, 41232-3, 41236, 41241, 41245, 41252-4, 41274, 41283-8, 41290-3, 41308-11, 41333-6, 41344-51, 41402, 41413-4, 41620-1, 41787, 41791, 41835; X., 58901-16, 58918, 58937-42; (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44074-7; (R. Crawford), IX., 50812-4; (E. G. Armstrong), X., 55979; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58173.
    - Definite contract should be made out, a fair rate of interest being given in default of payment on the day agreed upon (The O'Conor Don), X., 58909-11.

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- Delays in completing Purchase—*continued.*
  - Advance to Landlords—*continued.*
    - Landlords' preference for Congested Districts Board, cause of (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41414.
    - Middlemen, position of—Impossible for them to sell unless price were promptly paid since head rent had to be redeemed in cash (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44083-90.
    - Money to be paid within a reasonable time proposed or interest on purchase money equivalent to average income (G. Hewson), VI., 31680.
    - Solicitors not responsible, time taken to complete an ordinary sale (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41415-6, 41796-8.
  - Arrears of work in hands of Estates Commissioners (J. O'Connor), III., 13479, 13548; (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43409-10.
    - Any strengthening of Commissioners' establishment should be to enable them to get rid of this burden, not to undertake more (J. O'Connor), III., 13462-3.
    - Causes of delay (J. O'Connor), III., 13348, 13483-4, 13502-9, 13538-9; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51954.
      - Funds, want of, had delayed work but not this year—There had never been arrears of work, all funds were spent every year (M. Finucane), III., 15805.
    - Loss involved to owners and tenants (J. O'Connor), III., 13454-6.
    - Time required to clear off arrears (J. O'Connor), III., 13482.
  - Causes of delay (J. P. Hayden), X., 58173; (The O'Conor Don), X., 58912.
    Refer also to sub-heading Arrears of work in hands of Estates Commissioners.
  - Closing of office during summer holiday absurd, no other State Department made such a break in its work (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43409, 43411-6.
  - Congested Districts Board—Inadequacy of staff and insufficiency of funds, Extension of powers proposed (P. J. M'Dermott), VI., 30325-41; (D. Kirwin), X., 55361; (J. A. Glynn), X., 55848-51, 55858.
  - Declaring property an estate, *see* that title—Hardship to Landlords.
  - Every holding had to be mapped by Estates Commissioners, etc. (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43417-20.
  - Instances of delay—Talbot-Crosbie and Sandes Estates (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43420-2
  - Interest on purchase-money—
    - Collection difficulty (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41624, 41626.
    - Comparison with charges, etc., which had to be paid till Estates Commissioners took over property—Property not taken over till within a month or so of payment (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41622-6.
  - Loss during sale and costs—
    - Bonus an allowance for (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41733-4.
    - Congested Districts Board, complaints did not apply to—Board bought *en bloc,* paid cash down and usually gave something for arrears (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41786.
    - Costs of sale—All costs paid by landlord in sales to Land Commission contrary to usual practice (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41733-4.
    - Items making up percentage, loss of rent, etc., in witness's own case (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41736-86, 41790-4, 41800-34.
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- Delays in completing Purchase—*continued.*
  - Loss during sale and costs—*continued.*
    - Procedure followed with tenants—Necessary to get agreements signed, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. never actually paid to landlords (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41745-70.
    - Unpunctuality in payment of interest even where Land Commissioners were responsible (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41785.
  - Red tape and officialism of Estates Commissioners—Board much quicker and more satisfactory (G. L. Young), II., 5826-38, 5840-3, 5844-7.
  - Serious hindrance to satisfactory working of Land Act—Suspension of operation of Act of 1903 a serious matter (A. Crichton), V., 27270; (T. W. Russell), IX., 51955.
  - Treasury refusal to lose more than about £500,000 a year in financing Act or to upset money market by creating undue amount of land stock (A. Crichton), V., 27274.
  - Vendors' Solicitors, Statement as to delays on part of—Quite a different statement, there was no delay (M. Finucane), III., 15806
  - Vesting Estates, *see* that title.
- Difficulties with respect to purchase of land from owners (T. W. Russell), IX., 51940-2.
- Document put in by Mr. Bailey, III., App. VIIIB., p. 333.
- Distribution of Purchase Money—Nothing to do with Estates Commissioners as such, Money distributed before and by Judicial Commissioner (C. H. Crookshank), III., 17506-7.
- Drainage charges—Great incentive to purchase if drainage charge could be written off in cases where landlords sold to tenants (D. T. Crosbie), X., 57759-67.
- "Estates," Sales by—System introduced by Act of 1903 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16462.
- Estates for sale of which to Estates Commissioners proceedings had been instituted under Act of 1903—
  - Procedure (W. H. Stuart), III., 17560, 17562.
  - Return of Estates dealt with by Mr. Stuart, III., App. XI., pp. 364-5.
  - Return showing position of all estates with regard to which proceedings had been instituted under section 6 of Act of 1903, III., App. XB., pp. 361-3.
  - Staff associated with Inspector for Management, Work accomplished (W. H. Stuart), III., 17559, 17561.
- Expenditure, *see* sub-headings Funds and Expenditure.
- Extent of Board's operations under the various Acts—Number of estates purchased—
  - Act of 1891—
    - Board advised that they had no power under Acts, Acts of 1893 and 1894 passed to give required power (H. Doran), I., 2475-8.
    - Three estates bought with Board's own funds (H. Doran), I., 1848, 2226, 2286-7, 2288-92, 2294.
  - Act of 1903—106 estates bought at price of £1,233,708 (H. Doran), I., 1849A-51.
    - Area tenanted and untenanted, Poor Law Valuation, Number of tenants, Rental and Purchase price (H. Doran), I., 2287.
    - Return showing position of Estates, III., App. XA., p. 360.
    - Untenanted Land, Percentage of (H. Doran), I., 2295.
  - Acts prior to 1896—Forty-three estates bought at price of £556,079 (H. Doran), I., 1848-9, 2226.
    - Area, Poor Law Valuation, Number of tenants and purchase price (H. Doran), I., 2287.

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- Extent of Board's operations, etc.—*continued.*
  - Act prior to 1896—*continued.*
    - More land purchased by the Board up to 1896 than they had funds to deal with (H. Doran), I., 3363-4, 3367.
    - Not much property selling in Congested Districts between 1891 and 1896, and not offered to the Board (H. Doran), I., 1941.
    - Untenanted land, Percentage of (H. Doran), I., 2295.
  - Date when Board first began to deal in land to a large extent (W. L. Micks), I., 123; (H. Doran), I., 1846-7, 1909; (A. J. Balfour), V., 22262.
  - Few estates coming into market before 1903 (H. Doran), I., 1942.
  - Number and valuation of holdings bought up in scheduled areas (H. Doran), I., 1843-5, 1894, 2027, 2031.
    - Nearly all held by agricultural tenants, some were in villages and towns, but more than 100 town tenants were without holdings of land (H. Doran), I., 1895, 1899.
    - Number dealt with, number in hands, number enlarged and improved (H. Doran). I., 1897-8, 1901-8, 1910, 2027, 2032.
    - Town tenants would not be dealt with till requirements of *bona fide* agricultural tenants were satisfied (H. Doran), I., 1900.
    - Number of estates purchased by Congested Districts Board up to the present, 152 (H. Doran), I., 1832.
    - Operations slow, because of failure to get the necessary powers (H. Doran), I., 2283-4.
  - Return showing particulars of estates purchased and re-sold by Congested Districts Board, arranged in four classes—Summary V., App. IX., pp. 262-99.
  - Statement of Board's Purchases and Resales up to August, 1906, I., App. II., p. 247.
  - Tables showing present liabilities in respect of estates, I., App. II., p. 239.
- Extent of Estates Commissioners' operations in congested counties from Nov. 1903 to Sept. 1906, V., App. X., pp. 300-3.
- Extinction of landlord's right and transfer of whole of it to tenant, the final step in a long process (W. F. Bailey), III., 16903-12.
  - Land Commission's rent-fixing powers distinctly analogous to acquisition of landlord's interest by final value (W. F. Bailey), III., 16914-9, 16929.
- Facilitation of Land Purchase—
  - Act of 1903, Objects of (G. Wyndham), V., 22800.
    - Amendment proposed (Canon Macken), X., 56147.
    - Not sufficiently encouraging although purchase had been accelerated (J. M'Loughlin), VI., 29355-61.
  - Facilities were sufficient under existing law if bonus were properly administered, and landlords would accept a fair price (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3726-7.
  - Uncontroversial Bills, brought in by witness to facilitate operations of Congested Districts Board (A. J. Balfour), V., 22125-7.
  - Wyndham, Mr., the only Chief Secretary who really took up the matter of facilitating purchase by the Board (H. Doran) I., 3362.
- Fee simple, sale of was becoming more common in Roscommon (J. P. Hayden), X., 58181-2.
- Financial difficulties confronting vendors—
  - Land Commission invested purchase-money in certain securities pending allocation, fall in securities at time of distribution meant loss to vendor (G. Hewson), VI., 31680.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Delay—Advances to Landlords.

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- Finucane's, Mr., Scheme, *see* Finucane.
- Fitzgibbon's, Mr., Scheme, *see* Fitzgibbon.
- Form showing particulars to be furnished by owner of an estate offered to the Board, I. App. II., p. 240.
- Fragmentary character of work—Simultaneous purchase of adjoining estates suggested (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082, 30088-91, 30101-3, 30109; (J. O'Malley), IX., 47663-71, 47741-4, 47761; (F. Scanlan), IX., 47821, 47834-5, 47843; (E. T. O'Donel), IX., 49004-12, 49021-2, 49049; (Rev. J. M. O'Donnell), IX., 51448.
  - All estates offered in any rural district or none at all should be bought, and all dealt with alike, Difficulties created by purchase of one estate, Instances (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43678-88.
    - Estates not requiring improvement, Question of—All estates in congested districts required improvement (A. O'Driscoll), VIII., 43679-80.
  - Inability of Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners to buy estates until offered for sale (M. Finucane), III., 15580-5.
  - Memorandum on congestion by Mr. Finucane, III. App. VII.A, p. 312.
  - Seaweed, etc., might be interchanged—Instances on the West Coast (H. Robinson), X., 54669-77.
  - *Refer also* to title Compulsory Powers—Need for Compulsory Powers, Large Areas.
- Funds and Expenditure—
  - Free grant should be given by Government to help tenants, one-third of cost suggested (R. Crawford), IX., 50784, 50791-6.
  - Revision of finance of Act of 1903—
    - Expected by landlords—Estates now coming into the market which a year ago were not for sale (T. W. Russell), IX., 51956, 52006-7.
    - Method suggested for cutting out loss on flotation of stock (T. W. Russell), IX., 51955-68.
  - Special amount to be set apart for purchase of estates in congested districts (D. Kirwin), X., 55361.
  - State to pay the difference between what the tenant could pay and the prcie the landlord should get (Canon Lyons), IX., 49422.
- Funds and Expenditure of Congested Districts Board for Estates Business—
  - Annual Turnover (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 407-9, XI., 60114.
  - Annual turnover of £1,000,000, *see* sub-heading £1,000,000's worth of land.
  - Delays in recovering proceeds of estates on re-sale, Floating capital required to tide over interval—Means by which capital had been provided (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60152-70.
  - Estimates—Correspondence with the Treasury, I., App. II., pp. 250-62.
  - Full powers for Congested Districts Board to expend its funds—Legislation needed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23835.
  - Gross Payments and Gross Receipts, 1892-1906—Statement, I., App. V., p. 335.
  - Increase in Funds, Inadequacy of Income, *refer* to title Congested Districts Board—Funds, Increase.
  - Interest on borrowed money—Amount owing to Board of Works, purpose for which loans were taken, etc. (F. W. D. Mitchell), XI., 60125-7.
  - Land Purchase Acts, Provisions of, from 1885 on (W. F. Bailey), III., 16411-2, 16421-40.
  - Land Work the principal Work of Congested Districts Board—Question of allocation of income suggesting a different standpoint (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4077-8, 4096-8, 4131, 4138.

PURCHASE OF LAND—*continued.*

- Funds and Expenditure of Congested Districts Board—*continued.*
  - Land work the principal work of Congested Districts Board—*continued.*
    - Amount available from fixed income of Board for Land Operations (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4092, 4150-6.
    - Amount available for improvements was supplemented by large contingent income.
      - Cessation of contingent income causing difficulty—Necessity of allocating a much larger portion of permanent income to improvement of estates (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4093-5, 4128-30. 4163.
      - Large contingent income of Board for estates purposes had allowed expenditure out of permanent income for improvements in industries and fisheries (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4157-62, 4165.
      - Source from which windfalls were derived (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4117-8.
    - Comparison of expenditure made by Chairman of Commission in questions 4079-80—Statement of items expended and of total net expenditure in years 1901-2 and 1905 and 6 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4112-6.
    - Continuance of Estates work meant deprivation of other Departments (Rev. D. O'Hara). I., 4102, 4169-71, 4163-5, 4081-4, 4140, 4184.
      - Parish Committees would disappear—Disastrous result (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4195-9.
    - Cost of administration—6 per cent. on the turn-over (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4136.
      - Proportion of the £28,000 appropriated to meet increased expenditure on administration (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4168.
    - Difficulty caused by Estates not coming into hands of Board with sufficient rapidity (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4084-86A.
    - Financial difficulty had only lately arisen (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4087-9.
    - Funds wanted if Land Purchase were nine-tenths of Congested Districts Board Work (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4172.
    - Increase in work done by the Board since passing of Act of 1903—Comparison of expenditure in 1902-3 and 1905-6 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4122.
    - Increased funds had not been ear-marked for accelerating development of land, but most of it had been applied for that purpose—Increase in administrative expenses in preparation for increased land work (Rev. D. O'Hara). I., 4165-7.
    - Parish Committee Work was regarded as part of the Estates work, and had increased very largely (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4137.
    - Staff, Increase in—Board given to understand that pace would be accelerated under Act of 1903 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4090, 4099, 4132, 4135, 4141, 4167.
    - Total net expenditure by the Board since the beginning, exclusive of administration (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4107-8, 4119-22.
    - Total expenditure on Estates for year 1906-7, proposed (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4106, 4109-10, 4139.
      - Details of how the amount was made up—Unexpended balance of £10,000, etc. (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4124-8, 4142-9.

PURCHASE OF LAND—*continued.*

- Funds and Expenditure of Congested Districts Board—*continued.*
  - Land work the principal work of Congested Districts Board—*continued.*
    - Wyndham's, Mr., Memorandum, of October, 1903—
      - Amount of land which it would be possible to deal with if Memorandum were given effect to (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4185-91.
      - Contemplated a larger proportion of increased income being devoted to Land Purchase and Estate Improvement (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4133-4, 4164.
      - Letter from Mr. Wyndham in 1902, suggesting that proposed increase of Annual Grant would also provide for Fisheries, Industries, etc. (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4499-512.
      - Wyndham, Mr., probably thought that the Board's income would go further (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4192-3.
  - Limit of Annual Expenditure—Existing limit £140,000 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 745.
    - Policy behind Treasury opinion was the mistaken one of buying a few estates each year and completing operations before making further purchases (G. Wyndham), V., 22854-5.
    - Unless limit were raised, all opportunity of relieving congestion would disappear—Available land would be sold under operation of Estates Commission (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 746-8, 750-1.
  - Memorandum as to funds devoted to Estates business, I. App. V., p. 334.
  - Staff, Expenditure on, *see* title Congested Districts Board—Staff.
  - Summary of operations—Memorandum (H. Doran), I., App. IV., pp. 304-23.
  - *Refer* also to title Improvements—sub-headings Expenditure, Funds, and Loss.
- Grazier could purchase if he were a twelve-months' tenant or a judicial tenant, but not if he only had an eleven months' letting (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40243.
- Historical Summary of Land Purchase—
  - Beginning of—First attempt began with Irish Church Act, 1869 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16380, 16392.
  - Provisions of the various Purchase Acts from 1869 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16401-40, 16461-2, 16542-8, 16554, 16628, 16659.
- Improvements of Estates, *see* that title.
- Inducements to sell—
  - Increased inducements proposed in Connaught (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26847, 26854.
  - Tenants of large residential farms should be offered a price in excess of market value (J. H. Joyce), X., 55127.
    - Special advantage to be given to landlords and tenants in Connaught outside scheduled areas (D. T. Crosbie), V., 26855-8.
    - *For* details *refer* to titles Drainage, Reclamation, etc.
- Interest paid on untenanted land taken over by Estates Commissioners—
  - Collection—Commissioners collected the 3½ per cent. and paid it to landlord (W. H. Stuart), III., 17617-8.
  - Liability of Commissioners (W. H. Stuart), III., 17614-5, 17619, 17622.
  - Proposed purchasers put in possession, usually on day on which Commissioners took over possession, and they paid the 3½ per cent. (W. H. Stuart), III., 17606-13.
  - *Refer* also to sub-heading Delays.
- Land speculators and capitalists to be prohibited from purchasing any land whatever save waste reclaimable land (J. Doran), VIII., 42680.

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- Landlords—
  - Advantages received under Act of 1903 (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25401-21, 25432, 25467-71, 25493, 25591.
  - Demand for Purchase—When landlords found fair rent system operating in a way they did not like they turned their attention to purchase—Ashbourne Act brought in from landlords' point of view (W. F. Bailey), III., 16382.
  - Fair rent system made it advisable for landlords to sell as quickly as possible (F. M. Shawe Taylor), X., 56753.
  - *Refer* also to Landlords.
- Legal difficulties—Statement of Solicitor for Congested Districts Board, III., App. III., pp. 284-9.
- List of Estates vested in the Board since passing of Act of 1903, I., App. II., p. 238.
- Loans, *see* title Advances.
- Local Authorities—
  - Being ultimate security for payment of instalments Local authorities should have a voice in connection with sale and purchase of land (Rev. A. Lowry), VII., 35185-93.
  - County Council, Power of veto on sales pending compulsory purchase, proposed (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619.
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  - Map handed in (M. Finucane), III., 15580—Explanation of colouring, III., 15581-3.
- Memorandum on Land Work of Congested Districts Board, I., App. IV., pp. 304-23.
- Methods of Land Purchase under Act of 1903 (W. H. Boyd), V., 24968-9.
- Mineral rights, Question of—Amendment of the law, proposed (R. Daly), VIII., 46314-48.
- Nationalisation of the land, the State bearing the expenditure, advocated (J. F. Ward), X., 57579-81.
- Necessity for Purchase in order to carry out any large scheme for enlargement of holdings or migration of tenants (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 736-7.
- New holdings, *see* that title.
- Number of public bodies in Ireland entrusted with purchase of land (J. O'Connor) III., 13476.
- Number of Purchasers under the various Land Acts—Table (W. F. Bailey), III., 16554.
- Number of Tenants who had purchased under the various Acts—Question of proportion of total number of tenants (W. F. Bailey), III., 16555-73.
- Opinions in favour of and proposals for (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30082; (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45896, 45899; (Rev. J. Fallon), IX., 50448; (H. Robinson), X., 54670; (Canon Mackem), X., 56282.
- Payment of Purchase Price, Method of—Amount to be paid down in Cash, etc.—
  - Act of 1881—Tenant required to pay ¼ of purchase price in cash (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3687-9.
  - Ashbourne Act—Whole Amount advanced to tenant (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3689.
  - Congested districts, estates in, should have precedence (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44119.
  - Delays, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Stock, payment of landlords in—Opinion against (T. W. Russell), IX., 51952-4, 52001-2.
- Powers and functions of Congested Districts Board—
  - Act of 1893, Powers conferred by—Up till that time Board could only buy out of its own income (F. S. Wrench), III., 14358-60.
  - Act of 1896, Provisions of (A. J. Balfour), V., 22222.

Purchase of Land—*continued.*

- Powers and Functions of Congested Districts Board—*continued.*
  - Any district whether congested or not, Power of Board to buy land (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 703-4; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3932-3.
    - No power to buy land outside congested districts for purpose of settling poor people in non-congested districts (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 705.
  - Difficulties of hampering legislation and of satisfying requirements of Land Commission (W. L. Micks), I., 118.
  - Dillon Estate, purchase of, advocated by witness in 1898 as means of showing what Board could do with a large estate (F. S. Wrench), III., 14310, 14368-72.
  - Early experience of Congested Districts Board led them to concentrate efforts on remedying congestion itself (G. Wyndham), V., 22888.
  - Estates Commissioners' Powers, Comparison with, *see* sub-heading, Powers of the Land Commission.
  - Full powers for Congested Districts Board to carry out its work and expend its funds, suggested (Rev. J. Manning), VI., 32848.
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  - Holding Land, power of—
    - Board ought to be a Corporation entitled to hold land in its corporate name, and not merely in name of its Trustees—Delay and inconvenience of having Trustees (J. O'Connor), III., 13529-34.
    - Law Officers decided that Board could not hold land, witness had fully intended Board to have the power (A. J. Balfour), V., 22214-6.
  - Increased powers should be given to the Board (Rev. J. Kelly), IX., 47296-7.
  - Land Purchase—One of Board's most important functions (A. J. Balfour), V., 22227.
    - Allocation of Income suggesting a different stand-point, Question of, *see* sub-heading, Funds and Expenditure—Land Work.
  - Landlords, Position of Congested Districts Board as—
    - Agent collecting rents—Position of Board between agreement to purchase and completion of transfer (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1250-61.
    - Complications and difficulties if title fell through and Board had interfered with rents and boundaries of holdings (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1262-3.
    - Difficulty caused by decision of Land Commission that Congested Districts Board was not a landlord within the meaning of the Act (W. L. Micks), I., 143.
    - Power of Board greater than that of ordinary landlords, who could not stripe and could not turn a man out (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4204A-5.
  - Memorandum (J. R. O'Brien), I., App. III., pp. 285-7.
  - Original Functions of Board were migration and enlargement of holdings—Purchase of land not contemplated (W. L. Micks), I., 126-8, 146-50; (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 728; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14311, 14313-7, 14327, 14356; (M. Finucane), III., 15363.
    - Act of 1891—Migration specifically contemplated—Witness could throw no light on how migration came to be contemplated without Land Purchase (F. S. Wrench), III., 14327-31.
      - Migration without purchase never discussed, Board never thought it a practical policy (F. S Wrench), III., 14339-41.

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- Powers and Functions of the Congested Districts Board, etc.—*continued.*
  - Original functions of Board—*continued.*
    - Cost question—Board had so many calls on its income that it was not considered how far enlargement of holdings might involve purchase (F. S. Wrench), III., 14347-8.
    - Decision to purchase, powers being as they were (F. S. Wrench), III., 14351.
      - Minutes of Board might show something (F. S. Wrench), III., 14353-4.
    - Emigration policy and amalgamation of holdings by means of consequent vacancies might have been contemplated (M. Finucane), III., 15366.
    - Ffrench Estate, Board's first purchase bought without legislative power to buy (F. S. Wrench), III., 14321-4, 14350.
    - First idea was to improve and elevate people of congested districts without touching relationship between landlord and tenant (F. S. Wrench), III., 14318, 14336-8.
    - Impracticability of migration and enlargement without purchase (W. L. Micks), I., 146-52; (M. Finucane), III., 15364-4A.
      - No doubt the Board early recognised the fact and treated question as part of Land Operations question (A. J. Balfour), V., 22113-7.
    - Land Commission not consulted when Bill of 1891 was brought forward, so far as witness remembered (F. S. Wrench), III., 14332-5, 14344.
    - Relief of congestion so bound up with purchase and improvement of estates that Board was forced to embark on Land Purchase (F. S. Wrench), III., 14311-2, 14319-20, 14349.
  - Restriction of powers (W. L. Micks), I., 115, 117.
    - Lack of money and of compulsory powers prevented earlier purchase of land (W. L. Micks), I., 125.
    - Not allowed to sell to small occupier or to anyone whose valuation was under £10 (W. L. Micks), I., 120.
      - Board had no power out of its own funds to purchase and sell to tenant holding under £10 (A. J. Balfour), V., 22190.
    - Repayment of purchasers deferred for two years after advances were made—Efforts of Board paralysed and procedure had to be amended (W. L. Micks), I., 120-2.
    - Small occupiers under £10, Sale of holdings to—No provision even after passing of Act of 1896, enabling Act passed subsequently (F. S. Wrench), III., 14375-8.
  - Small powers at first, increased by various Acts, when Board was found to carry out expectations formed by it (A. J. Balfour), V., 22218-20, 22225-6.
- Powers of the Land Commission—
  - Act of 1903—
    - Powers conferred by—Same powers as were given to Congested Districts Board by Act of 1901 (W. F. Bailey), III., 16554.
    - Sections authorising Land Purchase (J. O'Connor), III., 13149, 13153.

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- Powers of the Land Commission—*continued.*
  - Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, Comparison of Powers—
    - Analogous Purchase Powers under Act of 1903 (J. O'Connor), III., 13149, 13154-78. 13188.
    - Estates Commissioners had all powers of the Board and more (M. Finucane), III., 16251.
  - Powers of, before creation of Estates Commission—Powers existed, but were little used (J. O'Connor), III., 13478.
- Price of Land, *see* that title.
- Priority of Purchase, Question of (J. P. Hayden), X., 58172.
- Procedure in Land Purchase—
  - Agricultural Department should be represented at time of transfer whichever improving body bought estate (Canon Lyons), IX., 49412.
  - Congested Districts Board—
    - Board did not approach an owner or tenant unless they knew he was willing to sell (H. Doran), I., 2609, 2622-4, 2628-9.
    - Explanation of procedure (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1250.
  - Details of procedure from initiation to completion of purchase (H. Doran), XI., 60034-51.
  - Difference in procedure between Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, Clashing of two Departments doing similar work in same area (H. Doran), I., 3153, 3172-3, 3237.
    - Arrangements made to prevent the two Departments negotiating for one estate—Arrangement did not prevent purchase of adjoining estates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1214-5.
    - Congested Estates—Witness believed Commissioners had power to adopt procedure similar to the Board's (H. Doran), I., 3227.
    - Delays, *see* that sub-heading, also title Vesting Estates.
    - Details of difference (H. Doran), I., 3216.
    - Methods of Estates Commissioners more popular, but not suited for poor estates dealt with by the Board (H. Doran), I., 3217.
      - Increasing difficulties experienced by Board, owing to more popular procedure of Estates Commission (H. Doran), I., 3160, 3217.
      - Tenants might select one body or the other, but there was not much practical difficulty (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 716.
    - One case of clashing between the Departments had occurred, but arrangements had been made to prevent recurrence of difficulty (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 740-1.
    - Plenty of room for both so far—Rarely happened that the two Departments bought adjoining estates (F. W. D. Mitchell). I., 715, 717.
    - Primary functions of the two Departments, Difference in (H. Doran), I., 3216.
    - Surplus Land, Difference in method of distribution (H. Doran), I., 3160.
    - *Refer also* to title Improvements.
  - Estates Commissioners—
    - Act of 1903, Procedure adopted when Estates Commissioners purchased estates under (C. Crookshank), III., 17496, 17506.
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Procedure in Land Purchase—*continued.*
Estates Commissioners—*continued.*
Agreements with three-fourths of tenants a condition precedent to agreement to purchase by Estates Commissioners (J. O'Connor), III., 13233-9.
Estates not congested within the meaning of the Act, difference between sale to Commissioners and direct sale—Only difference was that there was a possibility of migration (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41874-6.
Commissioners declared farm an estate, and purchased it where it was a case of evicted tenants (F. S. Wrench), III., 14926-8.
Inquiries sent out—Commissioners did take the initiative (F. S. Wrench), III., 14921-5.
Procedure of Estates Commissioners where Congested Districts Board purchased an estate (C. Crookshank), III., 17529.
Practically the same as where Estates Commissioners purchased themselves (C. Crookshank), III., 17496, 17529.
Uniform and Systematic Procedure—Objections to (F. S. Wrench), III., 15041-3
Tenant, Owner, and Agent, Procedure between (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45748, 45750.
Title in land, *see* that title.
Profit made by the Board—
Rental value of untenanted land in hands of the Board—Board was receiving a higher sum than they were paying to the Land Commission (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1299-1302, and *note.*
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Rate at which land should be acquired (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58365-7.
Great speed undesirable except in view of present agitation (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41264-6.
Successive, rather than simultaneous, acquisition proposed—Order in which land should be taken (J. Neary), X., 58600, 58625-33.
Rate of Progress of Congested Districts Board—
Delays, *see* that sub-heading, also titles Improvements and Vesting Estates.
Distribution of Land, *see* that title.
Purchase had gone on much more rapidly than disposal to tenants (G. Wyndham), V., 22870.
Rate at which operations should be carried on—Speed impossible, system must be largely carried out by people themselves (G. Wyndham), V., 22869.
Slow rate—
Constitution of Board, Effect of—More difficult for a Board to carry out work than for a Department (F. S. Wrench), III., 14373-4, 14383-4, 14389-90.
Legal obstacle—No provision for sale of holdings to small occupiers (£10), even after passing of Act of 1896 (F. S. Wrench), III., 14375-9.
Only 15,000 acres dealt with up to 1898 (F. S. Wrench), III., 14310.
Staff, money and price, progress a question of (T. W. Russell), IX., 51979-82.
Time required for Settlement of Problem of Congestion, *see* that title.
Refer also to sub-heading Suspension.
Rate of Progress of Estates Commissioners—
Amount applied for up to November, 1906; amount of land stock raised, amount of cash advanced, amount of applications in office unpaid for (M. Finucane), III., 15785.
Block represented by figures due to nothing but want of money and staff (M. Finucane), III., 15786-8.

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Rate of Progress of Estates Commissioners—*con.*
Amount of work Commissioners could get through if they had sufficient staff—£10,000,000 or £15,000,000 a year (M. Finucane), III., 15775, 15817, 15820-3.
Improvements, etc., Question of time required for (M. Finucane), III., 15826, 15829-45.
Delays, *see* that sub-heading; *also* titles Improvements and Vesting Estates.
Time of Commissioners had hitherto been largely taken up in controversies as to meaning of law, answering questions of Parliament, etc. (M. Finucane), III., 15823-5.
Relations between Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners, I., App. II., pp. 232, 235.
Commission financing temporary tenant who was competing against Board for land—Alteration in law needed (H. Doran), I., 2403-5.
Conference held and arrangement made between the two bodies relative to offer of lands to each other (H. Doran), I., 3160, 3162, 3166, App. II., p. 238.
Agreement had never been carried out (H. Doran), I., 3162, 3164, 3167, 3184.
No case, so far as witness could recollect, in which Commissioners had violated agreement (F. S. Wrench), III., 15033-5.
Untenanted Land required by Commissioners—Part of Clanmorris estate was untenanted (F. S. Wrench), III., 15032.
Arrangement quite workable (H. Doran), I., 3174.
Board knew nothing of Estates Commissioners' arrangements in a congested district till they were complete (H Doran), I., 3192-3.
Cases contemplated must have arisen since holdings had been given to landless persons near where Board wanted land (H. Doran), I., 3186.
Conference should be held—Unless there was a definite understanding relief of congestion might be hindered (F. S. Wrench), III., 15023-4, 15027.
Easier to give effect to agreement when land purchased was near congested district (H. Doran), I., 3184.
Land purchased at remote distance might be more easily administered by Commissioners than by Board (H. Doran), I., 3189.
No application had been made on behalf of Board (H. Doran), I., 3163, 3185, 3187, 3191.
No proceedings taken, Estates Commissioners had never had any surplus land (F. S. Wrench), III., 15029-31.
Special estate which Commissioners were trying to buy at time of Conference was never bought (F. S. Wrench), III., 15029, 15034.
Text of Agreement—Extract from minute of Conference (A. MacDonnell), I., 3182.
Harmonious Relations (W. L. Micks), I., 461.
No case where Commissioners had refused to pay for an estate bought by Congested Districts Board, though there might have been some unavoidable delay (M. Finucane), III., 16241.
Rivalry, Question of—
No rivalry or jealousy existed in minds of Estates Commissioners (M. Finucane), III., 16228.
Refer also to sub-heading Procedure—Difference.

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- Relations between Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners—*continued.*
  - Transference to Congested Districts Board of estates purchased by Estates Commissioners of which any portion was congested or was to be used for relief of congestion, proposed—Legislation needed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825-32, 23835, 23846, 23911.
    - All improving of estates purchased should be done by Congested Districts Board (W. H. Boyd), V., 23855, 23863.
    - Estate should be transferred whether in scheduled area or not (W. H. Boyd), V., 23876-8.
  - Understanding that large tracts of untenanted land in congested districts should be acquired after mutual communication (F. S. Wrench), III., 15013.
    - Inquiries made by Estates Commissioners in congested districts as to owners who were willing to sell—Congested Districts Board not communicated with so far as witness knew (F. S. Wrench), III., 15012.
  - *See also* titles Advances and Authority—Division of work between Board and Commissioners.
- Scheme submitted to members of English Government in 1895 (H. V. MacNamara), VII., 39749-55.
- Shopkeepers—Land was practically the only investment open to shopkeepers (P. Dyar), VI., 30618-21.
- Staff employed by Estates Commissioners, Work accomplished in two years (M. Finucane) III., 16144, 16226.
  - Impossible unless Commissioners had possessed judicial powers (M. Finucane), III., 16226.
  - Turbary—Allotting turbary and lock-spitting bogs (M. Finucane), III., 16153-4.
- Standard of life had risen throughout the country wherever Land Purchase Act had operated (W. F. Bailey), III., 17132-3.
- State purchase, Provision for proposed (J. Guilfoyle), VII., 39477; (P. Kirwan), VII., 39485; (T. Breen), VII., 39488; (J. Stanley), 39512, 39520.
  - Congested Districts Board or similar authority, Purchase of farms coming into market proposed (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33762-4, 33766-9, 33787.
  - Evil of not making provision—sale of farms bought under Ashbourne Act and Act of 1903, etc.—
    - Act of 1903, Freedom of annuity payer to sell farm by auction if desired (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25896-7.
    - Castlerea—Negotiations for purchase of farm stopped pending Report of Commission (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26025-33.
    - Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners ought to be provided with funds for purchase of land when sold by auction—Case of a farm of 300 acres which witness had had to buy himself in order to save it for the people (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25926A-38.
    - Estate of 2,000 acres passed by without being purchased (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26194, 26301.
    - No opportunity should be lost by the State of securing grass land brought into the market (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25893, 25898, 26025.
    - Roscommon—Sale of farm of 150 acres (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25898-900, 25905-26A, 26376-8.
      - Sold to a butcher in Ballinasloe—Indignation of people, etc. (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25900-5, 25976-9.

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- Suspension of purchase by Congested Districts Board for the present, Question of (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41269-73; (J. Murphy), VIII., 43153-4; (R. M'Clure), 44825, 44827; (Canon M'Donnell). 45333; (Rev. T. O'Leary), 45579.
  - No such general order—Land of great importance for Board's purposes might be purchased at any price (Dr. O'Donnell), III., 13562.
  - Treasury suggestion (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1350.
- Tenants and Land Purchase—
  - Act of 1903—Tenants had received practically nothing (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25591.
  - Benefits conferred on tenants—Comparison of benefits conferred by Ashbourne and Wyndham Acts (D. T. Crosbie), V., 27174-86.
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- Expenditure and Funds of Congested Districts Board—
  - Additional Expenditure—
    - Advantageous, but Board was so anxious for further funds for Estates business, that question of public works had not been urged (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 856.
    - Increase in Congested Districts Board funds would admit of more liberal contributions—Expenditure of ten thousand pounds a year proposed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1124.
  - Annual amount of money available for expenditure on piers and roads (F. W. D. Mitchell) I., 894-5.
    - Explanation of item of £9,000 in a particular year (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4103-4.
  - Board should not withhold help—District Councils had no money unless rates were raised (P. Flynn), VI., 33155-8.
  - Continuation of present expenditure assumed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 855.

- Roads and Bridges—*continued.*
  - Expenditure and Funds of Congested Districts Board—*continued.*
    - Contributions to Roads constructed by Local Authorities—
      - Conditions attached prevented money being taken up (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31068-77.
      - Contribution offered and not availed of owing to reluctance to increase rates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 11446, 1148-53, 1155 1157.
      - Contribution offered not large enough in proportion to amount local authority was expected to supply (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31068-77, 31148.
      - Existing road taken up by County Council more readily than a new road—Responsibilities which local authorities did not care to take up (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31078-9.
      - Half, and sometimes two-thirds, of cost (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1124.
      - Number of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 896.
      - Partly in Relief of Rates of a non-congested district (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1131-6.
        - Additional taxation the direct result of the Board's intervention (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1141-2.
      - Percentage of expense falling on the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 889-90.
    - Decrease in Expenditure within last few years (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 897.
    - Number of inland works carried out—Cost (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 896.
    - Small works—Power and funds for Board to execute small works, County and District Councils to take a share in large projects (Rev. P. M'Loughlin), VI., 31084-100, 31145-8.
  - Expenditure and Funds of County Council—
    - Additional expenditure by consent of Local Government Board—Donegal County Council had taken two years to obtain consent (J. Dunleavy), II., 10865.
    - Contribution by Congested Districts Board, *see* sub-heading Expenditure and Funds of Congested Districts Board.
    - Contribution by County Authority to roads made by Congested Districts Board (W. Doherty), II., 5327-8.
    - County Council handicapped by limit of expenditure fixed under the Act (J. Dunleavy), II., 10768-9.
      - Main roads in Donegal were suffering, but many mountain roads had been made, considering the Council's means (J. Dunleavy), II., 10769, 10772.
    - Donegal County—Statistics prepared by Local Government Board, II., App. XI., p. 252.
    - Limitations on Expenditure—Note by Secretary, II., App. XI., p. 251.
    - Margin of 25 per cent. allowed above average amount of three years' expenditure by Grand Jury (J. Dunleavy), II., 10862-3.
    - Non-provision of roads owing to lack of funds and reluctance to increase the rates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 886-7.
      - Contribution offered and not availed of, owing to reluctance to increase rates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1145, 1148-53, 1155, 1157.
      - County Councils very difficult to move—Their object was not to swell the County cess (W. Doherty), II., 5302-4, 5306.
      - Proposals for new works withdrawn in one county owing to increase of rates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1143-4.

- Roads and Bridges—*continued.*
  - Expenditure and Funds of County Council—*con.*
    - Non-provision of roads, etc.—*continued.*
      - Works to the number of about 200 which could not be carried out owing to want of funds (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1124.
        - Amount of money required to carry out works—Estimate (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1158.
  - Fishery Loan Fund, grant out of (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1513-5.
  - Future period when roads would be all made—Very distant future, area so large, district so scattered, etc. (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 885a.
  - Grants for improvements proposed, especially on tourist routes and where access was wanted to bogs or seaweed (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825.
  - Grants for making roads in congested districts—Half actual cost proposed (P. M'Bride), II., 8993.
  - Kerry Co.—Statistics of roads and other inland works undertaken by Congested Districts Board up to 31st March, 1906, VIII., App. VIII., p. 256.
  - Leitrim Co.—
    - Bad state of existing roads, need for road accommodation (Rev. T. C. Connolly), VI., 31948-58; (Rev. D. Gray), VI., 34619.
    - Statistics of roads and other inland works undertaken by Board up to 31st March, 1906, VI., App. X., p. 348.
  - Limitations on road-making powers of County and District Councils—Note by Secretary, II., App. XI., p. 251.
  - Maintenance—
    - Accommodation roads—Farmers accommodated might take an interest and keep up improvements (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34373.
    - Antecedent condition to making of road by the Board that County Council should maintain it (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 891-3.
    - Compulsion should be used if County Councils objected to maintain (W. Doherty), II., 5320, 5324-5.
    - Congested Districts Board—
      - Grant-in-aid—Preferable to make grant to County Authority rather than to a body like the Parish Committee (Rev. P. Dolan), VI., 34358-60.
      - Power for reconstituted Board to compel maintenance by people accommodated proposed (H. Doran), XI., 60001.
    - County Councils would have to maintain as in case of piers—No objection if road were of public utility (W. Doherty), II., 5313-9, 5328.
    - County or district authority, maintenance by—Difficulty that many of the roads made were accommodation roads and as such were not qualified to be dealt with by County Council (H. Doran), XI., 59989-98.
    - Farmers having maintenance till lately—Economic advantage of holding farms (A. B. Turner), VIII., 45799.
    - Main Roads—None maintained by the whole county (H. M'Devitt), II., 9966-7.
    - Responsibility for, when constructed by joint contribution of Congested Districts Board and County Council (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1125-7.
  - Mayo Co.—Statistics of roads and other inland works undertaken by Board up to 31st March, 1907, IX., App. IV., p. 242-3.
  - Position of roads to which Board contributed—Outside Board's own estates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1130.
  - Roads constructed partly in a non-scheduled area and partly in a scheduled area—Applicants referred to Department of Agriculture for a grant corresponding to Board's grant in assistance of the rates (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1137-8.

Roads and Bridges—*continued.*
- Site of proposed road—Inspection by arrangement between Board and County Council (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1128-9.
- Sligo Co.—Statistics of roads and other inland works undertaken by Board up to 31st March, 1906, VI., App. IX., p. 295.
- Taking over by county authority of roads made by Congested Districts Board—
  - Donegal Co—County Council had taken over works of Congested Districts Board subject to reasonable requirements (J. Dunleavy), II., 10867.
  - No hesitation in taking over work if report were satisfactory (W. Doherty), II., 5321-3.
- Unoccupied parts of the country, roads made by Congested Districts Board (W. L. Micks), I., 417.
- Width of road, expense of 16-ft. limit—Desirable to have power to make narrow roads in remote mountain districts (J. Dunleavy), II., 10865-6.
- *See also* names of Places.

Robe River Drainage:
- Amount of damage by flooding, drainage needed, etc. (Canon Stephens), IX., 50373-9; (P. Connell), 50526-30; (M. Waldron), 50555.
- Conprehensive works needed, estimated cost, etc. —Piece-meal character of work so far (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50263-4.
  - Congested Districts Board, Contribution offered by—not accepted because loan was refused by Board of Works on ground that Arterial Drainage Commission was sitting (P. J. Killeen), IX., 50265-71.

Robinson, Mr. Henry A.—*Land Agent.*
- Evidence, X., 54643-751.

Robinson, Mr R. St. G.—*Member of firm of R. G. and J. D. Robinson, Land Agents.*
- Evidence, VI., 29131-349, App. IV., p. 248.

Rochfort, Mr. W.:
- Evidence, VIII., 44934-78, App. VII., p. 219.

Roddy, Mr. Michael.—*Farmer from Dromany, Aughnasheelan*:
- Evidence, VI., 34767-848.

Roden's, Dr. Farm:
- Congested Districts Board, Refusal to purchase (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31162-6, 31176.
  - Explanation that it was an evicted farm purchased by a Scotchman who had not paid for the tenant-right (Rev. F O'Hara), VI., 31825-46.

Rogers, Rev. Francis.—*Priest from Goleen, Schull*:
- Evidence, VIII., 46396-408.

Rooney, Mr. P. J.:
- Evidence, VI., 28478-28505.

Rooney, Mr. Patrick.—*Small Farmer from Lecknarainey, Manorhamilton*:
- Evidence, VI., 32137-242.

Rooska Electoral Division:
- Congestion, extent of—Land available for enlargement of holdings (P. J. Aherne), VII., 42685.

Rooskey:
- Congested area, scheduling proposed in order to obtain benefits of Parish Committee grant (R. Wallace), VI., 33929-32.
- Distance from market town (Rev. J. J. Agnew), VII., 38228.
- Enlargement of holdings—Purchase of bog by Congested Districts Board proposed (R. Wallace), VI., 34042-5, 34050-7.
- Land Purchase under the Ashbourne Act (R. Wallace), VI., 34046-8.

Rosapenna Hotel.
- Roads made by Congested Districts Board, etc.—No road at all when hotel was built (J. Gavigan), II., 7879, 7881-4.

Rosbeg.
- Curing Station (A. T. Duthie), IV., 18735.
- Pier desirable for development of deep-sea fishery for herrings (P. J. M'Nelis), II., 9886.
- Pier was an immense boon to the fisherman (M. M'Nelis), II., 9996.

Roscommon County.
- Acquisition of untenanted land—
  - All land available should be purchased (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58359; ((J. Sharkey), X., 59035.
  - Congested Districts Board desirous of exercising compulsory powers—Grass lands of Roscommon a considerable distance from congested area (F. W. D. Mitchell), (I., 1453-4.
- Agricultural development—Improvement in live stock, benefit of Congested Districts Board's operations, etc. (G. G. Armstrong), X., 55977; (H. Satchwell), X., 57813-15; (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58377.
  - Price of cattle, Increase in since 1850—Statistics as to prices of cattle in 1850 and present price (C. Cotton), X., 58422.
- Amount of land required to relieve congestion and amount available (M. Finucane), III., 15454-6; (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25642-7, 25684-9, 25693-703; (E. G. Boles), VI., 30257; (Rev. T. J. Reidy), X., 58126; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58293; (J. Sharkey), X., 59037-8.
  - Amount substantially sufficient to supply its own needs and make up deficiency in Mayo, excluding districts A and B (H. Doran), I., 2890, 2899-902.
  - Comparatively small proportion of untenanted land, tenants' interest in addition to landlord's would have to be bought in most cases (H. Doran), I., 2239-48.
  - Difference between figures given by witness and those given by Mr. Doran—Explanation (M. Finucane), III., 15457-8.
  - Most of the grass farms would have been sold under Act of 1903 but for provision preventing an advance exceeding £500 being made to a tenant whose tenancy was created after 1st January, 1901 (H. Doran), I., 2241.
  - Non-residential holdings of £25 valuation and upwards, area and valuation—Return I., App. IV., pp. 330-1.
  - O'Conor Don's Inquiries—12,000 acres immediately available from owners approached, extended inquiry would probably result in a return of at least 40,000 acres (The O'Conor Don), X., 58893-5, 58901, 58936, 58944, 58946-8.
    - Inspection—Nearly all owners on witness's list were willing to allow inspection, and these were probably representative of a much larger number (The O'Conor Don), X., 58895, 58916.
    - Less favourable replies returned to Government inquiries—Explanation (The O'Conor Don), X., 58917-18.
    - Names of owners had been given in strict confidence (The O'Conor Don), X., 58895, 58897, 58942.
    - Number of owners communicated with, number willing to sell, number refusing (The O'Conor Don), X., 58895, 58901, 58942-3.
    - Whereabouts of land, suitability of land for acquisition, etc. (The O'Conor Don), X., 58894-5, 58946-7.
  - Table, I., App. IV., pp. 330-1.
- Breaking-up of grass lands, *refer* to that title.
- Character of the land, suitability for cattle, sheep, etc. (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25890-2; (J. Neary), X., 58609; (J. Keaveney), X., 59005-6.

ROSCOMMON Co.—*continued.*

- Drainage greatly needed and would immensely improve condition of small holdings (J. P. Hayden), X., 58233; (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58374.
- Fuel and water supply, difficulty in the way of breaking up grass lands, *see* title Breaking-up.
- Insanity, increase in (J. F. Ward), X., 57566.
- Land Purchase—
  - Grass lands due to clearances and unjust evictions in the past—Question whether Congested Districts Board should refuse to touch them on the same principle as it had refused an unjustly evicted farm in Leitrim (Rev. F. O'Hara), VI., 31859-62.
  - List of estates dealt with by Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25705-7.
    - Tenants selected up to the present were about equally divided between sons of tenants and migrants from congested districts—Number (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25708-11.
  - Prices asked (Rev. T. J. Reidy), X., 58122.
- Migration—Attitude of congests, question of local opposition, etc. (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 53380-1; (J. P. Hayden), X., 58295, 58309-10.
- Parish Committees, work of (E. W. Sandford-Wills), X., 58377.
- Population—
  - Decrease in—Amount of decrease from 1841 to 1901, present population, etc. to 1901, present population, etc. (J. P. Hayden), X., 58168; App. VI., p. 288.
  - Rise in, owing to change in County Boundary (H. Doran), I., 2892.
- Size and valuation of holdings—Number of uneconomic holdings (J. Fitzgibbon), X., 58352, 58374.
  - Number of holdings under certain valuations (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 25618, 25687, App. IV., p. 244.
  - Returns (J. P. Hayden), X., 58168.
- Tenure of non-residential grazing farms (W. Walpole), X., 58778, 58839, 58861-2.
- Thirty-acre farm, description of how it should be cultivated (J. Fitzgibbon), V., 26310-22.
- Tillage—No good lands tilled in Roscommon (M. Cassidy), X., 59361.
- Valuation—
  - Average valuation (Canon M'Fadden), II., 7916.
  - Summary and special comparisons—Statistics (J. P. Hayden), X., App. VI., p. 289.
- Working of grass holdings—Stock kept, acreage, rent, etc. (J. Ryan), X., 57642-6, 57706-11, 57721, 57751-4; (C. Cotton), X., 58413-22.

ROSCREA RURAL DISTRICT, No. 3:

- Migration, local opposition to introduction of migrants (J. Guilfoyle), VII., 39472.
- Townlands in need of additional land—Untenanted lands available (J. Guilfoyle), VII., 39464-77; (J. Stanley), VII., 39512, 39520.

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- Migratory Labour, disappearance owing to development of Downing's fishery (J. Gavigan), II., 7668.
- Valuation, population and number of families (J. Gavigan), II., 7625-9.

ROSMUCK:

- Agricultural development, work of Department—Not satisfactory, work more effectually done by Congested Districts Board (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54423-9, 54470-2, 54475.
- Agricultural Instruction Committee—Non-representation of Rosmuck (J. Conroy), X., 54877-9.
- Character of people—Honest and industrious (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54352-5, 54363-6.

ROSMUCK—*continued.*

- Congestion—Character of the land, majority of holdings under £2.—Congested Districts Board should acquire and improve poor estates (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54354-5.
- Emigration—Sums brought or sent home by emigrants (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54369-70.
- Industries—Existing industries (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54418-21.
- Kelp industry—Industry in hands of a ring, remedies proposed (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54378-88.
- Migration, need for—Attitude of congests, suitability for migration, etc. (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54348-51, 54357-77.
- National Education—Improvement due to agricultural education (J. Conroy), X., 54891.
- Ownership, effect on economic condition of tenant-purchasers, proportion of tenants who had bought their holdings (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54389-95, 54476-7.
- Roads and piers needed, cost of required improvements, etc. (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54451, 54454-5, 54461, 54464, 54466-7.
- Transit facilities, extreme need for—Motor service proposed, etc. (Rev, R. M'Hugh), X., 54342-3, 54433, 54468-9.
- Woollen factory at Scrub or Mearn Cross proposed, prospects of success, etc. (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54342, 54413-7, 54422, 54437, 54438.
  - Sheep, possibilities of keeping sheep, land available for sheep-run, etc. (Rev. R. M'Hugh), X., 54439, 54442-4, 54446-8, 54450.

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- Agricultural Committee of County Council, question of representation on (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32405-7.
- Agricultural Instructor, not much benefit derived from lectures (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32400-4.
- Congested conditions—District not scheduled owing to large amount of mountain land (H. Brennan), VI., 27373-7, 27528-30; (P. J. Rooney), VI., 28478, 28481, 28484-9, 28490, 28503-4.
  - Number of economic holdings—Size and situation of holdings, etc. (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32333, 32336-8.
- Flooding of River Duff, damage done by—Question of re-building river banks (P. J. Rooney), VI., 28490-8.
- Means of livelihood of the people, suggestions for improvement, etc. (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32332-6.
- Migration the only means of relieving congestion (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32333, 32410.
- Parish Committee, work of—Nature of work, amount of funds, supervision question, etc. (J. Gilmartin), VII., 32338-45, 32353-77, 32391-5.
- Potato-Spraying—Difficulty of getting machines, etc. (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32379-89, 32396-9, 32409-10.
- Road accommodation very bad—District Council had done nothing for years (P. J. Rooney), VI., 28499-503.

ROSSCONOR:

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ROSSES.

- Acreage, population, valuation, and valuation per head in the Lower Rosses (Mgr. Walker), II., 6788-94.
  - Increase in valuation between 1901 and 1906—Increase in number of houses (Mgr. Walker), II., 6819-22.
- Agricultural Bank in the Upper Rosses—Details of working (P. Gallagher), II., 8762, 8764-72, 8775-82.
- Agricultural Implements—Supplied by an Agricultural Co-operative Society (K. J. Brennan), II., 9351-2.
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Rosses—*continued.*

- Cattle—Improvement in breed—
  - Bulls—Two at Burtonport, number wholly insufficient (Prof. Campbell), IV., 20306-7.
  - Work of Congested Districts Board in Lower Rosses, Question of neglect since transfer of work to Department of Agriculture (Mgr. Walker), II., 7222-39.
- Character of the land (Mgr. Walker), II., 7221; (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305.
- Character of people in Lower Rosses—Very intelligent (Mgr. Walker), II., 6818.
- Condition of people on seaboard better than that of inland tenants solely dependent on agriculture (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7468-9.
- Congested Districts Board, Work of (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305; (P. Gallagher), II., 8762.
- Congestion—
  - Glenties District, Comparison with (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7398-404.
  - Migration, large scheme of, for establishment of industries only way of dealing with question (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7405.
  - Most congested part of Ireland (Mgr. Walker), II., 6791, 6808; (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305.
- Conyngham's, Marquis, Estate—*see* that title.
- Domestic Economy Classes in Lower Rosses, established by Congested Districts Board—Results obtained, etc. (Mgr. Walker), II., 7057-83, 7093-100.
  - Termination of classes and withdrawal of instructors (Mgr. Walker), II., 7065-6, 7088.
    - Department of Agriculture had not sent an Instructor to witness's parish—one in Dungloe (Mgr. Walker), II., 7087-92.
- Electoral Divisions in Lower Rosses (Mgr. Walker), II., 6788.
- Emigration—Prevention of—
  - Essential to develop other industries besides the herring fishery, Teaching of Trades, etc. (J. O'Donnell, of Templecrone), II., 8501.
  - Fishing, development of, would provide home employment (K. J. Brennan), II., 9386.
- Enlargement of holdings needed, land available etc. (Mgr. Walker), II., 7242-8; (J. A. Pomeroy), 7405-6, 7438-9, 7538; (T. Molloy), 10987-8.
- Fishing Industry—
  - Benefit to the district (D. Doherty), II., 8512.
  - Boats, number supplied by Congested Districts Board in Lower Rosses (Mgr. Walker), II., 7005.
  - Piers and boat-slips needed (P. Gallagher), II., 8801-10, 8812.
  - Proportion of Population in Lower Rosses interested in Fishing (Monsignor Walker), II., 6980-3.
- Grazing Land—Very little (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7440-2, 7447.
  - Price of Tenant Right (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7443-5.
- Housing of people in Lower Rosses—One-roomed houses, etc. (Mgr. Walker), II., 6794-817, 7289-98.
- Illiteracy of population in Annagry district—Migratory labour of children prejudicial to education (Mgr. Walker), II., 7253-79.
  - Compulsory Act had not the same power as in England (Mgr. Walker), II., 7280-1.
  - Intelligence and information of people notwithstanding illiteracy (Mgr. Walker), II., 7282-8, 7299-300, 7303.
- Industries, development of—
  - Congested Districts Board to take initiative proposed, industries would be taken up by private enterprise as soon as they were a commercial success (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7418.
  - Cost of labour and living extremely low (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7418.

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- Industries, development of—*continued.*
  - Fishing, Trades connected with could be developed by a little encouragement (D. Doherty), II., 8512.
    - Net Factory proposed (Mgr. Walker), II., 7101-6.
  - Granite, *see* that title.
  - Permanent industries desirable (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305.
  - Small industries, starting of suggested (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7489.
  - Soapstone used in making French chalk—Employment would be given to great number of people (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7484-5.
  - Technical school proposed (D. Doherty), II., 8512.
- Kelp Industry, decline in—Earnings of kelp makers per day (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305.
- Land Purchase—
  - Tenant-right, price of, difficulty in acquiring large holding, etc. (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7440-6, 7458-64.
  - Purchase through Congested Districts Board preferred to direct purchase (Mgr. Walker), II., 7301-2.
- Market for the district, establishment of, possibly at Burtonport, for sale of fowls, geese, etc. (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7508-22.
- Migration—Attitude of people, etc.
  - Absence of migratory labourers, Length of—Reasons for objecting to permanent migration (Mgr. Walker), II., 6901-8.
  - Arrangement with young people who migrated to give up their right to the old holding, possibility of (Mgr. Walker), II., 6865-70.
  - Emigration, attitude towards, as evidence of what the attitude towards migration would be (Mgr. Walker), II., 6909-14; (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7409.
  - Groups of families, Migration of—Expense difficulty (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7413-8.
  - Mountain bogland—Areas available of which a certain amount had been profitably reclaimed, experiment in migration by Congested Districts Board proposed—Details of proposed experiment (Mgr. Walker), II., 6862, 6916-48, 6950, 6952-3.
    - Criticism of proposal—Perpetuation of congestion, etc. (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7433-7.
  - Number of families that would have to be migrated to affect congestion (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7523.
  - Old people would not migrate, but sons of tenants would if they had good encouragement (Monsignor Walker), II., 6861-3, 6871-3.
    - Neither young nor old would move except perhaps on to good pasture farms (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7407-8.
  - Places near the old locality would be less difficult to manage than migration to a distance (Mgr. Walker), II., 6861-4, 6873-7.
  - Reluctance to migrate, Reason for (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7411-2, 7419-32.
  - Two out of every three families should be migrated (T. Molloy), II., 10985-6.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Sub-division of holdings.
- Migratory Labour—
  - Lower Rosses (Monsignor Walker), II., 6860, 6888-90.
    - Canada—No objection to go to Canada if demand for migratory labour arose (Monsignor Walker), II., 6915.
    - Census returns, question of effect on (Monsignor Walker), II., 6893-900.
    - Scotch Migration, Diminution in, owing to development of fishing industry (Monsignor Walker), II., 6888-92.

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Migratory Labour—*continued.*

Upper Rosses—

Circumstances of those who had nobody to migrate were very poor (P. Gallagher), II., 8819.

Diminution in Scotch demand owing to employment of machinery, etc. (K. J. Brennan), II., 9386.

Scotland—Witness had migrated to (P. Gallagher), II., 8817-8.

Parish Committee in Lower Rosses—Increased grants needed, etc. (Mgr. Walker), II., 6809, 7241-2.

Peat Industry proposed (J. F. O'Donnell), II., 7305, 7307-11, 7316; (J. A. Pomeroy), II., 7486-8.
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Population, Increase in, causes, etc. (Mgr. Walker), II., 6833, 6835-8; (J. O'Donnell, of Templecrone), II., 8501, 8502.

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  - Valuable national asset, general recognition of value needed (J. R. Baillie), II., 10611-3; (Rev. J. Meehan), VI., 31409-39; (P. O'Malley), X., 52274-5; (Rev. J. Kelly), X., 52618; (Lord Ashtown), X., 57391-2; (E. White), X., 59247, 59262, 59277-80, 59292-2A.
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- Amount of Spraying done—
  - Reason for small amount done in congested districts during last two years—Department had no money (Professor Campbell), IV., 20917.
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- Attitude of people—
  - Affected by existence of stalk disease and yellow blight—No effective method of dealing with either disease (T. Porter), III., 13895-6, 13707.
  - Belief in spraying (Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45687; (P. O'Malley), X., 52178.
  - Change in, since benefits of spraying had been brought home to them (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3523; (D. Moriarty), VIII., 43476; (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215.
  - Clare Co.—Last year had taught the people a lesson, and there would probably be a good deal of spraying in 1907 (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40208.
  - Conservatism—Not much faith in spraying unless results were brought immediately home to them (P. M'Bride), II., 8957-9.
  - Demand for machines and materials unprecedented this year (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42994.
  - Immunity of crop from disease during last few years, and especially last year, had led to neglect to spray—Disastrous result (W. L. Micks), I., 383; (Father O'Hara), I., 3544, 4487, 4489; (H. Irvine), II., 8217; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9763-5; (D. Pearson), II., 10965; (T. Porter), III., 13876-8, 13880-4, 13906, 13909-10, 13920-1; (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41189.
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- Beneficial results (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3523, 3539-40; (J. Maguire), II., 6334-8, 6340-1; (J. Gavigan), II., 7652-8, 7661; (P. M'Bride), 8955, 8959-60; (D. Pearson), 10968; (T. Porter), III., 13911-14, 13916-9; (P. Nicholson), VI., 30361; (J. Gilmartin), 32383; (Rev. J. Manning), 32879; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33848; (P. M'Cullagh, of Artaghgorta), VII., 38437, 38442-3; (D. Moriarty), VIII., 43477.
- Blight not peculiar to Ireland, though probably there was more of it in proportion to the crop than elsewhere (T. Porter), III., 13936-7, 13939.
- Classes of potatoes suitable and not suitable for spraying (P. M'Cullagh, of Artaghgorta), VII., 38440-1.
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  - Blight infectious, argument in favour of compulsory spraying (P. M'Bride), II., 8961-2.
  - Opinion against (D. Pearson), II., 10967.
  - Opinion in favour of (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3541; (W. Montgomery), II., 8124; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9748; (M. Fitzgerald), VIII., 44098.
  - Opinion in favour of, but it would not be necessary (P. M'Bride), II., 8957.

Spraying of Potatoes—(*continued*):

Compulsory Spraying—*continued.*

Police as authorities to see that spraying was done in the same way as for sheep-dipping (Canon Sweeney), II., 9752-4.

Stringent thing to do, but if considered a necessity it should be insisted on (J. Sweeney), II., 8697-700.

Congested Districts Board operations—

Amount of work done—Notes on schemes, July, 1903 (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1316.

Congested Districts Board officers might help in getting right methods adopted, etc. (D. Pearson), II., 10966.

Transfer of work from Board to Department of Agriculture (W. L. Micks), I., 384-5; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3524-5.

Cost—Cost of machines, etc. (T. Porter), III., 13895.

Cost very small—Price of machine was the difficulty (H. Irvine), II., 8218-20.

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Not enough to deter people who believed in spraying (T. Porter), III., 13892-4.

Reduced cost at which machines were sold by Congested Districts Board (III., 13046.

Date when spraying began in Ireland (T. Porter), III., 13915, 13944.

Before Congested Districts Board was started, work taken up by Board (W. L. Micks), I., 382.

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Not carried out until some years after Potato Failure of 1879 (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3525.

Demonstrations by Congested Districts Board (W. L. Micks), I., 380-1; (T. Porter), III., 13914.

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Depended upon the encouragement—Objections to supplying anything below cost price and to doing the work gratuitously (T. Porter), III., 13922-9, 13940.

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Parish Committee system, objections to—Bribery system demoralising (T. Porter), III., 13953-60.

Priests might work it up—Witness had been preaching spraying for fourteen years and had succeeded (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40210.

Speaking to the people and reasoning with them suggested, but witness would not resort to compulsion (T. Porter), III., 13930-5.

Government acting in conjunction with the Manchester Committee, bad effect of gratuitous spraying of potatoes (T. Porter), III., 13925.

Implement with which people sprayed—

About half the people had machines and the other half used spraying broom, not so effective as machine (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3534-8; (T. Porter), III., 13886.

Spraying of Potatoes—*continued.*

Implement with which people sprayed—*continued.*

Broom, hand or heather, spraying with (H. Irvine), II., 8215.

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Only wasted the spraying material (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33848.

Encouragement of use of machines—Opinion in favour of (T. Porter), III., 13885.

Machines—

Cart-spraying machines not generally suitable in congested districts (T. Porter), III., 13897-8.

Clare Co.—No horse machines, and very few hand ones (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40209.

Machines not universally used (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3534-8.

No horse-sprayers in Lower Badony (P. M'Cullagh of Artaghgorta), VII., 38438-9.

No real benefit until after machines were procured (J. Gavigan), II., 7659.

Instruction—

Congested Districts Board, Work of—Not a single part of congested districts in which the Board had not given instruction (T. Porter), III., 13875.

Department, very little done by—Blight was as powerful as ever (Rev. B. Quin), VI., 30087.

Need for (P. M'Bride), II., 8956; (P. M'Cullagh of Artaghgorta), VII., 38437.

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Lagan District—Room for improvement in spraying even in the Lagan (W. Montgomery), II., 8127.

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Dealers did not make much profit, object in selling it was to enable the people to be in a safer position for the winter (T. Porter), III., 13904, 14033.

Government inspection resulting in prosecution when material was found to be defective would solve the difficulty (P. O'Malley), X., 52186-7, 52192.

Kerry—Analysis of samples being made, results would hardly be made public (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 43010-2.

Change of opinion as to value of pure unprepared material—Causes, etc. (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42975-6.

Congested Districts Board, materials should be supplied at first cost by (P. M'Donagh), X., 54215, 54237-9.

Department, genuineness of stuff supplied by (P. O'Malley), X., 52185.

Difficulty of getting material of proper quality alleged (W. L. Micks), I., 381.

Instructor to keep supply, proposed (P. M'Bride), II., 8956.

No prepared stuff as good as mixture made by people themselves—Materials easily tested, Adulteration in mixture easier and less readily discovered (T. Porter), III., 14016-26; (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42965-7A, 42977-81.

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Parish Committees or creameries, supplying materials through—Greater purity would be ensured (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42983-5.

Prevention of sale of inferior stuff—Some Board should have power to prevent sale (Rev. J. M'Donnell), IX., 51449.

Spraying of Potatoes—*continued.*

- Materials and Mixtures—*continued.*
  - Price, rise in (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40208.
  - Ready-made mixture likely to be used if there was only an occasional fine day—Possible to make it beforehand, Burgundy mixture would keep for a year at least (T. Porter), III., 14028, 14030-1.
  - Shop mixture—
    - Adulterated as a rule—Possible to send it up to the analyst, but farmers did not do it (J. O'Donnell, of Kilraine), II., 11976-8.
    - Terms better than those given by Department (J. Corcoran), IX., 47230, 47274-8.
  - Shopkeepers, material supplied by (P. O'Malley), X., 52188.
    - Shopkeepers used to make the mixture, but could not compete with the Department (P. O'Malley), X., 52193.
- Number of machines required in a district—one to every three or four people (T. Porter), III., 13972.
- Number of times spraying ought to be done, to be effective (W. Montgomery), II., 8126; (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32398, 32408; (J. F. Smyth), VI., 33848.
  - Two sprayings almost necessary (J. Maguire) II., 6339.
- Opinion against—not worth while with certain classes of potatoes (P. M'Cullagh, of Aughtmama), VII., 38370-7.
- Opinion in favour of (J. Sweeney), II., 8696.
- Provision of machines—
  - Co-operation of three or four farmers suggested (Canon Sweeney), II., 9766-8; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33850-1.
  - Department of Agriculture, failure to continue work of Congested Districts Board, dissatisfaction among people (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4490-1.
    - Complaint that shopkeepers gave better facilities and terms (J. Corcoran), IX., 47229-37, 47266-78.
  - Instructors to supply at half-price or on hire system, proposed (P. McBride), II., 8956.
  - Loan for purchase of spraying machines by Congested Districts Board (J. R. O'Brien), I., 1662.
  - Number of machines supplied and repaired under special scheme for congested districts of Kerry, price of machines, etc. (C. J. M'Carthy), VIII., 42962, 42986, 42991.
  - Parish Committee, letting out spraying machines at cheap rates proposed (H. Irvine), II., 8224; (Canon Sweeney), II., 9762, 9766-8; (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32387-8; (P. O'Malley), X., 52174-7.
  - Shopkeepers letting out spraying machines, question of (P. O'Malley), X., 52188-90.
- Regular spraying among poorer class of tenants, done by the women while the men were away in England (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3532.
- Repairs—Decline in use of machines, Number of machines lying idle for want of small repairs (T. Porter), III., 13885, 13889, 13947.
  - Congested Districts Board Instructors—Duties in connection with repairs (T. Porter), III., 13947.
  - Difficulty of getting repairs done (T. Porter), III., 13890, 13899-900.
  - Example plots, superintendents of, looked after the means of repairing machines (T. Porter), III., 13901.
  - Joint purchases of machine—One would not mend it, because he no longer required it, and the next one would not do it, because the first one ought to have done it (T. Porter), III., 13947.
  - No difficulty in getting people in the country to keep the necessary materials, if there was any demand (T. Porter), III., 13900.

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- Repairs, etc.—*continued.*
  - Stirring up the people to get the machines put in order, Opinion in favour of, provided there was not too much done for them (T. Porter), III., 13949.
  - Tradesmen, or suitable handy men, Opinion in favour of giving them instruction in repairing (T. Porter), III., 13950, 13952.
- Scotland—Spraying not carried on to same extent as in Ireland, Teachers sent from Ireland (T. Porter), III., 13937-8.
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  - Burgundy mixture, Rain within an hour after application did no appreciable harm (T. Porter), III., 13965-7, 13976-7.
  - Capacity of small holder to judge of the weather, and to know what mixture to apply (T. Porter), III., 13979-82.
  - Dry weather important—it had been hard to find a dry day during 1906 (Rev. D O'Hara), I., 3548; (W. Montgomery), II., 8125; (J. Gilmartin), VI., 32409-10; (J. Doris), VII., 37914; Rev. T. O'Leary), VIII., 45688-9.
  - Enough fine weather for small occupier to be able to spray without difficulty—Great disadvantage that the farmers had not got spraying machines (T. Porter), III., 13968-70; (T. F. Smyth), VI., 33849.
  - First spraying, Period for (T. Porter), III., 13971-5, 13983-6.
  - If not done at the right moment, might just as well not be done at all (T. Porter), III., 13963.
  - Should be done before 29th June (Canon Sweeney), II., 9748.
  - Wet weather—Possible to spray, although not so efficient as if done in fine weather (T. Porter), III., 13964-5, 13978.
- Two people could share a machine fairly—Number who could share was dependent on state of the weather (J. O'Donnell, of Kilraine), II., 11973-4.
- Warning that it was time to spray always given by Congested Districts Board (Canon Sweeney), II., 9748.

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- Sale of—Price asked (Canon Quin), VII., 35318; (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58146.

Stack, Rev. T. L. F.—*Rector of Drumquin:*

- Evidence, VII., 37761-828.

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- Diet, *see* that title.
- Financial position of people not improving after rent reductions, etc.—Style of living might be an influence (Rev. J. Halpin), VII., 40639-42.
- Formerly each householder had own meal and manufactured own linen, tweeds and clothing (Canon Grealey), IX., 48735.
- Higher on 10-acre holdings worked by economic tenants applying knowledge to working of farm, than on some 100-acre holdings (P. D. Kenny), IX., 49837-41.
- Improvement, IX., App. III., p. 201.
  - Better class of goods bought and each family buying more than formerly (J. Boyle), II., 12085.
    - Goods of better quality were bought but expenditure for year not necessarily greater (P. Dyar), VI., 30571-3, 30578-80.
  - Cattle and pigs kept in dwellinghouses—Custom not so prevalent as formerly (M. C. Henry), IX., 51222-5.
  - Causes—Spread of education, series of good crops and work of the Board (J. O'Donnell, of Kilraine), II., 12045-6.
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- Improvements, etc.—*continued.*
  - Extra money came from America and was not made in Ireland (P. Dyar), VI., 30577-8.
  - Greater improvement in seaboard districts than in mountain districts (J. O'Donnell of Kilraine), II., 12050-1.
  - Improvement since 1860, question of—No more money, but people lived a little better than they used to do, Great improvements in some places, and other places at a standstill (J. O'Donnell of Kilraine), II., 11572-7.
  - Indebtedness of small holders, effect in increasing (G. F. Trench), VIII., 43405-9; (Archdeacon O'Leary), 45039.
  - No noticeable difference within fifteen years, but certainly improvement since fifty years back (P. Dyar), VI., 30570.
  - People took more serious views and were harder-headed in ordinary affairs of life (P. Dyar), VI., 30591.
  - People were a little better off and it was becoming more customary to go to Scotland and America and send home money (J. M'Carron), II., 12242-3.
  - Question how far improvement in standard of living was a proof of improvement in condition of people (H. Plunkett), IV., 21541, 21544.
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- Ownership, Effect of—Progressive activity visible (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3731.

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- Attitude of Irish Parliamentary Party, Question of (P. M'Donagh), X., 54266, 54310-4.
- Attitude of people—
  - Change in—People beginning to see evil effects of sub-division (Rev. S. H. Orr), 9173; (Rev. M. M'Hugh), X., 53362-6.
  - Enforcement of the law in a district where popular opinion was in favour of sub-division, Difficulty of—Eviction would lead to great disturbances (H. Irvine), II., 8359-65.
  - In favour of sub-division (J. Pomeroy), II., 7449-54; (H. Irvine), II., 8134-8, 8360-5.
  - Landlord could evict for sub-division, but it was not enforced because of the local feeling against it (D. Pearson), II., 10898-9.

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- Attitude of People—*continued.*
  - Migration desired by witness that he might obtain a holding large enough to divide amongst his children (P. Curran), X., 54760, 54774, 54778-80.
  - Opposed to sub-division (Rev. J. Gavigan), II., 7820-2; (P. M‘Donagh), X., 54215, 54230-6, 54269-70, 54298-9.
  - Ownership, effect on tendency to sub-divide (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48207-10; (P. M‘Donagh), X., 54230.
  - Roscommon—Unlikely that sub-division would take place to any extent in agricultural parts of the county, owing to spread of education, higher standard of living, and willingness to emigrate (W. Walpole), X., 58778A.
  - Tendency slight in regard to economic holdings, strong in poor and backward districts (H. Doran), I., 3422; (P. MacCallion), II., 12733-6; (Rev. J. J. Hegarty), IX., 48194-5.
- Causes of, in the past (P. M‘Donagh), X., 54285.
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    - Case of tenant in Aranmore who tried to sub-divide, Steps taken to eject him (J. Sweeney), II., 8709-11.
    - Free agents at the end of 68½ years or whenever the holdings were redeemed (J. Sweeney), II., 8715.
    - Less tendency to sub-divide after a long experience of advantages of not sub-dividing (J. Sweeney), II., 8716-7.
  - No sub-division (H. Doran), I., 3443.
- Cottars in Scotland—Means of preventing re-establishment of holding when one cottar had been migrated, Powers of landlord, General public opinion, etc. (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21805-17, 21819-29.
- Disregard of the future by those who practically made away with their holdings (H. Irvine), II., 8179-81.
- Emigration had been prevented to some extent in the parish by sub-division in West Galway (P. M‘Donagh), X. 54319.
- Evils of—
  - Cause of the tremendous congestion in Gweedore and other parts (Canon M‘Fadden), II., 8025.
  - Disastrous agriculturally speaking—People dervied income from other sources than land on Gweedore Estate (H. Irvine), II., 8171-8, 8371-2.
  - Evil even in places where no one attempted to live on the land (F. S. Wrench), III., 14484-90.
  - Insanity conditions resulting (J. O'Neill), VII., 39382-4.
  - Sub-division of agricultural holdings resulting in creation of uneconomic holdings was an evil, but same objection did not apply in case of site holdings (W. F. Bailey), III., 17480.
- Extent of Evil—
  - Not much seen by witness (P. MacCallion), II., 12729.
  - Number sanctioned by Land Commission since 1881, Number sanctioned since Act of 1903—If these figures could be taken as correct, evil was insignificant (M. Finucane), III., 15901.
  - Poorer districts, Witness knew it had occurred especially in (F. S. Wrench), III., 14482-3, 14598-9.
  - Still going on in Clonmany (N. Noone), II., 12459-61.
  - Wearing away by degrees in West Galway (P. M‘Donagh), X., 54299.

SUB-DIVISION AND SUB-LETTING—*continued.*

- Family arrangements such as giving part of holding to married son could not be prevented except by education (H. Doran), I., 3428, 3431-3, 3455.
  - Inishowen Custom, Son usually remained on without any lien on the holding (G. L. Young), II., 5756.
  - Remarks applied to migratory as well as to fishing districts (H. Doran), I., 3454—and to congested districts generally, 3462.
  - Usual arrangement on a son's marriage was to give him two-thirds of holding (H. Doran), I., 3438.
    - Law making documents invalid in cases of tenant purchaser would be unjust and detrimental (H. Doran), I., 3471.
    - Satisfactory arrangement—Not usually made till old people were no longer able for much work (H. Doran), I., 3438-2, 3452-3, 3466-7, 3469-70.
    - Son could be otherwise provided for if Board had land enough (H. Doran), I., 3434-5.
    - Southern arrangement—Practically identical with Western (H. Doran), I., 3463-4, 3468.
- Gweedore, *see* that title.
- Hill Estate—Notices issued against sub-division, II., App. III., p. 240.
- Houses vacated by Migrants, Question of—Temptation to sub-divide (P. MacCallion), II., 12730-2.
- Importance of checking practice—If it were allowed to go on without check *ab initio*, application of remedy later must cause hardship and injustice (M. Finucane), III., 15901.
- Information as to, Means of obtaining—
  - Commissioner of Valuation and Collectors of Poor Rates bound to report cases of which they became aware (M. Finucane), III., 15901.
    - Defective means—Poor rate collectors should be called on to certify periodically that they had made inquiries and ascertained as a fact whether sub-division or sub-letting had taken place (M. Finucane), III., 15901.
    - No absolute inquiry made during last eight years—System of reports by Police (F. S. Wrench), III., 14497-9.
    - Prejudice against informers prevented any information being given (D. Pearson), II., 10900.
    - Ridiculous idea (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41543.
  - Inspection the only possible way of ascertaining that all obligations of tenant were complied with (D. Pearson), II., 10901-4.
- Judicial tenure, Sub-division contrary to conditions of (H. Doran), I., 3455.
- Landlords, Attitude of—
  - All against sub-division prior to 1881, Since then they were comparatively indifferent (J. Hamilton), II., 10688-90.
    - Local Government Act of 1898, Change dated from—Prior to 1898 if landlord permitted sub-division he had to pay entire poor rate in cases where valuation fell below £4 (D. Pearson), II., 10899.
  - Conyngham's, Marquis of, Estate—Sub-division allowed (J. Sweeney), II., 8713-4.
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    - Gweedore (Canon M‘Fadden), II., 8028-31, 8037-8.
      - Denial—Notice prohibiting sub-division served upon tenants in 1858 (H. Irvine), II., 8134-5.
    - Lough Finn, Neighbourhood of (Canon M‘Fadden), II., 8039.
  - Landlord the only person upon whom the onus of preventing sub-division lay (D. Pearson), II., 10900.

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- Landlords, Attitude of—*continued.*
  - Opposition to—Mahoney Estate (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747.
  - Sub-division not allowed in most cases, but sub-division still went on in some places (N. Noone), II., 12462.
- New house, building on holding or enlarging old house, question of (P. M'Donagh), X., 55224-9.
- Not recognised by Government (P. M'Donagh), X., 54226.
- Note by Mr. Finucane, III., App. VII.D. p. 325.
- Opinion against (P. MacCallion), II., 12728.
- Penalty in case of tenant-purchaser—A man could be sold up unless he had paid up purchase-money, if holding were redeemed he could do as he liked (H. Doran), I., 3425-7, 3430, 3444, 3455; (M. Finucane), III., 15901; (P. M'Donagh), 54300.
  - Not hitherto enforced (M. Finucane), III., 17901.
- Permission to sub-divide—Cases in which permission should be given (M. Finucane), III., 15901; (L. Armstrong), VI., 30785-8, 30793-7.
- Prevention—Means of Prevention, etc.
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Rate of Progress of Congested Districts Board—

Annual turnover of land represented by £140,000 and present annual income of £11,000—Fully 100 years would be required to deal with the scheduled districts (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1429.

Annual turnover of land represented by £300,000, *see* that sub-heading.

Danger of going too fast as great as danger of going too slow (G. Balfour), V., 22236-7.

Fringe of question only touched; at then existing rate, it would take Board many generations to produce any marked effect—Memorandum of September, 1898 (F. S. Wrench), III., 14365-7, 14380.

Slow progress (Professor Campbell), IV., 20843-4; (G. Wyndham), V., 22904.

Ten years—Necessary annual turnover and annual income to lose (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1436.

Large amount of land would have passed beyond reach of Congested Districts Board in ten years (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1437.

Refer also to title Distribution of Land.

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Congestion in—land was suitable for agriculture, but district was a grazing ranch (W. Mitchell), VI., 28827-8; (P. M'Nulty), VI., 28913, 28941, 28943, 28948, 28950; (T. P. Melvin), VI., 29078.

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Co-operative grazing scheme (R. A. Anderson), IV., 21405-6, App. VI., p. 232-3.

TITLE IN LAND.

- Difficulties experienced by Board in every case of striping and amalgamation—Legislation needed to facilitate transfer of title in land (H. Doran), I., 2754, 2762, 2816; (L. Culleton), VII., 39535-7.
  - Absence of deeds or written documents in case of small tenants—Occupier often unable to deduce title from a previous legal representative (H. Doran), I., 2762-5.
  - Difficulty arose irrespective of tenure (H. Doran), I., 2755-6.
    - Investigation into title formed no part of inquiry in fixing judicial rent (H. Doran), I., 2766-8.
  - Equities attached to tenants' holdings—Discharge necessary before Board could sell with a good title (H. Doran), I., 2754, 2756, 2768.
    - Sale under Land Purchase Acts was effected subject to all equities attached to land (H. Doran), I., 2761, 2769-71.
    - Tenants would not buy if they knew their holdings to be liable for any charge other than the annuity (H. Doran), I., 2761.
    - Transfer of equities of new holding contemplated by law, procedure specified found to be impracticable (H. Doran), I., 2757-9.
  - Tenants' interests and farms for purpose of enlarging holdings, purchase of, by Congested Districts Board—Class of transaction in regard to which difficulties principally arose (J. O'Connor), III., 13556-8.
- Equities, Clearing of—
  - Estates Commissioners had power to clear equities, Congested Districts Board had provision through a Court, but it was a long process (A. MacDonnell), V., 25379-80.
  - Legislation needed to enable Congested Districts Board to clear equities where land was surrendered or consolidated, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 23825, 23911, 25378-9.
  - *See also* sub-heading Difficulties experienced by Board.
- Investigation of title when estates were purchased—
  - Agreement between Vendor and Board, preparation of, a statutory obligation which must be complied with before lands could be vested in Board—No such agreement settled until Estates Commissioners were satisfied of Vendor's title to sell (C. Crookshank), III., 17529.
    - Commissioners acted on ruling or certificate of examiner, who had perused deeds or documents lodged by Vendor (C. Crookshank), III, 17511-3, 17529.
      - Abstract of title not required to be lodged (C. Crookshank), III., 17510A
      - Vendor had to prove a *prima facie* title to lands and that he had been in possession six years (C. Crookshank), III., 17508-10.
    - Preliminary agreements entered into by Board, who thereupon entered into possession of estate, etc.—Practice not contemplated by Act, it might lead to dissatisfaction and subsequent delay (C. Crookshank), III., 17529.
      - Practice enabled Board to make some small improvements, but they made these at their own risk (C. Crookshank), III., 17530-40.
  - Interval between preliminary reading of title and final settlement, Question of (J. O'Connor), III., 13545; (C. Crookshank), III., 17514-7.

TITLE IN LAND—*continued.*

- Investigation, etc.—*continued.*
  - Interval between preliminary reading of Title, etc.—*continued.*
    - Advantages of joining the two enquiries into one—Improvement introduced and carried out as far as possible, but if a man could prove a *prima facie* title, he must be dealt with according to the provision of Section 17 (C. Crookshank), III., 17518-24.
    - Change in law needed—At present it was *ultra vires* to oblige solicitors to present complete abstract of title from the outset, but it would be desirable otherwise (C. Crookshank), III., 17524-8.
      - Doubtful whether, if there were unlimited funds, change in law would be always beneficial—It was sometimes a very lengthy business to produce an abstract of title (C. Crookshank), III., 17548-55.
  - Intricacy of Enquiries—Enquiries not intricate for purposes of Estates Commissioners, intricacy arose in subsequent title to purchase money (C. Crookshank), III., 17497-8.
    - Nature of difficulties—Defective description of lands in deeds, same description used as was used 200 years ago, etc. (C. Crookshank), III., 17499-503.
      - This form of difficulty did not arise in case of properties that had got a Parliamentary title under Encumbered Estates Act (C. Crookshank), III., 17504-5.
  - Notice published in *Gazette* and served on all parties interested at least two months before lands could be vested in Estates Commissioners (C. Crookshank), III., 17506, 17529.
  - Purchase money advanced and distributed as soon after date of vesting order as title to purchase money was completed but Estates Commissioners' functions ended with execution of vesting order (C. Crookshank), III., 17506, 17529.
  - Re-sale of estates purchased by Congested Districts Board—Estates Commissioners as such had nothing to say to re-sale (C. Crookshank), III., 17529.
- Minute on Transfer of Tenants' interests in holdings, III., App. III., pp. 291-2.
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- Department's Experiments, IV., App. IVA., p. 196.

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- Agricultural Development, Improvement of live stock, etc.—Extent of work by Department (C. Phibbs), VI., 29917-21.

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- Two classes of tenants, those holding direct from Congested Districts Board and sub-tenants—No difficulty in dealing with direct tenants (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3948.

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  - Serious question in another fifty years unless a cheap substitute or means of transport were discovered (H. Doran), I., 2848.
  - There would be no peat on the mountains in two or three generations (W. Doherty), II., 5259.
- Importance of question (H. Doran), I., 2825-7; (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6056; (J. Maguire), II., 6184; (J. Irwin), X., 58730-2.
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  - Bad and careless methods of cutting bog—should be compulsory to cut bog properly, so that bog itself did the drainage (Lord Castletown), V., 26621.
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- Reclaiming "cuts" of bog was short-sighted policy, and opposed to idea of having bogs for use of whole community (J. Ward), II., 9433-4.
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  - Board had no power to restrain tenants who had turf on their holdings, it restrained outsiders (H. Doran), I., 2842-4.
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  - Price of fuel in towns would be increased (H. Doran), I., 2857.
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- Purchase of Untenanted Land—
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  - 1826—First Government Valuation, basis, etc. (J. Barton), V., 22507.
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  - 1844—Townland Valuation Act first started what was now known as Griffith's Valuation (W. H. Boyd), V., 24281.
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  - Improvements—
    - Improvements effected within seven years preceding valuation not taken into account (W. H. Boyd), V., 24291, 24388-90.
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    - Not excluded (J. Barton), V., 22554-5.
  - Instructions given by Griffith to valuators (M. Finucane), III., 15439.
  - Mountain land a quality lot and valued separately so that valuation then and now could be compared (J. Barton), V., 22594-7.
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  - Very poor districts, principle of valuation in—Valuation based on letting value, of which produce was an element (J. Barton), V., 22758-61, 22765.
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- Better land under cultivation—Not of greater value than it was in 1854 without great expenditure (J. Hamilton), II., 10704.

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High valuation, resulting disadvantages with regard to rent, etc. (Rev. P. Glynn), VII., 40119-21.
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Hotel, house turned into, would be valued as hotel (J. Barton), V., 22637.
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Increase in valuation of other property than land since 1870 (J. Barton), V., 22630-1, 22644-5.
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Poverty, Griffith's Valuation no test of, as between the Glens of Antrim and congested districts in the West (S. M. Dobbs), VII., 37000.
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- Present value of land and valuation—*continued.*
  - Gross value of agricultural land, Increase in—Causes, etc. (J. Barton), V., 22693, 22696.
  - Increase in value of land since 1852, Causes, etc. (F. S. Wrench), III., 14585-91; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24291.
    - Barton's, Sir J., Estimate (W. H. Boyd), V., 24329-32.
    - Henderson's, Mr. T. F., Estimate of increased value of land (W. H. Boyd), V., 24291, 24328.
  - Much greater difference is South than in North (J. Barton), V., 22571.
  - Present valuation did not completely represent the value of land, but witness would let the tenant have advantage of the present valuation (J. Hamilton), II., 10701-3.
  - Twenty or twenty-five per cent. below fair value now (J. Barton), V., 22549, 22565.
  - Twenty-five per cent. reduction, *see* that sub-heading.
  - Valuation not a true indication of value (J. Barton), V., 22567, 22582; (P. A. Meehan), VII., 39291; (T. Rutledge), IX., 49221; (Lord Castletown), X., 57406, 57480; (J. Cunningham), 57548; (W. Walpole), 58846.
    - Deduction of Commissioners the main cause (J. Barton), V., 22569.
    - East Mayo and West Roscommon—Neither rent nor valuation represented anything like the value of a farm in these districts where so much land had been reclaimed (W. Walpole), X., 58778B, 58845.
  - *Refer also* to sub-heading Price of Agricultural Produce.
- Price of Agricultural Produce as basis—Change in prices since date of making valuation, Effect on relation of valuation to rent and value of land.
  - Cereals, Prices of, had fallen, therefore valuation for tenanted land should be higher than present rent, while pasture transferred from tillage was over-valued (M. Finucane), III., 15408-9, 15445.
    - Contradiction—Cereals had not fallen (W. H. Boyd), V., 24288, 24295.
    - Cost of cultivation of cereals had increased, while prices had fallen, therefore valuation of land under cereals must be far above true value (M. Finucane), III., 15434-6.
    - Finucane, Mr., had mistaken the prices (J. Barton), V., 22578.
      - Correction of mistake—Mr. Finucane had corrected his mistake, but not withdrawn the argument based on it (W. H. Boyd), V., 24333-44.
    - Increase in all prices except wheat—Table, etc. (W. H. Boyd), V., 24288, 24316.
  - Increase in Prices since Griffith's Valuation (F. S. Wrench), III., 14590; (J. Barton), V., 22518, 22549, 22694.
    - Cost of labour and production had also gone up (F. S. Wrench), III., 14588-91.
    - Percentage of Increase would not indi- since 1852 (J. Barton), V., 22694-8.
    - Percentage of Increase would not isdicate a corresponding increase in valuation, there were other important considerations (J. Barton), V., 22724-7.
  - Pasture and tillage land, Proportion of, etc., *see* sub-heading Pasture and Tillage.
  - Scale of prices on which valuation was founded changed by Act 15 and 16 of Victoria, 1852, cap. 63 (M. Finucane), III., 15408, *note*, and III., App. VII., Bd., p. 324.

VALUATION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Price of Agricultural Produce as basis—*con.*
  - Scale of prices on which valuation was founded, etc.—*continued.*
    - Scale of 1852 considerably lower than that of 1844—It was the 1844 scale that Mr. Finucane compared with existing prices (W. H. Boyd), V., 24281.
      - Reduced Scale applied not only to all new valuation, but to all valuations in process of being made—Hardly to those already made, but they were few (W. H. Boyd), V., 24281-5, 24371-3, 24375, 24384.
    - Standard prices laid down by Act remained unaltered, they were not current prices (J. Barton), V., 22522, 22525.
- Productiveness—Valuation no basis on which to found any theory in regard to productiveness of land (F. S. Wrench), III., 14583-4.
- Railways and Canals, total valuation for (J. Barton), V., 22650.
- Rent and Valuation, Relation between (J. Barton), V., 22669-70.
  - Difference accounted for by fact that rent covered only landlord's interest (J. Barton), V., 22614.
  - Fair rating value synonymous with letting value (J. Barton), V., 22671
  - First term rents—
    - Lower than valuation (J. Cunningham), X., 57548.
    - Valuation on first term rents in each county and reduction on first term rents involved fixation of second term rents (J. Barton), V., 22603.
  - Fixing Rent—
    - Valuation not regarded in fixing rent since 1890 (J. Barton), V., 22621.
    - Witness did not know how far valuation was taken into account (J. Barton), V., 22619-20.
  - Grass lands, rent and valuation (The O'Conor Don), VII., 41846-7.
  - Instances in the different counties—Differences betwees counties due to fact that valuation got higher as valuers worked north (J. Barton), V., 22532-8.
  - Kerry (F. S. Wrench), III., 14583; (R. M'Clure), VIII., 44747.
  - Landlord was entire owner, tenant had no fixed rights—Valuation made previous to all the Land Acts (W. H. Boyd), V. 24302-3.
  - Mayo Co. (T. Rutledge), IX., 49216, 49219 20.
  - No relation between Rent and Valuation (J. Barton), V., 22762; (W. H. Boyd), 24298-301, 24306-7, 24312, 24317, 24354-8. 24397-8.
  - Note by Mr. Callan, V. App. VIII., p. 261.
  - Price paid for land by Estates Commissioners, number of years' purchase of rent and valuation compared (M. Finucane), III., 15413, 15428-9.
    - First and second term rents included (M. Finucane), III., 15430-3.
  - Proper valuation would be higher than rent. it included rent and interest on tenant's improvements (J. Barton), V., 22563.
  - Proportion of valuation, Rent should be, but it would not be a uniform proportion—Improvements, for instance, would have to be considered (J. Barton), V., 22622-5.
  - Reclamation would account for large difference between Rent and Valuation (J. Barton), V., 22768-70.
  - Rent might exceed valuation, owing to improvements (W. H. Boyd), V., 24390.
    - Landlord's improvements might be counterbalanced by tenant's improvements (W. H. Boyd), V., 24391-6.

Valuation of Land—*costinued.*

Rent and Valuation, etc.—*continued.*

Rents should be same as valuation if Griffith's valuation were correct now, but it was not (M. Finucane), III., 15443-4.

Scotland—

Fair rents fixed by Crofters' Commission not subject to revision for seven years, valuation therefore fixed for seven years (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21841-50, 21852.

Valuation the actual letting value, except in case of crofts (R. R. MacGregor), IV., 21462-6, 21648-53, 21851.

Second Term Rents—

About the same as valuation in proportion of 22 to 21 (W. H. Boyd), V., 24281, 24311, 24662, 24678.

Comparison could be made by picking out second term rent of every holding, Not much value in comparison (J. Barton), V., 22541-3.

Reduction on second term rents nearly 20 per cent. in counties mentioned—Not likely that value would depreciate 20 per cent. in 15 years, therefore there could be no comparison (J. Barton), V., 22604-11.

Much below competitive rents (W. H. Boyd), V., 24144-5, 24158-61.

Often below and often above valuation (F. S. Wrench), III., 14999.

Relation varied greatly in the different counties, rents a little beyond valuation in Kerry (W. J. Delap), VIII., 44253.

Valuation not a reliable test of letting value, not a sound test except for rating value (M. Finucane), III., 15428; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14988-9, 15000; (W. H. Boyd), V., 23091-2.

Valuation scientifically made, judicial rents fixed very much on the *ipse dixit* of valuers (J. Colomb), V., 22612-12a.

Refer also to sub-heading Price of Agricultural Produce.

Revaluation, Probable Results, etc.

Basis for Revaluation—

Fair rent fixed by Court would be ignored (J. Barton), V., 22690.

Parliament would fix basis by distinct instructions (J. Barton), V., 22690.

Procedure on basis of Griffith's valuation Fair rating value would be represented by (J. Barton), V., 22672-4.

Climate had changed and land decreased in value—Re-valuation proposed (T. Baker), VIII., 42741.

Cost of living, Increase in, was a factor in calculations (J. Barton), V., 22728-32.

Demand for Revaluation—

No great demand either from tenants or landlords (J. Barton), V., 22654-7, 22662.

Only demand came from Corporations of Belfast and Dublin—Re-valuation carried out in case of Belfast, in process of being carried out in Dublin (J. Barton), IV., 22655.

Difficulties in the way—More a question of policy, whether it was desirable to have re-valuation going on at the same time as sales of land (J. Barton), IV., 22653.

Confusion likely to result—Report of Valuation Committee (J. Barton), V., 22663-7.

Fair rents and local rates would not be affected (J. Barton), V., 22658-61.

Income tax would be affected wherever existing valuation was above rent (J. Barton), V., 28668.

Increase of existing figure probable—

Griffith's valuation made on scale of prices very low as compared with present prices, valuation of other property about 20 per cent. higher (J. Barton), V., 22549-50, 22692.

Valuation of Land—*costinued.*

Re-valuation, Probable Results, etc.—*continued.*

Increase of existing figure probable—*con.*

Improvements made on land, increase would be largely due to (J. Barton), V., 22556.

Increased price of production and increased taxation were all to be taken into account now (J. Barton), V., 22557-8.

Rise or fall on Griffith's valuation would depend entirely on judgment of valuer (M. Finucane), III., 15441.

Security for advances, Effect on, *refer* to title Advances.

Tenant-right as a factor (J. Barton), V., 22675-6, 22678.

Cases where very large prices had been given owing to peculiar circumstances should be eliminated (J. Barton), V., 22677.

Interest in tenant-right must be added to judicial rent and checked with valuation based on examination of soil (J. Barton), V., 22687.

Where occupation interest had been settled by Court, award would be accepted at once in conjunction with other circumstances (J. Barton), V., 22679-83.

Refer also to sub-heading Price of Agricultural Produce.

Roscommon Co.—Statistics (J. Fitzgibbon), X., App. VIII., pp. 292-3.

Summary and special comparisons (J. P. Hayden), X., App. VI., p. 289.

Sligo Co.—

Table showing total valuation of each class of holdings, VI., App. IX., pp. 284-5.

Valuation and average, valuation per head in each Poor Law Union containing congested districts, VI., App. IX., p. 276.

Statistical information with memorandum by Secretary, I., App. VII., p. 351-87.

Summary as to valuation per head in congested and non-congested electoral divisions according to Census of 1901, I., App. III., p. 300.

Taxation, valuation in reference to—

Counties, valuation in—Valuation of one part of a county fair as compared with another part of same county, though it was not fair as between different counties (J. Barton), V., 22529.

Income Tax—In Ireland, tax could be paid on rent or valuation and under Finance Act of 1896 one-sixth could be deducted for value of house and one-eighth for improvements on land (J. Barton), V., 22560.

At present Northern owner would pay more than Southern (J. Barton), V., 22561.

Re-valuation would affect Income Tax wherever existing valuation was above rent (J. Barton), V., 22668.

Unimportant, provided valuation were fairly equal throughout the country (J. Barton), 22559.

Tenanted and Untenanted Land, No difference in valuation (J. Barton), V., 22515; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24312-4, 24385.

Prices for agricultural produce higher than prices for cattle, etc., so that in fact valuation for tenanted land was higher (J. Barton), V., 22516-7.

Time required for making valuation about 15 years (J. Barton), V., 22577.

Twenty-five per cent. deduction from gross value —Griffith's statement (F. S. Wrench), III., 14997-8; (M. Finucane), III., 15437-9, 15446.

Margin to some extent compensated by enhanced cost of labour (M. Finucane), III., 15440.

No authoritative evidence for statement, no such instruction in book of instructions (J. Barton), V., 22564, 22571, 22579, 22582; (W. H. Boyd), V., 24359-63

VALUATION OF LAND—*continued.*

- Tyrone Co., Valuation in (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6034; (J. Barton), V., 22755.
- Ulster—
  - Griffith's valuation about 25 per cent. higher than in the rest of Ireland (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6034; (P. Lynch), VII., 38314-6.
  - Tenant-right—Extent to which it was taken into consideration (J. Barton), V., 22684-6, 22691.
- Unchanged since date of making—only change was on buildings (J. R. C. O'Brien), I., 1579, 1591-2; (H. Doran), I., 2465-73; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14593; (J. Barton), V., 22626.
- Variation in different counties—10 to 15 per cent. difference between north and south (J. Barton), V., 22520, 22526, 22581.
  - Appeals in the south very numerous resulting in large reductions, in the north people were more or less content with their valuation (J. Barton), V., 22524, 22527.
  - Time occupied in making valuation—Begun about end of the forties, finished in 1860 (J. E. O'Doherty), II., 6045; (F. S. Wrench), III., 14556.
    - Increase in prices, etc., during period, higher valuation in the north due to (J. E. Doherty), II., 6043, 6046-7; (J. Barton), 22513-4.

VAUGH, Mr. WILTON.—*Landowner in Co. Leitrim*:

- Evidence, VI., 32567-755, App. VI., p. 263.

VEIGH, LOUGH, DISTRICT OF:

- Drainage needed (J. M'Connell), II., 8994-7.

VENTRY'S, LORD, ESTATE:

- Condition of Estate—Extreme rundale in Cromane district, condition of houses, etc. (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42772-4, 42776, 42778.
- Purchase negotiations—Alternative proposals made to Lord Ventry (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42772.
- Rents too high—Tenants unwilling to go into Court owing to arrears, method of collection, etc. (T. O'Donnell), VIII., 42778-88, 42793.
- Sales of tenants' interests in small holdings VIII., App. VI., p. 218.

VESEY'S, Major, ESTATE:

- Landlord's refusal to sell except directly to tenants (M. Hennelly), IX., 50997-1032.

VESTING ESTATES—Delay in Vesting Estates in Congested Districts Board, charges against Estates Commissioners (H. Doran), I., 3383.

- Agent collecting rents, position of Congested Districts Board pending completion of transfer (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1251-63.
- Board's communications with Estates Commissioners (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1232.
- Causes of delay (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1226.
  - Block of business in Land Commission (J. O'Connor), III., 13254, 13452-63, 13482-4, 13502-9, 13537-9.
  - Difficulties in settling title—Absence of registration of land (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1233.
  - Staff insufficient, question of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1234, 1248, 1272, 1309, 1314-15; (J. O'Connor), III., 13548.
  - *Refer also* to sub-headings Funds and Priority of Sales.
- Change in legal status of Congested Districts Board which would render possible acceleration in vesting of estates (J. O'Connor), III., 13305, App. III., p. 284.
- Extent to which estates had been vested in the Board (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1219, 1221, 1235-44, 1270-1; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 3941-2, 4215-6; (H. Doran), I., 1897, 2050, 3407-9.

VESTING ESTATES, ETC.—*continued.*

- Funds inadequate (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1234, 1272, 1310.
  - If Board's purchases were moderate in comparison with total amount of money provided, they should not be delayed (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1267-9, 1284.
  - Provisional arrangement to allocate a certain sum of each loan raised for purpose of Congested Districts Board, question of (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1303.
- Greater the number of estates, the greater the delay (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1276-8.
- Improvement in speed owing to pressure by Sir A. MacDonnell) (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1246-7, 1308-9, 1311-3; (Rev. D. O'Hara), I., 4211-3.
- Number of estates vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners and by the Land Judge (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1221.
- Parliament not to blame—Acts blocked after they reached Dublin (Rev. D. O'Hara), I, 4210-2.
- Payment of money to landlord and vesting of estate in Congested Districts Board were simultaneous (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1266.
- Priority of Sales—
  - Future position—Estates Commissioners had acknowledged principle of urgency in reference to congested districts (J. O'Connor), III., 13554.
  - Objections raised to giving precedence to Board's Estates—Reversal of legal opinion and of proposed policy (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1304-8.
  - Priority given to Congested Districts Board's estates (J. O'Connor), III., 13549-53; (M. Finucane), 16228-30 (C. H. Crookshank), 17542-6.
  - Regulations of 4th July, 1905, and 13th February, 1906 (C. H. Crookshank), III., 17541.
  - System of dealing with estates coming into Estates Commissioners' Department (W. F. Bailey), III., 16441-8.
- Small proportion of estates purchased since 1903 were vested (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1221.
- Time elapsing between purchase of an estate and its being vested in the Board by the Estates Commissioners (F. W. D Mitchell), I., 1222, 1249; (Rev. D. O'Hara), 3493, 4203, 4214; (J. O'Connor), III., 13546-7.
  - Dissatisfaction locally with Congested Districts Board, People ignorant that Board had no control over delay (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1224-5; (Rev. D. O'Hara), 3943.
  - Importance of expedition (F. W. D. Mitchell), I., 1227-31; (Rev. D. O'Hara), 3943.

VETERINARY SURGEONS:

- Increase of Staff of Department—Necessity for country districts (J. T. Carroll), VIII., 46631; (J. Morrin), IX., 51677-80.

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WADE, JOHN:

- Case of (Rev. J. P. Callanan), X., 56577 8, 56598-603.

WAITMAN ESTATE:

- Price (J. H. Rafferty), X., 58146.

WAKELEY'S, Mr., Estate, Mountshannon:

- Purchase negotiations—Certain tenants refusing to sign agreements owing to right of way grievance (M. MacNamara), VII., 40966-85.

WALDRON, Mr. LAWRENCE A.—*Member of Stock Exchange in Dublin*:

- Evidence, III., 13079-147, App. I., pp., 278 9.

WALDRON, Mr. M.—*Farmer from Killean, Ballindine*:
  Evidence, IX., 50545-59.

WALKER, Mr. W. J. D.—*Industries Inspector and Advisor to Congested Districts Board*:
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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

SECOND APPENDIX

TO THE

FINAL REPORT.

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

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Walter Callan, Esq

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"To inquire into and report upon the operations of the Acts dealing with Congestion in Ireland, the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the Land Commission under these Acts, and the relations of the Board with the Land Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; what areas (if any) outside the districts now scheduled as congested, require to be dealt with as congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas.

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Land Purchase Operations of Board.

Congested Districts Board had purchased 152 estates up to present, 1832.—84,958 the total number of holdings in congested districts, 1836.—98,000 the number of families in congested districts according to 1891 Census, 1837.—Poor law valuation of land covered by the 84,958 holdings was £522,961, 1838-9.—84,958 holdings covered entire area of all holdings classed as agricultural in Census return, 1840.—Untenanted land in congested districts, witness could give fairly reliable particulars for Mayo and Roscommon, 1841.—Not for other counties except from returns supplied by rate collectors, 1842.—14,536 holdings bought by Congested Districts Board, 300 of which were outside scheduled districts, 1843.—Poor law valuation of holdings purchased was £94,982, 1844.—Board had bought one-sixth of all holdings in congested districts, some had also been purchased through the Land Commission, 1845.—Board had been dealing with land to a large extent only since 1900, 1846.—First large estates bought in 1899, 1847.—Board's operations in connection with land purchase had been under three Acts, only three estates bought under Act of 1891, forty-six estates bought up to Act of 1903, 1848.—Price paid, £556,079, 1849.—106 estates at a price of £1,233,708, bought since Act of 1903, 1849A, 1851.—Return showing price of £1,403,762, included four estates not included by witness as transactions were not closed, 1850.—Board bought only poorest class of tenanted estates and such untenanted land as they could acquire with a view to enlarging small holdings on tenanted estates; re-arrangement of tenanted estates necessitated considerable expenditure on fencing, road-making, etc., cost of which could not be added to selling price of holdings without making them too dear, 1853.

Loss on Re-sale.

Board's capacity to lose limited to £11,000 a year, land transactions must be regulated accordingly, 1855-6.—£11,000 all that was left to cover loss in development of estates when estimates were made up, 1857.—Average loss on Board's purchases and improvement schemes up to present time, 6 per cent. of cost price of estates, 1854, 1858.—Loss would be greater in future; Board had to pay more for estates while value of land had not increased; cost of re-arrangement would be at least as much as before, and less of outlay could be added to selling price of land; probable future loss 12 per cent., 1859, 1873.—Board had hitherto retained estates purchased for four or five years, applying revenues obtained to improving estates, as they considered it wiser to do their work thoroughly and had no other funds, but delay had been criticised, and if estates were in future kept for a shorter time the rents could not be used for improvements, 1859.

Funds Needed.

Amount per year up to which estates could be bought in future depended entirely on funds at disposal of Board, 1860-1.—With existing means it would be about £100,000, 1863.—But that was only toying with the problem, 1862, 1864.—If Government meant to tackle the problem seriously they must give the Board sufficient funds to do the work quickly and properly, 1865.—Estimate of future loss at 12 per cent. made on further consideration, and with qualification that in future Board should purchase only very poorest class of tenanted estates and a larger proportion of grass land, 1866-7.—If estates not altogether of poorest class were bought loss might not be more than 8 per cent., 1867.—Ffrench estate was poor, but not very poor, 1868.—Some of estates bought were poorest that could be found, others not, 1869.—Figures deliberately given from close consideration of operations up to the present, 1870.

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Revenues obtained from difference between Rent and Interest on Purchase Money.

Amount of revenue obtained from estates while in Board's possession more that 5 per cent. of price in ordinary poor estate, 1879.—2¾ per cent. interest paid to Land Commission, 1875, 1877.—40 to 60 per cent. of revenue left to spend according to price paid for estate, 1878-1880.—£100 a year was collected from estate with a £100 rental, 1881-3.—Immediate reduction of rent often pressed for, but not given except in few cases, 1884.—2¾ per cent. only charged on advance under Act of 1903, 1886-8.—In case of Dillon estate a substantial sum in discharge of arrears and a full year's rent exacted before giving abatement of rent pending same, 1885.—Gross rental of Dillon estate about £20,000, 1889.—In case of Dillon estate Board had to pay sinking fund as well as interest; but they subsequently got back sinking fund, with net result that they paid 2¾ per cent. on money borrowed for purchase 1890-1.—Difference between interest and rental left £11,750 a year to spend on estate, 1891.—Board had spent £60,000 on Dillon estate on land improvement and re-sold it without loss to tenants, charging no tenant whose holding was not increased more than sixteen years' purchase, 1892.—Price of estate, fifteen years' purchase, people said it was cheap, 1893.

Number of Holdings Bought, Character, etc.

14,000 odd holdings bought since Board came into operation, 1894.—Some in villages and towns, but not urban, 1895.—Practically all the 14,000 tenants were agricultural, not more than 100 town tenants who had not holdings of land, 1899.—Holding of a man having a business in the town would not be increased till requirements of *bona fide* agricultural tenants were satisfied, 1900.—289 new holdings created, having area of 8,101 acres and rental of £4,331, 1896.—6,000 tenants dealt with out of 14,000, remaining 8,000 mostly purchased under Act of 1903, and could not be dealt with owing to delay in vesting estates in the Board; gross purchase price of twelve estates vested on or before 31st March, 1906, £9,000; only time for re-arrangement except by construction of roads, buildings, etc., from October to March, when land was uncropped, 1897.—289 new holdings created, 1,453 out of 6,000 enlarged, practically all more or less improved, Board had invariably done main drainage, built necessary accommodation roads, etc., 1901.—Some of remaining 8,000 improved, in others vesting had not been effected, or was recently effected, 1903-5.—The 1,453 enlarged holdings had been transferred to tenants, 1906-7.—Board had only about six estates up to 1899, 1909.—And could have done much more if they could have got more land and more money to buy and improve it, 1910.

Price of Tenanted and Untenanted Land.

Return showing particulars of untenanted land acquired by the Board for migration and enlargement of holdings, 1911.—First estate, Clare Island, bought at ten years' purchase, 1912.—Rental corresponded with poor law valuation, 1913.—If fixed out of court rental would correspond to first term judicial rent, 1917.—Average price of first three estates bought up to 1896, 14·7 years' purchase of poor law valuation, 1917.—Including tenanted and untenanted land, 1918.—Average price for last period, 20·59 years' purchase of poor law valuation, 58,000 acres of that were untenanted and of

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annual value, £12,579; witness prepared to give prices of tenanted and untenanted land separately, 1919.—Practically no untenanted land on one of first estates, 1920.—Cost per acre of no value for comparison of rate of purchase owing to difference in quality of land bought, 1922.—Average price of tenanted land for first period about twelve years, 1925, *note.*—For second period, fifteen and a half years' purchase of rental, including arrears, 1924-5.—Which landlord was legally entitled to collect, 1926.—Average price of untenanted land for first period, twenty and three-quarters years' purchase, amount bought, 2,025 acres, estimated annual value, £322, purchase price, £6,676; second period, 19,566 acres bought, estimated fair value, £4,937, purchase price, £123,506; average rate of price, twenty-five years, 1927.—Third period, 58,223 acres bought, estimated fair value, 12,579; purchase price, £348,431, equivalent to twenty-seven and two-third years' purchase; variation in price of tenanted land since 1903, from seventeen and three-quarters to twenty and one-third years' purchase, 1928.—Average rate of price about eighteen and a half of yearly and first term rents, and twenty-one of second term rents, 1929.—Nineteen and three-quarters the average for tenanted, twenty-seven and two-thirds for untenanted land, 1930-1.—Fair annual value of land estimated by witness himself, 1932.

Increase in Price.

Two reasons for increase in price after 1903, tenant was now financed in a way that enabled him to pay a higher price without making his annual payments higher than he would have had to pay under previous Land Acts, and he was willing to pay annuity for a longer period provided he got immediate relief, 1933-6, 1950, 1991-3.—Before 1903, more needy landlords sold because creditors pressed them, larger and more generous-minded landlords sold at prices they knew to be low, 1937.—Price of fee-simple of land had increased very much irrespective of bonus, 1938.—Though actual value of land had not increased, 1939.—Quality of tenanted land purchased much the same after as before 1903, untenanted land better, 1940.—Not much property selling in congested districts between 1891 and 1896, what was sold was not offered to Board, 1941.—Comparatively few estates coming into market before 1903, 1942.—Depreciation of land stock one of the reasons, 1943, 1945.—Lord Dillon's English solicitor had declined to take Irish land stock, Board made about £13,000 out of refusal, which they put into drains, etc., on the estate, 1944.—Land selling beyond its value, 1946.—Tenants so anxious to own their land, especially when they owed arrears that they would always give a high price, 1949.—Arrears not exactly used as lever to force up prices, but they acted in that way, 1951-2.—Addition of arrears meant spreading instalments over a longer period and enabling tenant to start clear with reduced rent, advantage to tenant in that way, but it reduced security for advance, 1955, 1958.—Increased demand for and increased prices given for tenants' interest, 1956.—Few small holdings came into the market, and when they did, they realised prices not in any way based on profit derivable from holding.

Dillon Estate.

On Dillon estate, only 214 tenants out of 3,847 holdings had acquired holdings by purchase within last thirty years, and those figures were typical of Connaught congested districts, 1957.—In regard to Dillon estate, Board paid £8,250 on purchase money, 1965-6.—And gross rental was £20,000, 1966.—Reckoning outgoings at 40 per cent., net gain during interregnum was £3,000 a year, 1967-72.—Lord Dillon's loss was his business, 1973.—Price would rise under ordinary conditions when purchaser could borrow money cheaper, 1974.—Dillon estate reasonably rented, 1978, 1980, 1986.—Though tenants could not live on them without supplementing their earnings by going to England, 1987.—Demesne included in £20,000 rental, 1979.—Rent much about the same as on De Freyne estate, 1981.—Outgoings on Dillon estate 20 per cent. on gross rental, 1999.—Factors affecting price of estate; Lord Dillon not always able to collect whole rental; property rarely free from agitation against payment of rent, 2002, 2014-5.—£16,847 rent received, excluding demesne, for year before estate was purchased by Board, 2003.—Cost of collection, etc., 20 per cent., 2004.—Size of demesne, 2010.—Poor law valuation of demesne and lands about £20,000, 2013.—Lord Dillon anxious to get rid of property and to treat his tenants generously, 2016.—Lord Dillon made as good a bargain as any other landlord of a poor estate in neighbourhood at the time, 2017, 2020.—Price paid £290,000, subject to charges which brought it up to something over £300,000, 2018.—Board had right to collect arrears, 2019.—Large number of migratory labourers came from Swinford Union, in which Dillon estate was situate, 1982.—Many small holdings in Swinford Union too small to maintain families without aid from extraneous sources, occupiers migrated to England from June or March to November, 1983.—If economic rent were defined as margin left over after necessaries of family had been provided for, rent of a holding would vary according to size of family, 1984-5.—Previous purchasers considered they had a better bargain than purchasers under Act of 1903, 1989-90.—Payments of purchaser accepting decadal reduction under Acts previous to 1903 extended over same period as under 1903 Act, 1994-5.—Old purchaser got his holding at a lower price, 1996.

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Extent of Congestion.

Scheduled congested districts, included in nine western counties of Ireland, only one electoral division being in County Clare; population of scheduled districts, 505,723.—Roughly, one-ninth of total population of Ireland; valuation of districts one-nineteenth of entire valuation of agricultural holdings of Ireland; area of districts, 3,626,381 acres, one-sixth of gross area of Ireland, 2021.—Smaller areas of congestion outside scheduled districts, 2022.—85,000 odd holdings in congested districts, 2022, 2027, 2163.—Of which 74,413 were under £10 rateable value, *i.e.*, uneconomic holdings, 2022, 2163, 2165.—45,139 of the 74,413 uneconomic holdings at valuations below £4; gross valuation of the 45,139 holdings, £102,488, or an average of £2 5*s.* 5*d.* per holding, 2023, 2163.—13,000 holdings sold to tenants through Land Commission, Estates Commissioners, and Congested Districts Board, 2024-7, 2166.—Witness believed the 6,000 sold by the Board were included in the 13,000, 2028-9.—Number of holdings remaining to be dealt with approximately 64,000, 2037, 2167.—A proportion of remaining holdings were over £10 valuation, economic holdings, and should be deducted from the 64,000 total, 2037-8, 2168-9.—Most of the 64,000 would have to be bought, because estates were sold as a whole, but as a rule there was no loss on economic holdings, 2039-41.—Act of 1903 not operating as quickly in Connaught as in other parts of Ireland, 2042.—Special treatment of congested estates would cost Government less if they provided money and staff enough to do the work quickly and satisfactorily; re-settlement of an estate could not be done under two or three years, mainly because little could be done except from October to March, 2045-6.—Board employed all the labour it could get, 2047.—88 per cent. of hodings in congested districts uneconomic, 2048.—Board held enough untenanted land to make all holdings already bought economic if enough tenants would migrate, but they could not go on with work till land was vested, 2050.—Not enough land in congested districts to meet requirements of persons likely to migrate; enough land in Ireland for all if sufficiently extensive migration were possible, 2061.

Maritime Districts.

Enlargement of holdings not a practicable remedy in maritime districts; not enough families to relieve congestion would migrate, 2053, 2056, 2058.—Population of maritime area, 174,960, one-third of entire population of scheduled districts, 2054.—Practically no land in that area for enlargement of holdings, 2055, 2115.—If capital were supplied some families might migrate successfully, 2056-8.—Maritime districts needed special treatment; everything possible should be done to develop fishing and seaweed industries, 2059, 2115, 2133.—Some land

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essential; Board should see that most was made of what there was, but people must look to sea for their main source of living, 2060.

Migration of maritime population not feasible or desirable, many lived comfortably according to their own standard, 2062-3, 2115, 2132-4.—Fishing industry capable of immense development; Board could not be blamed if they lost even a large sum in effort to develop it, 2064, 2149.—Agricultural holdings of maritime population could be immensely improved by striping and re-arranging, so that a man would have his holding in two or three places instead of ten or twelve, 2065-7, 2115, 2149.—Reclamation not possible to any large extent in maritime district, 2068. 33,710 houses in maritime district, 2069.—33,000 odd maritime holdings should be taken from the gross of 85,000 odd, not from the 64,000, 2113-6.—Quite a different problem from districts west of black line in map, 2117.

Districts marked "B" in map were those from which holders would not migrate in sufficient numbers to relieve congestion, 2070-1.—Opinion founded only on witness's knowledge of the people, 2072.—People had not been asked to migrate, 2073.

Local Opposition to Migration.

Board had power to buy untenanted land in non-congested areas, but could utilise it only for relief of holders within scheduled areas; absurd restriction, 2075-86, 2090-3.—Fact had given rise to very strong local objection to purchase by Board of untenanted lands, 2087-8.—Strong local feeling against migration of any sort into untenanted areas, 2094-6, 2118-9.—Three estates acquired where feeling was very strong; lands not yet disposed of, 2097.—With all untenanted land in congested districts Board could relieve about one-third of uneconomic holdings, which would be about all that would migrate, 2098-9.—Board never yielded to feeling against migration, but at present they had not overcome it, 2102.—If Board had legal power to enlarge uneconomic holdings near their purchases, feeling against migration would be lessened, and if influential men in the districts were responsible for settlement they would get people to take a more reasonable view, 2103.—Support of soundest public opinion necessary to success, 2104.—Any body promoting migration on large scale must have strong local influence and strong local trust, 2107-8.—And intimate acquaintance with circumstances of population, 2109.

Economic Holding.

Definition of an economic holding: one from produce of which, under good management, a family could maintain themselves, 2122.—Assuming family of five people, 2124-5.—Wife an important factor as making money out of pigs and fowls, 2126, 2139.—Family might live comfortably on uneconomic holding if surplus labour could be remuneratively employed near at hand, 2123.—Keener competition for uneconomic than for economic holdings, tenant's interest in the West often realising thirty years' purchase of a very small holding, as against five years for a £200 farm, 2130-1.

Maritime District.

Granite formation in Donegal and Northern Galway not bad base for agricultural soil, 2135-6.—Deposit of sand and peat near sea in Connemara made good soil for crops, 2137.—Agriculture in maritime districts could be improved in same sense as a labourer's plot; land not to be regarded as farms in the ordinary sense, 2139-40.

Rossveale Bay, Costello, and Carna district up to Rossmuck not classed as maritime, people too far from fishing grounds, 2141-4.—Agricultural holdings of fishing population very valuable in Aranmore, 2145.—In district "B" land must be developed as it was and industries other than fishing established, 2147.—Not much untenanted non-residential grazing land in Mayo, 2150.—Much good could be done in Erris by acquiring land in addition to developing fishing industry, 2151-3.—Nearly all the 33,000 maritime holdings uneconomic and would come out of the 45,139 not exceeding £4 valuation, 2157-9.—Number of £4 holdings left not very large, 2160.—Average valuation might be misleading, few large farms would raise average in misleading way, 2171.—Not many large farms in maritime districts, 2172.—Witness believed the fishing industry could be developed in maritime districts, but did not pretend to know, 2177-9.—Population of 174,960 must live by fishing or some other industry, 2181-4, 2185.—Witness knew nothing of circumstances of Scotch fishermen, 2185-7.

Reluctance to Migrate.

Causes of unwillingness to migrate were absence of capital, want of education, dislike to going among new neighbours, 2188.—Board had been able to dispose of all untenanted land they could get up to 1903, and though class of migrants were not what Board would have chosen, not one had failed to pay his way, 2188.—Number of migrants, 280, 2189.—Strong local feeling against migrants, 2191.—Migrants welcome only where population was very sparse, 2192-3.—Many would migrate if they were offered a fully-equipped holding and capital to stock land, 2194.—Board had always met wishes of intending migrants desiring to get new holdings adjoining or adjacent to each other, 2195-6.—Witness regarded objection to migrate as temporary, 2197-9, 2201.

Classification of Congested Districts.

Three groups in congested area, "A," maritime, number of householders, 33,710; population, 174,960; Poor Law valuation, £172,140; "B," mainly in Donegal, Kerry, and Cork, districts from which there would not be migration sufficient to relieve congestion, number of householders, 23,602; population, 122,819; Poor Law valuation, £144,122; "C," scheduled districts from which landholders enough would migrate to relieve congestion, number of householders, 42,802; population, 207,944; Poor Law valuation, £260,781, 2110, 2200.—Gross totals, number of householders, 100,114; population, 505,723; Poor Law valuation, £577,043; 84,958 agricultural holdings; no land adjacent, and available for relief of congested areas outside Connaught, Connaught problem a special one, 2200.—Migration from "C" probable because lands available for migration were near and known to the people, 2202-3.—"C" the only group from which it would be possible to migrate any large numbers, 2204.

Efforts to promote Migration.

Board had attempted migration in "A" and "B," posting notices all over districts, describing lands available for migration and inviting applications for new and better holdings, 2205, 2221.—Groups of families could have gone together 2206.—Result not satisfactory, 2207.—Migrants selected from Board's own estates, 2208.—All land acquired up to 1903 got rid of, except some retained for special purposes, 2209.—Board advised its tenants to migrate but left them perfectly free, 2211.—Poster issued eighteen months ago, 2212.—Since Act of 1903, 2213.—Comparatively few applications in response to poster, persons from neighbourhood of grass areas in non-congested districts petitioned Board to give land to small holders and sons of tenants in the neighbourhood, threatening trouble in some cases if "strangers" were placed on land, 2214.—Posters quite well understood, 2215.—All applications came from "C," 2217-8.—If Board had power to buy large areas, they should first satisfy requirements of uneconomic holders adjacent to purchased lands, and use surplus for migrants from congested districts; if local people understood that it was not within power of Board or Estates Commissioners to give holdings to young people in those areas, objection to strangers would subside, 2223.—Even present inquiry and ensuing discussion might create a change of feeling, 2224.

Very small proportion of holdings sold by Board to tenants were economic, because they could not get enough land, 2225-6.—But improvements effected by the Board had greatly enhanced value of holdings, while ownership stimulated holders to continue improvements; on Dillon estate tenants had carried out more improvements in five years since purchase by Board than in preceding forty years, 2226.—Uneconomic holdings on Dillon estate would become economic in next five years, 2227.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

Very little untenanted land in Mayo, 2228, 2230-1.—Grazing farms held under judicial tenancies, or by landlord, or farmers residing elsewhere, or merchants devoting spare time to management of grass farms, 229.—Board could not acquire much without compulsory powers, 2232, 2236-9.—Compulsory powers should apply to tenant purchasers as well as to owners in fee, 2234.—No tenement under £25 Poor Law valuation included in proposal, 2235.—Voluntary agreement impossible because Board must have lands in hand before buying poor tenanted estates, 2237.—Same conclusion held good in Roscommon, 2239.—Good many grass farms sold in Roscommon under Act of 1903, most would have been sold but for provision preventing advance exceeding £500 being given to tenant whose tenancy was created after 1st January, 1901, 2241.—4,000 acres held by tenant purchasers, but witness was only able to ascertain tenure of 42,000 out of 101,000 acres in Roscommon, 2242-4.—Not large proportion of the 101,000 acres remaining on hands, say, 6,000 to 10,000 acres, 2245-6.—Very little held in temporary lettings, *i.e.*, as untenanted land, 2246.—Tenant in occupation would have to be bought out, 2247-8.—Board had power to compulsorily determine judicial tenancy if they required land for migration, 2249.—On payment of compensation or offering holding elsewhere, 2250.—Board had long been looking for land in Roscommon, and had not been able to get much, 2251.—Tenant had to be dealt with separately, 2252, 2254-6.—Compensation given for disturbance and improvements, Board could determine tenancies only on their own estates, 2253.—Difference in price paid to landlord for tenanted and untenanted land, 2257-8.—If landlord had land in his own hands he ought to get same price that would be paid in dealing separately with landlord and tenant, 2259.—Compulsory powers should apply to all parties having a legal interest in lands, 2262-3.—Justification for compulsion strengthened when it was not applied to any particular class, 2264.—Relief of congestion so necessary as to justify extreme course, Congested Districts Board had never got means to apply drastic and generous treatment needed, 2265.—Witness favoured compulsory acquisition of grass lands, because land as at present held yielded little either to holder or to the country, 2266-9.—Not worth while to get compulsory powers if they applied only to untenanted land, 2270.—Of tenancies classed as permanent tenure many were future tenancies (commenced since 1881), and could not be determined without compensation, but compensation would be much less than that to which tenant holding under judicial tenure would be entitled, 2271.

EVICTED TENANTS.

Few evicted tenants on estates purchased by Board, Board reinstated them and set them up again, 2272, 2275.—De Freyne estate instance, 2276.—Board made no special provision for evicted tenants, 2273.—If holding from which tenant was evicted was not vacant, Board referred him to Estates Commissioners, who had special funds to deal with evicted tenants, 2277-8.—Not desirable to have evicted tenants dealt with by two bodies, 2279, 2281.—If Estates Commissioners were excluded from Mayo and Roscommon by Board's operations, Board would provide land for evicted tenants, 2280.

CLASSIFICATION OF BOARD'S LAND PURCHASE OPERATIONS.

Board had been censured for slowness of operations, statement of particulars as to purchase of estates would satisfy critics that the Board had made great efforts but had failed to get the necessary powers, 2284.—Board's land purchase transactions of three classes; first, purchase with their own funds of three estates from 1891 to 1896; second, forty-three estates bought by means of advance of Land Stock from 1896 to 1903, nearly all estates purchased under two first classes disposed of to occupiers, 2286.—Estates purchased under first class, area, 6,690 acres; Poor Law valuation, £1,268; purchase price, £18,618; second class, area, 164,489 acres; Poor Law valuation, £33,787; number of tenants, 6,523; purchase price, £537,461; third class, 106 estates purchased under Act of 1903, area, 264,573 acres; 206,350 acres tenanted; 58,223 acres untenanted; Poor Law valuation, £59,927; number of tenants, 7,799; yearly rental of tenanted land, £43,016; purchase price, £1,233,708, 2287.—Board's land operations during first period so small that funds needed did not seriously retard industrial and fishery development, 2289.—Though more money could have been applied but for diversion of funds to purchase estates, 2291-2.—Percentage of untenanted land less than 33 per cent. of total acreage purchased between 1891 and 1896, 2294.—58,223 acres untenanted, 206,350 acres tenanted, purchased since 1903, 2295.—Price given under Act of 1903, 19¾ years for tenanted, 27⅔ for untenanted land, 2297.—Price given, 1891 to 1896, 12 years for tenanted lands, 2299.—20¾ for untenanted, 2300.—Price given 1896 to 1903, 15 years on first term rents, 19⅔ on second term for tenanted land, 2304-5.—25 years for untenanted land, 2306-7.—Estimated fair rent much less than grazing rent, 2308.—Price under Act of 1903, 19⅔ years for tenanted land, first term rents; 21½, second term, 2309.—27⅔ years for untenanted land, 2310, 2313.—Bonus not included in any cases, 2313.—Board had lost on an average six per cent. on cost price of estates sold and completed, all which were estates purchased previous to Act of 1903, less of expenditure would be recovered in future since same class of estates had to be bought at a higher price, and profits from land had not increased, 2314.—Value of grazing land would naturally rise as supply of untenanted land diminished, 2316-7, 2363-4, 2365.

BREAKING UP GRASS LAND, EFFECT ON CATTLE TRADE, &c.

Taking up considerable areas of untenanted lands and planting working farmers on them would increase rather than diminish number of stock raised and fed, since holders would naturally improve their land, thereby increasing its stock-carrying capacity, and fact of keeping part of land under tillage would enable them to feed more stock in winter, 2318, 2326-8, 2364A, 2376, 2385.—Beasts could be fattened on turnips, etc., if small farmers managed their holdings in businesslike manner, 2346.—Fattening in-fed cattle in summer out of the question, but indoor fattening in winter should be much more general than at present, 2348.—Graziers bought cattle twice a year, April-May and October-November, 2349.—No open air fattening of cattle in winter done in Ireland, 2350.—Cattle bought in November mostly exported for stall-feeding, 2351.—Considerable export of 2½ year old cattle from West of Ireland, 2319.—At present tenants could not keep their beasts for two years because they had not enough land, 2321-2; and therefore sold them to graziers, 2323, 2342.—Who in turn sold them to man who fattened them in Meath and elsewhere, 2323, 2331, 2344, 2361.—Witness's proposal would eliminate the middleman, 2325, 2331-2, 2352, 2366-76.—Witness's observations confined to counties in Connaught containing congested districts, 2333.—Rich grazing lands of Meath, etc., quite unsuitable for small farmers to settle on, 2333-8.—By untenanted grass land witness meant land more suited to mixed farming than simple grazing, 2339-40.—Land to be broken up would not fatten cattle, 2357-8.—Beasts grew large, but not fat on store land, 2359-61.—Surplus young stock in poorer districts would be purchased by thirty small farmers instead of one grazier, 2379-81.—Or if demand for store cattle exceeded local supply, cattle dealer would collect supply from remote districts, 2384.—New cultivators would not largely raise their own stock, and would therefore continue to buy from western districts, 2385-6.—New cultivators would be quite capable of stall-feeding, 2387.—Witness would exclude from cultivation the fattening land, heavy retentive land not suited to agriculture, 2388, 2392-3.—Very little of such land in Connaught, there were isolated farms, 2389.

RE-ARRANGEMENT AND STRIPING.

Intricate work done by Board in re-arrangement of estates, Bingham estate instance, 344 holdings at total rental of £1,164, held in 5,051 detached parts, 2395-6.—Difficulty of surveying and mapping such estates, 2395.—Average fifteen detached parts for each tenant, seventy-seven holdings under £2 rent, 2397.—No fences, all rundale holdings; one holding, area 6 acres 28 perches, rent £2 7*s.* 6*d.*, in thirty-six separate portions; average holding, area 8 acres 33 perches, rent £2 8*s.* 10*d.*, in sixteen separate plots; area of plots in one holding, 1 rood 24 perches, 15 perches, 4 perches, and so on; another holding, 12 acres 9 perches, rent £2 11*s.*, in 24 divisions; 11 acres 35 perches, rent £2, in 15 divisions; 6 acres 3 roods 35 perches, rent £1 15*s.* 10*d.*, in 39 divisions; 4 acres 30 perches, rent 17*s.* 6*d.*, in 29 divisions; voluntary arrangements had to be made with each individual tenant; work of Board on island on Leonard estate near Carna, roads made through and across island, each man's share laid out in two divisions and fenced, 2398-9.—Tenants had improved land since re-arrangement and could mostly now keep a cow and grow potatoes and vegetables enough for food, some lived mainly by sale of kelp, some by fishing, 2399.—Sandy place on right hand side striped to give each man a share to dry seaweed on, 2400.—Most holdings judicial holdings, 2401.—Landlord never troubled about tenants so long as they paid their rent, 2401A.—Case of Fenish Island, also on Leonard estate, grazier paying £45 a year for grass farm of 46 acres dispossessed, land used to enlarge tenants' holdings, 2402.—Twenty-two families on land as well as grazier, 800 acres of mountain and bog held by grazing tenant under the Court, who competed against Board for the land, expecting to be financed by Land Commission; need for alteration of law to prevent such transactions, 2403-5.—Letting under Land Judge's Court usually for seven years, if estate were sold, tenant would have to give up possession six months after date of sale, 2404.—Tenants on Fenish Island mostly judicial tenants, 2406.—Land Commission did not map island, 2407.—Rents fixed in early days, estate bought by Board in 1892-3—usual process was to get a local surveyor to measure divisions and estimate value on that survey, 2409.—Board had power on requisition of three-fourths of tenants of any townland to compel the remaining fourth to agree to stripe, fuller powers desirable, but a good deal had been done without compulsion, 2410.—Bingham estate in hand at present, part of it striped, 2411.—Extreme cases of rundale more general in maritime districts than inland, but not confined to them, 2412-3.—Commission should bear in mind difficulty and delicacy of arrangements in connection with striping land when forming opinion as to progress made by Board, 2413.

CLARE ISLAND.

Clare Island, high wall separating grazing from arable land needed to keep mountain sheep within bounds, 2417.—Stone wall built in preference to wire fence that tenants might earn enough to pay arrears, 2418-9, 2422, 2430.—Wall cost £1,600, 2420.—Wire fence would have cost £1,000.—Island bought by Board with their own funds in 1895 for £5,056; area 3,949 acres, poor law valuation, £507 18*s.*; rental, £483 9*s.* 6*d.*, payable by 98 tenants; Board got possession of 749 acres valued at £92, held under temporary lettings; tenants largely in arrears for rent, £1,796 up to May, 1895, and rates; twenty had been evicted for non-payment of rent; islanders generally regarded as being in lawless condition, 2423.—No fences, cattle and sheep herded all day while crops were growing, wall built separating cultivable land from mountain grazing, land between wall and sea striped and fenced, stripe assigned to each tenant on basis of rent of old holding with right of grazing so many "sums" or "collops" on mountain commonage, 2424.—"Sum," a cow or other beast over three years old, or equivalent number of sheep (eight dry sheep to a cow), "collops," young stock, two year olds or yearlings, 2425.—Seven miles of six-foot commonage wall, 35 miles of mearing fences made, 2426.—Fences mostly sod fences, stone walls where they were cheaper, 2427.—Good wire fence in Ireland cost 2*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* per yard, 2428.—Additional expense due to cost of getting materials from landing place to site of fence, 2429.—Improvement works in process about five years, total expenditure £8,589, £3,514 received for rent and arrears, making net expenditure £5,075, price of fee-simple of estate and of tenants' interest in holdings taken up, £5,472, making total net cost of estate £10,547, 2430, 2450.—Salaries of Board's officers immediately in charge of improvements included in expenditure on improvement works, salaries of principal officials charged against general administration, 2431.—Amount paid to surveyors and clerks of works apportioned against each estate at end of year, 2432.—No part of administrative expenditure charged against expenses of improvements, 2433.—Board sold direct to tenants because they thought Land Commission might decline to accept any responsibility about Clare Island, stopping large sum on grounds of insufficient security, as in case of Ffrench estate, 2433-9, 2442.—Difficulty that Land Commission would not sell to tenants of small holdings got over by passing Act of 1899, 2440-1.—In case of Ffrench estate Land Commission retained as guarantee deposit £1,917 out of purchase price, £9,268, though one-third of entire area was untenanted; estate sold at 16 years' purchase, 2442-5.—Board got an Act passed next year authorising Land Commission to accept Board's guarantee against deficiency, 2446-7.—Land Commission's inability to make advance to tenant of small holding applied only to tenants of Congested Districts Board, "small holding" defined as having rateable value of less than £10, 2451-2, 2484.—Legislature apparently intended Board to raise their holdings to £10 standard, but made no provision to enable Board to get the necessary land, 2453, 2456, 2461, 2478-9.—Act in question was Act of 1896, 2454-6.—Board were operating under Act of 1891, which defined "small holding" as above, 2457.—But were unable to sell Clare Island till Act of 1896 passed, 2458-9.—Rateable value of land fixed over forty years ago, 2465.—Valuation of holding varied with value of buildings on it, 2466.—And could be increased by erecting or improving buildings, 2467-73.

GUARANTEE.

Board obliged to give guarantee for amount Land Commission would retain as deposit in absence of guarantee, 2485.—Land Commission bound to ask for guarantee if they had any doubts as to security of holding, 2492.—Witness thought guarantee a fair working arrangement, but it ought to be more limited, 2493.—Difficulty in the way of sale to small holders through Land Commission one reason for direct sale of Clare Island, the other was that Land Commission would probably advance only very small proportion of purchase money, 2497.—Only practical inconvenience of guarantee was that it might affect Board's credit, 2498.—Board had a million and a half capital, and any deficiency would have to be met from that, 2498-502.—Amount already pledged, £390,818, 2511.—Capital sum against which that was a liability, £823,864, 2512.—If tenants made default, Board could sell out holding and go into possession, but that would be a very extreme step, 2507.—Land Commission would have to offer occupation interest of tenant in open market, and if money realised did not meet Commission's demand, Board would have to pay up deficiency, 2508-2510.—Board had had no default in payment of annuities up to the present, 2509, 2511.

CLARE ISLAND.

Having decided to sell Clare Island direct, Board looked into financing by Land Commission in connection with decadal reduction system, 2513.—And satisfied themselves from actuarial calculations that decadal reductions were really equivalent to uniform annuity during sixty-eight and a half years of 3¼ per cent.; Board decided to sell at uniform annuity of 3¼ per cent., same mode of financing as adopted in Act of 1903, in order that tenants might get improved holdings subject to as low an annuity as possible, and at the same time to cover a reasonable amount of capital expended, with result that they lost £879 on Clare Island, exclusive of interest on purchase money of £5,000 which they had paid for four years, 2514-5.—Large expenditure on island earned exclusively by tenants, 8515-6.—Practically all money represented by losses except timber, roofing, and skilled labour for buildings, was earned by people for whose benefit operations were undertaken, 2517.—Estate substantially and permanently benefited, 2518-9.—Sums not exceeding £15 advanced for purchase of additional stock, all loans punctually repaid, very little difficulty in collecting instalments, 2519.—Change wrought by Board's operations, impossible for the bulk of the people to pay their way before purchase by Board, whereas not one had failed to pay annuity up to present, though they had not had holdings for five or six years, 2520.—No other industries there except kelp, if people had reasonable facilities for getting produce to market they could quite well live on the island without fishing, 2522-3, 2527.—No fishing worth talking about, 2524.—No harbour on island, 2525.—Island sold to seventy-six tenants, poor law valuation, £507, average valuation of holdings, £6 13*s.* 5*d.*, 2526.—Board's steamer took stock once a year to fair at Westport, before that stock had to be taken out in small boats, 2527.—Cattle were swum out to steamer, hauled up with a crane, and dropped on the other side near shore, 2528.—Steamer had a hoist and band of canvas to put round beast, 2529.—Board owned practically all the islands on the west coast, and it was of great importance that there should be reasonable facilities for transport of live stock to and from mainland, 2531.—Two visits a year of steamer would afford reasonable facilities, 2532.—Steamer waited till after fair to take back unsold stock, charging small rate, 2534.—People stood out for better prices now they could get unsold beasts taken back, 2535-6.—Fifty per cent. improvement in value of yearlings through good bulls supplied by the Board, 2536.—Clare Islanders not good farmers, 2537.—But £6 holding in one place might be as economic as £10 holding in another, 2538.—Large deduction made in fixing rents owing to exceptional circumstances of remoteness and inconvenience, 2539-41.—Approximate value of stock on Clare Island, £3,383, 3141.—Payment of arrears not a condition precedent to operating on the place, Board explained general scheme to tenants and appealed to them for co-operation, 2549.—Labour given in six months not quite equivalent to two years' rent, some tenants sold surplus stock to supplement their earnings, 2550-1.—Time beyond six months given whenever a man made a fair case for it, 2552.—No tenant got ownership till he had completed all obligations put on him, all had done so satisfactorily having regard to their circumstances, 2553.—Board did consider Clare Island a striking instance of what could be effected, 2580-1.—Tenants needed more assistance towards fitting them to make the most of their land by better husbandry, etc., 2581.

Delay in Re-Sale.

Estate vested in Board immediately after purchase, 2555.—Six years from date of purchase to completion of sale to tenants, 2554.—Estate could have been sold a year earlier, 2556.—Works could not be carried out in less than four and a half years, 2558.—Estates staff at the time consisted of witness and a clerk of the works who lived on the island, 2559.—Estate needing much alteration could not be dealt with in less than two or three years, 2560.—But if Board had sufficient powers, capital, and staff, they could deal with large area at same time, and reasonable delay would not prolong settlement of whole area to be dealt with, 2561-2.—Clare Island purchased in Land Judges' Court, 2563.—In the case of Clare Island, Board took a guarantee from Most Rev. Dr. McEvilly and Mr. William O'Brien, 2597.—Guarantors had not been called on to pay up any amount, 2598.—Board would not have purchased without guarantee, but witness thought it an insult to the people, 2600-1.

Landlord's Attitude.

No landlord in West of Ireland attempted any extensive or systematic development of his estate before or since Land Act, 2564-5, 2575.—Average landlord could have done a good deal without incurring substantial loss, but very few tried, 2566, 2571-3.—Many landlords would be deterred by knowledge that tenants were opposed to any change, 2567, 2569.—Board had advantage in that tenants knew its only object was to benefit them, while they might suspect even an excellent landlord of wanting to make something out of them, 2568.—Land Act of 1881 required landlord's outlay on improvements to be assessed by Land Commission, and so discouraged improvements, 2574.—Practically all improvements carried out by tenants in the West, even a good landlord was only expected to make a main drain or an accommodation road, 2575.—Act of 1881 gave every encouragement for improvement by tenants, 2577.—And contained provisions to secure to tenant the value of his improvements, 2578.

Instruction for Small Holders.

Land purchase had promoted industry and thrift and avoidance of agitation, but not to extent it might have done had Government followed it up by helping and educating people towards agricultural development, 2582-3.—Practically nothing done since Department of Agriculture had charge of it, 2584.—They had done a good deal in matter of live-stock, but in poorer districts results were inappreciable, 2585.—Department of Agriculture ought to follow up work of the Board immediately, 2586.—Board considered itself charged with promoting agriculture and industries in congested districts till short time ago, 2588.—Witness's complaints applied equally to Agricultural Department of Congested Districts Board, which had given no special attention to Board's estates, 2588.—Board's Agricultural Department worked from Land Commission by Mr. Wrench and Mr. Porter, with schemes and itinerant instructors, 2589.—They worked both agriculture and stock, succeeding in improvement of cattle, but itinerant instructors did little or no good, 2590-2.—Witness did not wish to fix responsibility or to make reflections on Department of Agriculture or Sir Horace Plunkett, whose disciple he declared himself, but he believed far more could be done for congested districts by agricultural development than by migration; if effective methods of instruction, organisation, etc., were applied, value of produce could be doubled, 2593-5.—Opinion shared by Department of Agriculture and Sir Horace Plunkett, 2596.

Compulsory Powers.

Board's resolution applying for compulsory powers and additional funds passed when satisfactory results had been attained with Ffrench estate and Board was unable to acquire any others, 2603-5, 2610.—Funds of Board less widely distributed than at present, 2607.—Board was a new body, and owners were doubtful as to treatment they would receive, 2608.—Also Board only approached landlords who were known to be willing to sell, 2609, 2622-3, 2628-9.—They had sometimes been unable to come to terms, 2630.—Witness tried to get into touch with owners of land suitable to Board's purposes, 2624.—Resolution applied mainly to untenanted land, object for which compulsion was desired the same then as now, to get the remedy for congestion, untenanted land, 2612-21.—Very difficult now to get untenanted land, 2626.—At a reasonable price, 2627.—Board severely censured for not dividing up farms near Newport, of which they had bought tenants' interest in anticipation of being able to acquire ownership in fee, 2627.—Tenant or tenant-purchaser more unreasonable than ordinary landlord, compulsion needed to apply to both, 2631-2.—Price was always the difficulty, there was no blank wall of refusal to sell at any price, 2632-6, 2701-3.—Gap between price asked and price Board was prepared to give varied a great deal, often very wide, 2637-9.—Board's scheme of migration could not be carried out by voluntary agreement, 2639, 2662.—Unless Board could take in a large area they could not deal with district on a systematic plan, 2639-40.—When they had bought a few grass farms, owners and occupiers of intervening farms would certainly hold out for excessive price, 2641, 2656-7, 2660.—Compulsory power for tenanted lands should be taken only where such lands were adjacent to Board's grass lands and could not be improved when those lands had been disposed of, 2642, 2650-4.—Or if Board had more untenanted land in hands than they

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could dispose of, 2643.—Objection to compulsion in regard to tenanted land was that the tenants would be likely to repudiate their obligations, 2644-7.—Intervention of official negotiator to bring parties together would be more satisfactory than sending official to fix price tenants should pay, 2666.—Witness's objections to compulsion would disappear if judicious discretion were exercised in arranging terms of settlement, 2667-2670.—If tenants were unwilling to buy at price fixed by Board, it would be possible to keep them on as tenants, but very unsatisfactory, 2664-5, 2668-9, 2672.—Last thing tenants would do would be to give up tenancy, 2673.—Board would have a good idea of what they would give, 2674.—And no difficulty would arise if they were consenting parties, 2675.—Landlord and tenant should be dealt with in same way, 2676-9.

Scheme for Compulsion.

If compulsory powers were granted, Congested Districts Board would claim to have all non-residential grazing land that they thought necessary to their purpose specially scheduled from time to time; if they failed to come to terms with owners and occupiers, Land Commission or some independent tribunal would fix price to be paid to landlord and to tenant if there was one, 2680.—Act giving compulsory powers would settle procedure under which money would be paid and possession of land obtained, 2681.—And give power to enforce by legal process, 2682.—Principle would apply to all land needed for relief of congestion, 2683-4.—Board had done nothing in the way of inviting tenders, but it was quite well known that they were prepared, even anxious, to pay a good price for suitable untenanted land, 2686.—Class of property the Board desired to purchase was almost ideally high, 2691-5.—Tribunal appointed to fix prices would be quite unfit for its office if it failed to appreciate favourable conditions when fixing price, 2696-7.—If Board had power to schedule land required it would facilitate voluntary purchase, 2698.—Proposal was to purchase compulsorily, if necessary, all non-residential tenements having poor law valuation of £25 and upwards, irrespective of tenure of them, 2707.—In regard to estates partly residential and partly non-residential, compulsory power to purchase would be desirable in exceptional cases, but proportion of such cases would be small, 2708.—That would be in accordance with Crofters Act, 2711-2.—Compulsion should not be applied to residential holdings generally speaking, but it would be necessary under exceptional circumstances, 2713-8.—Witness really wanted power to deal with all classes of property concerned, only it would be in the discretion of persons who had it to use it or not, 2719-20.—Witness did not propose to take up all the land of a residential holding, 2721-5, 2728-31, 2733.—The Board might be allowed to schedule the portion of the area they required, 2726-7.—It would be reasonable to give owners the option of obliging the Board to take over the entire holding at a price to be fixed, 2732.

Advances under Act of 1903.

Act of 1903 enabled people to buy holdings up to £5,000, increase to £7,000 intended to enable large occupier to buy so that there should not be unsold remnants of estate, 2734, 2737, 2739.—Purchasers of this class usually had two or more holdings, living on one and farming the other, 2735.—Residential holding would not be interfered with, 2736.

Two classes of estates the Board desired to buy (*a*) estates containing large areas of partly or wholly untenanted land, (*b*) estates in congested districts comprising mainly uneconomic holdings which ought not to be sold without special treatment, 2743-4.—But which had till quite recently been sold by Land Commission just as they were, 2745-6.—Board had made every effort to buy untenanted land, and in some cases had paid more than its value to secure it, 2746-7.—That did not affect price charged to tenants, Board's principle being that whatever estate cost them price demanded on re-sale must be reasonable, 2748.—Loss in these cases was over 20 per cent., 2749.

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Loss on Re-Sale.

Though it came within the 6 per cent. loss on entire transactions of Board, 2749-51.—The longer the Board kept holdings in its possession, the more cheaply tenants got them, 2752.—Board's transactions had to be measured by their capacity to lose, which was £11,000 a year, 2754.

Difficulties in regard to Clearance of Title.

Board had experienced great difficulties in connection with clearance of title of tenants' holdings, absolutely necessary that Government should take means to facilitate transfer of title in land, 2754.

There were usually equities attached to titles which had to be discharged before Board could sell with a good title a holding any portion of which was acquired from an occupying tenant, 2754.—Difficulty arose irrespective of tenure, 2755-6.—Law contemplated transfer of equities to new holder, but procedure specified was found to be impracticable, 2757-8.—Tenants would not buy if new holdings were liable to any charge other than the annuity, 2761.—Main difficulty was that small tenants rarely conveyed their interest by deed or written document, so that occupying tenant was often unable to deduce title from previous legal representative of holding, 2762.—Absence of any legal document did not wipe out difficulty, 2763-5.—Debts on holding and even close enquiry into legal title formed no part of investigation when judicial rent was fixed, 2766-8.—Purchaser under the Board bought holding subject to equities attached to it, he merely got an advance from Government to buy landlord's interest, 2770-1.—When a migrant left a holding in three or four parcels of land, it was sometimes impossible in practice to amalgamate these parcels with holdings of different tenants adjacent owing to difficulties in connection with clearances of title, 2816.

Compulsory Striping.

In regard to compulsory striping, Board had power under Act of 1903, on request of three-fourths of a townland, to compulsorily determine tenancy in any one or in all of holdings of remaining fourth, power not satisfactory in practice, because it was not always possible to get three-fourths of tenants to sign requisition, 2771, 2780.—Witness suggested that Board and Estates Commissioners should have power to determine any tenancy in any townland to be striped where tenant refused to agree to arrangement proposed, 2771.—Irrespective of proportion and subject to condition imposed by Act of 1903, that tenant should be offered a holding of not less value or get such compensation as County Court Judge might determine, 2772-81.—Power was asked only for purpose of re-arrangement of estates, 2775-7.

Distribution of Land; Estates purchased outside Scheduled Areas.

In regard to amalgamation of small holdings, Board should have power to enlarge uneconomic holdings adjacent to grazing land they had purchased outside scheduled areas and apply surplus to relief of congestion in scheduled areas, 2807, 2809.—Adjacent meant at a distance not exceeding a statute mile, 2810-1.—As law at present stood, Board could enlarge uneconomic holdings on estates they had purchased outside scheduled areas, but Board did not buy outside congested districts unless estate purchased was mainly untenanted, 2786-94.—Procedure was to ask Lord Lieutenant to schedule estate after purchase by Board, 2796-9.—Board was required to utilise untenanted land to relieve congestion in scheduled areas, local people could only be considered if there was a surplus, 2784-5, 2800-5.—And there never was a surplus, 2806.—If legislation were recommended by Commission for relieving congestion wherever it was found, these particular powers would not be needed, 2812-3.—If area were scheduled, difficulty would still continue if holdings could not be bought from landlord, 2815-6.

Turbary.

Turbary available should be apportioned, instead of giving tenant-purchasers more or less undefined turbary rights; distribution entailed much labour and delayed Board's operations considerably, it was often difficult to go into question of surplus turbary in order to give a right of turbary to adjacent holders who had no turf on their land, 2816.—Board did not approve of trustee system; they had adopted it in one case only, 2812.—In cases where system had been adopted by Land Commission trouble had resulted, 2819-21.—Board's usual procedure was to define on ground plot or plots on which each tenant would have right to cut turf and lay out rights of way to plots, 2818.—7,000 turbary plots laid out on Dillon estate, 2823.—Turbary on Dillon estate should last seventy or eighty years, 2824, 2868.—There were estates where there was none, 2825.—All surplus turbary ought to be reserved to Land Commission very much as mineral rights were, 2827, 2852-5, 2858, 2862.—Tenant had no right in law to sell turf off his holding, landlord could sell, provided he left sufficient for tenant's use and compensated him for surface damage, 2827, 2832-3.—Opinion varied as to how many years' provision was left for tenant, 2828-30—Landlords did cut away and sell turf largely, 2831.—Board provided for all tenants whether they had had rights before purchase or not, 2834-7, 2239, 2845-6.—Whether a man had right or not affected price when land was re-sold, 2838.—Board required at least nine inches of bog mould to be left over sub-soil, 2840.—And tenants who had turf rights on another man's holding were restricted from selling, 2841-2.—Board could not alter approved sale agreement form, 2843.—Tenant-purchaser was owner in fee of what he got, 2844.—Power to prevent sale might be useful in some cases, unnecessary in others, many tenants made a good deal by selling turf, 2847.—And restriction would be a hardship, 2856.—Soil was reclaimed after removal of turf, 2849-50.—Danger of exhaustion of supply of turf would be serious before fifty years, 2848.—It was so already in some places, 2861.—It affected security of annuity to Land Commission or Congested Districts Board, 2859.—Importance of turbary question not fully appreciated in drafting Land Acts, 2860.—Supply of turf allotted to each tenant should cover period of repayment of annuity, 2863-4.—Arrangement might encourage sale of turf, 2866-7.

Land required for Relief of Congestion.

In regard to returns based on Census of 1891 and 1901, area included was area of what was called congested districts counties, 2869A.—Difference in area for the two periods was accounted for by changes in county boundary under Local Government Act, 2872.—Ten shillings per acre average poor law valuation taken for land required for relief of congestion, 2872-3.—Land of annual value of £80,000 required in Kerry to bring poor law valuation per head up to £2, 2873.—In Galway, land of annual value, £83,320, 2874.—To raise valuation per head to £2 throughout congested districts by addition of land alone would require land of annual value of £549,841, which at twenty-five years' purchase would come to about £14,000,000, 2875-8.—Witness had no information as to congestion outside scheduled areas, 2879-83.—In Connaught, rate per head of population had gone up owing to emigration. Annual valuation of land required to raise valuation per head of population to £2 in districts marked C on map would be £87,356 in Mayo, £20,978 in Roscommon, £20,768 in Galway, £14,626 in Leitrim, 2883.—£10,689 in Sligo, 2884.—Land of annual value of £154,417 required to bring congested areas in C in Connaught up to £2 standard, approximate price would be £4,500,000, 2894.—Evidence applied only to districts marked C, but suitable applicants from A and B would not be refused, 2886.

Amount of Land Available in Counties containing Congested Districts.

Total value of non-residential tenements of over £25 valuation in Mayo was £40,972, which would not bring valuation up to more than 30*s.* a head, 2286.—While in Roscommon, near some of the worst congested districts in Mayo, was available land of valuation of £65,538, which, after Roscommon's needs were supplied, would leave more than £40,000 worth, substantially making up value needed by Mayo, 2890, 2899-902.—Mayo and Roscommon the only counties for which witness could give reliable statistics as to non-residential tenements made out by his own staff, for other counties he had only figures obtained from rate-collectors, 2890.—In Galway rate-collectors' lists gave land of annual value of £66,556, or £46,000 worth more than was required for relief of congestion in Galway; in Leitrim only £3,530 worth, whereas £14,000 worth was required; in Sligo, £20,144 worth, as against £10,689 required; to sum up, in scheduled districts of Connaught alone, there was £196,740 annual value of land held by non-residential occupiers, 2890.—Clare excluded, because only one electoral division was scheduled; figure for Cork was £58,959, for Donegal £9,427, but witness did not consider that a complete list; for Kerry £8,031, 2890.—Witness considered that no great number of people would migrate from these Munster counties, 2891.—Change in county boundary accounted for rise in population of Roscommon and also for diminished acreage and population in Mayo, 2892-3.—Witness had given minimum amount required, many holdings would still be under £10, 2903, 2911.—There were a certain number of tenements over £25 valuation in congested areas, those were included in average valuation given for congested districts, 2904-9, 2926-30.—Witness was going throughout on basis of bringing up average of holdings to £10, 2910.—Witness considered suggestion that there should be no holding below £10 impracticable, 2913.—In many districts an economic holding might be much less, 2921.—If witness's figures were much below minimum required, additional land must be sought further inland, 2919.—He had thought the most effective way to state his case was to err on side of extreme moderation, 2920.—He was confining himself exclusively to congested districts and counties containing them, 2923-5.—Patches of congestion outside scheduled districts were numerous in Mayo, 2934.—Witness could prepare return for rest of Ireland similar to that he had made for Mayo and Roscommon, but it would require staff and time and entail expense, 3083, 3086-9.—In his maps of Mayo and Roscommon, witness had endeavoured to put a sample case before Commission, and he intended to suggest that all persons interested should be heard before Commission decided what lands should be scheduled for compulsory acquisition, 3088.

Enlargement of Holdings.

Untenanted land purchased by the Board was utilised in the first place for enlargement of holdings, operations could be carried out without loss, tenants preferred arrangement giving them addition to holding within a reasonable distance, and there was less expense because there were so few houses to build, 2939.—Old holdings of migrants varied from one acre and thirty perches to thirty-six acres, mostly bog, averaging seventeen acres of poor land; rents varied from 15*s.* to £14 12*s.*, and average rent was £3 10*s.*—Board always tried to get larger holders to move for the sake of the greater advantage to adjoining occupiers, 2939.

New Holdings.

Area of 250 new holdings provided up to March, 1905, varied from 11 acres 1 rood 34 perches to 33 acres, averaging about 27 acres, only fifty-nine were under 20 acres, 2939.—Rents of new holdings varied from £5 to £24, averaging £14 6*s.*, only sixty-six had rents of less than £10, 2941.—Rent and poor law valuation very much the same, fifty holdings, with rental of £653, sold under 1896 Act for £11,912, annuities amounting to £476, remaining 200, rental £2,920, sold under 1903 Act for £69,170, annuities amounting to £2,248.

DORAN, Mr. H.—*continued.*

RENTS CHARGED BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness had no information enabling him to compare annuities charged by Board and by Estates Commissioners, there was no co-ordination between the Departments, 2943.—It was currently stated that Board's annuities were much smaller, 2944-6.—Only way to get information was for Board to value some of Commissioners' holdings and *vice versâ*, 2950, 2953.—Best way would be to nominate an independent valuer, 2954-6.—Property sold by Estates Commissioners was usually left in same state as when bought, whereas Board improved their property before re-sale, 2951-1A.—Average rent of holdings sold by Board under Act of 1903 was £14 12*s.*, average annuity £11 5*s.*; migrants came from very small holdings, landholders who were fairly comfortable were not keen to change to a better holding, 2961-2.—But if first migrants succeeded, witness had every hope that disinclination to migration would disappear, 2962, 2987, 2995-7.—Provided also that neighbouring holders ceased to be hostile to strangers, 2963.

MIGRATION.

Tenant usually moved into a new holding in early spring or in November, 2965.—November the best time, then manure produced in winter enabled them to manure a crop in the spring, 2966, 2969, 2971.—When they moved in May, Board allowed them to raise a crop on old holding for that season, paying a con-acre rent for use of land for six months, 2966-7.—This could be done even if new holding were several miles away, 2968, 2970.—Tenants usually had to bring something with them, they were prepared to suffer a good deal of inconvenience, 2971-3.—Clare Island to Castlebar, three and a half miles by sea and twenty by road, the greatest distance a man had been migrated, 2974-5.—This man, John Winters, was now quite well off, 2976-9.—He had to sell his crop in Clare Island, 2980.—He got no payment, but a better holding in exchange for the holding he surrendered, but he had a legacy of about £100, 2981-3.—He was about fifty, with a wife and family, 2984-5.—Annuity of holding was £17 9*s.* 8*d.*—Congested Districts Board built house for him, 3005.

In spite of difficulties, Board's 289 migrants were with few exceptions getting on well, and not one had failed to pay annuity; no hostility was shown by their new neighbours, there had been no objection to "strangers" till after Act of 1903; if available land was given to sons of tenants and other landless persons in congested districts counties, migrants from congested districts could only be provided for further inland where it was very improbable they would go, 3103.—Young men should go further afield if they were to be settled on the land, still uneconomic, 3105-7, 3109-10.—This number ment of uneconomic holdings, 3104.—In regard to the Dillon estate, Board had given tenants all the land it had, but at least half (2,000) of the holdings were still uneconomic, 3106-7, 3109-10.—This number might be reduced to 1,000 in ten years by better husbandry, fencing, draining, etc., 3107, 3111-5.—But many would still be a very low standard of economic holding, 3113.—If the Board had sufficient land, the whole thing could be done by migration; tenants were willing to migrate, 3116, 3118-9.—Very little redistribution would be needed, 3108.—System of agriculture on Dillon Estate so far improved that roots were grown for winter feeding of cattle, 3117.—But the great improvements were in connection with reclamation, drainage, etc., of the land and improvement of houses, which had nearly all been done by the people themselves, 3117A.

Houses had to be built for migrants, 3005.—On Port Royal estate witness had been able at first to induce only very few, and those, except in two cases, the least suitable tenants to migrate, 3005-13.—They had all succeeded so far as to be comfortably off, 3014.—Met their obligations to the Board and to everybody, 3014, 3018.—Date of migration, 1899, 3016.—Two years later, tenants who had previously refused to migrate begged for new holdings further from their old homes than those originally offered, two of them had migrated and become substantial farmers, witness had got authority from Board to increase their holdings further, 3019.—Local opposition to migration began with Act of 1903, till then it was not contemplated that Government would provide holdings for young men to counteract emigration, 3021, 3103.—Port Royal migrants probably had a good deal of difficulty in paying annuities the first year, but Board's policy was to make migrants feel that they had only themselves to depend on; they did not ask for time, because they knew they would not get it, 3022-3.—Migrants cultivated same crops as before, but a larger area; each had a horse, 3024-6.—They mostly preferred not to avail themselves of Board's offer to lend money up to £50, letting portion of new holdings to the highest bidder for six months for the crop, 3026-30.—Fact that portion let sometimes brought in more than half annuity did not necessarily prove that land was held below market value, it might be fetching an accommodation rent, 3031-2.—No migration carried out as yet except by the Board, none of Board's migrants had failed, 3033-4.—One woman had gone back to a bad holding, 3034A.—Board got great help from people of influence in locality, general opinion being favourable to its work, 3035.—Education, capital, time, and good holdings at a fair price needed to induce people to migrate, 3036, 3148.—Ignorance the great hindrance, 3148.—Board had never made the experiment of offering new holdings to young men of a family, they only dealt with occupiers of holdings, 3037.—If old people would not move when young ones did, they would not move later, 3038-9.

PLEA FOR MIGRATION.

Migration was the remedy, there ought to be a national feeling in favour of it instead of a prejudice against it, 3061.—Subject needed fuller consideration by those who influenced public opinion, 3062.—Witness believed that even pauper landholders would succeed as migrants, 3064-5.—Education would produce a better class of migrants, poorly-equipped migrants whom Board had been obliged to accept because they could get no others, had held their ground unassisted; they wanted organising for co-operation in marketing produce and purchasing manure and seeds; the necessary instruction could only be given by people remaining in the district, 3066-7.—Migrant more likely to profit by instruction than if he were left on his old holding, 3068.—It would be necessary to look outside Connaught for lands for relief of congestion, but witness confined himself to the scheduled districts and the Board's work, 3069.

HISTORICAL CAUSES OF CONGESTION.

Records were not good as to when and how people first settled on the western coast, 2989.—Witness believed present population were descendants of original settlers, 2991, 2999.—Tradition was that the Irish not slaughtered by Cromwell went to Connaught, 2998.—Population in very poor districts had reduced less than in better parts, 3000.—Celtic population driven into places like the Rosses, 3001-2.—Unquestionably, in central parts of Ireland, sixty or eighty years ago, tenants were cleared off better land and put on inferior land, 2992-4.—Famine helped; soil of a good deal that was now grass land was very adhesive and likely to rot the potato in wet years, lands at that time were not well farmed, common practice in some places to burn the soil. Board had bought an estate where clearance was systematically carried out and land farmed by landlord who made a good deal of money at first, but eventually lost a great deal, 2994.

EMIGRATION.

Wrong policy to emigrate people by State-aid from a country where there was too little population; even in poor parts where population was dense, more wealth was obtained from soil than in some of the richest agricultural districts, 3057-9.—Population was badly distributed, but even people on the bogs were better off than many artisans in cities and towns, 3060.

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Indebtedness to Shopkeepers.

Most small holders were in debt to shopkeepers, but the debt did not deter people from emigrating and would not affect migration, a shopkeeper would often help members of a debtor's family to emigrate in hope of getting his debt paid from emigrant's earnings, but he would not help the head of the family to emigrate, 3041-6.—Case of Government-aided emigration of families in 1882 and 1883 not quite parallel, in such cases emigrant would realise and sell out his farm and shopkeeper would get in his writ as quickly as he could; witness knew of several cases where very poor emigrants sent back every shilling they owed to shopkeeper, 3047-9.—Shopkeeper as a rule had no lien on the holding, 3050-1.—He trusted to the honesty of the people, 3051-3.—Fines charged to migrants were in some cases advanced by shopkeepers, 3054-5.—Board had ceased to charge fines since Act of 1903, 3056.—Shopkeeper quite able to look after himself, 3057.

Congestion outside Scheduled Areas.

Outside scheduled districts were areas quite as poor as average area inside, but in many cases they were more isolated and they were near employment, still they could not be ignored, 3070-4.—In locating congestion in a given area, witness thought all holdings above £10 should be ascertained and compared with those below £10, 3081-2.—If all £10 holdings were excluded a lower head rate than 30*s.* must be taken, 3084.

Connaught Problem.

Special and striking feature of Connaught problem was existence side by side of densely populated area and uninhabited area of indifferent grass land in prairie condition, 3090.—Same conditions existed in other parts of Ireland, 3091.—If electoral division were taken as unit of congestion the units making up electoral divisions must be summarised, and for that an examination of the townlands was necessary, 3092-6.—Witness could make the return uniform for scheduled and unscheduled districts, 3097-9.

Time needed to carry out Scheme of Migration.

Migration of class of tenants found on poorest estates could not be carried out on large scale in a short time, tenants holding at rents of £2 to £4 not disposed to take £15 or £20 worth of land, not 5 per cent. would be able and willing to build a house and fence such a holding ten or twelve miles from their homes, while this work was going on tenant had only intervals for attending to cropping of his land. There would be no difficulty in getting sons of solvent tenants or returned emigrants to take holdings of grass land at cost price, the difficulty was in dealing with pauper landlords, 3122.

Scheme for Migration and Co-operative Grazing.

Witness suggested that Board should be enabled to acquire all suitable grass land within ten or twelve miles of scheduled areas, giving small holders immediate access to them for grazing of their young stock, and having in operation a scheme by which landholders from congested areas would have option year after year, of migrating to holdings on grass areas on reasonable terms; if people failed to migrate, they would have grass lands as appurtenance to their holdings, and thus be able to keep more stock, 3122.—Holdings would thus be made economic, 3124.—Or grass lands could be sold in large parcels to landholders in groups of townlands who would use them as co-grazing or manage them on co-operative lines; distance of eight or ten miles not so serious an inconvenience as might appear, for at least twenty-five years it had been the practice of small holders on Dillon and other estates to send a beast or two to a grazing farm from May to November; some grass farms had soil not suitable for tillage if lands were cut up, many holdings would have no turf and no good water supply; on lands in Board's hands there were at present grazing 4,970 cattle and 955 sheep belonging to small farmers mostly from congested districts, 3122, 3130-3. —No local objection whatever to the cattle, 2134.—Grazing a great advantage to small holders; young stock must either be grazed or sold, 3125-6.—And was usually unsaleable in May, 3122.—Grazing land of some sort an economic necessity to small holder, 3127.—Better for tenant to have enough grazing land within his own boundary, 3128-9.—Tenants now sending in cattle would not suffer if Board's grass lands were broken up into new holdings for migrants, old holdings would be enlarged, 3135-7. —It would not be practicable to give preference to people who now sent cattle for grazing, 3140.—District marked B on witness's map differentiated from C by greater unwillingness to migrate; witness believed that after some time feeling might disappear, 3144-5, 3149.

Distribution of Land.

Clause restricting Board from enlarging small holdings adjacent to grass area unless they had a surplus would not have been drafted if framers of Act of 1903 had understood its effect, if local requirements were not satisfied before bringing in migrants migration might not be possible, and opportunity for relieving congests would be lost for ever, 3152.—Power to meet local requirements meant power to enlarge any holdings up to £10 rateable value, 3154-8.—Local opposition to migration of "strangers" an important factor in problem, 3158.—Higher influence needed to force local people to take a more national view of situation, 3159-60.

Since passing of Act of 1903, management of Board's estates had become more difficult in districts where Estates Commissioners' operations were carried on, because procedure of the two Departments was different; Commissioners' procedure locally popular, they gave surplus land to evicted tenants and sons of tenants, whereas Board retained surplus land for benefit of congested districts or of tenant-purchasers immediately adjacent to estate purchased, 3153, 3160, 3167-9, 3206, 3209.

Agreement between Estates Commissioners and Board.

Conference had been held between Estates Commissioners and Board at which it was agreed that when Commissioners had surplus land on estates within or adjacent to congested districts they should hand it over to the Board, and the Board should act likewise to them, 3161-2, 3166, 3182.—So far as witness knew, Commissioners had never communicated with Board in compliance with that agreement, 3162, 3164, 3184.—No application had been made on behalf of Board, witness thought it would be considered an intrusion, 3163, 3185-7, 3191. —If arrangement were carried out there would not be divergence of procedure, 3165.

In regard to untenanted areas remote from congested areas, claim of uneconomic holder adjacent to area would be stronger than that of uneconomic holder from a distance, claim of either should be much stronger than claim of son of a tenant, 3170-1, 3179.—Arrangement such as had been come to for adjacent areas should be easily workable for districts remote from scheduled areas, 3174, 3176.—If Commissioners wanted to create new tenancies they should get land further inland, 3175, 3177, 3181.—Board wanted all grass land available in Roscommon and in each of the counties containing congested districts, 3178.—Estates Commissioners must have had surplus land since date of conference (1904), as they had given holdings to landless persons near where Board wanted land, 3186.—When Commissioners dealt with property in a congested district, Board could not know whether there was any surplus land till whole thing was completed, 3192-3.—If Board bought Clanmorris estate, they would get it scheduled and could then enlarge uneconomic holdings, reserving surplus for benefit of scheduled districts, 3194-5, 3238-41.—Board could only buy estates in non-congested districts if they were mainly untenanted, when they got one partly tenanted they had it scheduled and could then deal with it as they liked, but they could not enlarge an uneconomic holding not on the estate, nor yet in a scheduled district, 3196-201.

Differences in Methods of Estates Commissioners and Board.

Estates Commissioners usually left old holdings as they were, and gave additional parcels of land,

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3201-2.—It was rumoured that they had bought estates in rundale and sold them to tenants without restriping, 3203, 3206, 3215.—Rundale was unfenced land only separated when in crop, and grazed in common, 3204-5.—Witness included all transactions of Estates Commissioners, whether under Section 6 of Act of 1903 or not, 3207-9.—Very objectionable to allow holdings held in rundale to be sold; before any advance was made by the State to enable tenants to purchase, Estates Commissioners or some other body should have holdings properly arranged, 3210-2.—Board could get rid of half their estates in six months if they sold without altering boundaries of holdings, 3215.—Primary function of Estates Commissioners was transfer of land from present owner to occupier, primary function of the Board was to alter and re-arrange every estate they bought; Commissioners transferred areas of turbary to trustees to be allotted to tenants as required, Board had never thought it wise to do this on estates they dealt with, they had assigned to each tenant turbary plots defined on ground and on maps, plots now shown on maps attached to turbary deeds; Commissioners charged interest on purchase price in lieu of rent from date when undertakings to purchase were signed, Board did not fix price of holdings till after re-arrangement of estate or townland, and required tenants to pay full rent up to time of purchase; against this they could earn considerable amount of wages on improvement works, 3216.—Commissioners' procedure more popular, Board much more exacting, but when work was complete, tenants themselves declared Board's methods to be more satisfactory in case of small estates, 3217.—Reduction of payments by Board's tenants had been proposed, but majority of Board's members thought it better to spend all the money they could in improvements, and it was no hardship to require payment of rent when tenants could earn perhaps three rents in the year, 3218, 3223-5.—Rental was revised when Board acquired possession of an estate, 3219.—Policy did not result in any lessening of rent, 3220.—Interval before sale to tenant should be made as short as possible, 3221.—If estates were vested quickly and Board had capital enough, improvement work could go on forthwith, 3222.—Mistake to have two Departments applying different methods in same district, 3172-3.—In dealing with Connaught, Board and Estates Commissioners should act together as one body, or one of the two should be entrusted with distribution of grazing lands and duty of striping and re-arranging congested estates, whether within or without scheduled areas, 3237.—£5 holding was too small, limit under Section 75 should be raised to £10, 3241-2.

Arrears of Rent.

Board never purchased an estate on which there were not arrears, 3228.—They always bought arrears, otherwise landlord could sue tenants after he had sold to Board, 3229, 3233-4.—Full amount never paid, 3230.—Board offered what they considered a fair price for arrears, 3231.—Never more than a year's rent, 3235.—Tenants not asked to pay more than proportion Board had to pay, 3232, 3236.—Witness would have grass lands scheduled and Board empowered to enlarge any uneconomic holdings near them, 3243-4.—At its discretion, 3245-6, 3258.—No use to go on scheduling districts unless they could be improved, 3244, 3247.—If Report of Commission did not lead to a large measure for improvement of congested districts, no appreciable change would be effected in present generation by existing methods, 3248.

Definition of Congestion.

Process of scheduling adopted had located substantially the poorest areas, 3249.—It was necessary for county administrative purposes to define area of congested districts, 3250.—County administration came in because Board contributed £2,000 a year to Department to give special aid to congested districts, 3251-3.—Electoral areas adopted as unit of congestion, because it was considered most convenient, 3254.—Definition made to suit areas rather than areas deduced from definition, 3256-7.—Electoral division merely a group of units represented by townlands, 3259

DORAN, Mr. H.—*continued.*

Authority to deal with Congestion.

Witness strongly of opinion that Congested Districts Board was the better body to deal with congestion, Board had been tried and found not wanting, whereas Estates Commissioners, though they might prove equally efficient, had not yet been tried, 3261-2, 3273.—Board would require ample means, and staff and powers, to acquire the necessary land, 3263-5.—Fact of Board's not being a Government Department was a main reason of its success, 3266-7.—Head of a Government Department must conduct business of his Department according to Government in power, 3269-71.—Board composed of apparently antagonistic elements, but only one question had been put to a vote, 3268.—Land purchase operations must be done on a much larger scale than up to the present, 3276-7.—This made it the more necessary to draw the line between spheres of operation of Board and Commissioners, 3278.—Board would not be a competent body to fix compulsory price of land, Land Commission would have to do that, 3279.—Board should operate exclusively in counties containing congested districts, leaving the rest of Ireland to the Estates Commissioners, 3280-1, 3286.—Board might have to go outside Connaught for land necessary for a settlement, that would make it more difficult, 3282-4.—Arrangement that Board had tried to follow so far was for Board to deal with estates requiring re-arrangement and enlargement of holdings, while Estates Commissioners dealt with those requiring simply transfer from landlord to tenant, 3287-90.—It was a sufficient division if arrangement were taken up cordially by both Departments, 3291.—It would be more convenient to have purchase operations for the whole country in the hands of one body, but Congested Districts Board, as at present constituted, and with its representative character strengthened by addition of elected members, might be able to allay local feeling and ease the way in connection with distribution of grass lands, striping of holdings, etc., in a manner that an official body could not do, 3292, 3296-7.—Board should have more of a representative element on it, and present members should remain, 3293.—Representative element should be elective, 3302.—There was the danger of elected members taking a narrow view of their functions, but that must be faced, 3304.—Doubtful whether Parliament would give practically unlimited public money and unlimited powers of applying it to a Board wholly free from Parliamentary control, 3294-5.—Advisory Committees could not have same standing as body like Board who would act as of right, 3298-300.—Board's work could not be done as cheaply by any other public department, 3301.—Gross area included in the 289 holdings of migrants was 8,101 acres, average area of a holding 29 acres, gross estimated fair rent, including buildings, £4,331 7*s.* 11*d.*; excluding buildings, £3,638; gross annuity for 4 per cent. cases, £476; for remainder, £2,915; average rent of each holding at time of purchase, £15; average annuity in 4 per cent. cases, £9 10*s.* 7*d.*; and in 3¼ per cent. cases, £11 5*s.* 0*d.*, 3307.—Witness fixed average rent, with aid of his staff, his valuation might be taken as equivalent to second term rent, 3308.—Migrant was told rent and purchase-money before he decided whether to buy, 3308-9.—If there were no buildings on new holding he could choose from six designs, 3309.

Cost of Migration and Enlargement.

Average cost of settling migrants on new holdings was £84 up to March, 1905, 3310-1. Average for year ending March, 1906, £87, but loss was not properly chargeable against benefits conferred on migrants alone, at least four families benefited on an average by removal of each migrant; loss likely to be higher in future, as higher price had been paid for estates under Act of 1903, and they would be retained on hands for shorter period, 3316.—Migration much more costly than enlargement of holdings, but was sounder and more reproductive expenditure, 3317, 3322.—Migration necessary to effect enlargement, 3318-9.—Enlargement of holdings on Clare Island cost on an average about £11, but their condition was not so good as that of migrants under favourable circumstances, 3322.—Price paid for Clare Island quite its value, 3323-4.—Enlargement preferable to migration if it could be done to a satisfactory extent; people liked it better and it was cheaper, 3326-9.—Since Act of 1903 Board had been able to deal with a better class of migrants, 3331, 3337.—Because they had been able to get much more land, and there was a larger area to select from, 3338.—The more land the Board had, the more large migrants they would get, 3343.—On Annefield property, Board offered land to tenants for enlargement on condition they allowed certain alterations to be made in boundaries of old holdings; they refused, and the land was still not disposed of, 3332-3.—Men were not asked to leave their homes, 3334.—They thought, if they held out, they would get their own way, 3333.—But the Board always won at a game of bluff, 3335-6.

Local Opposition to Migration.

Local opposition had prevented migration in some cases, 3344.—Witness hoped this difficulty would disappear, 3345, 3351.—But it was far from being a matter of certainty, 3346.—And required a decided change in local opinion, 3347.—If Government could deal with problem of congestion in a large and generous manner, public sentiment would respond to that, 3348, 3350.—Influence of members of Board had been of great advantage, and was the strongest reason for the continuance of the Board, 3352-5.

Increased Funds and Powers Needed.

Board appreciated the gravity of selling holdings which they were unable to raise to economic standard, they had done all they could within the limits of their powers and resources to enlarge holdings, and had appealed without effect for more funds and compulsory powers to acquire suitable untenanted land, 3356.—Only official record of application for compulsory powers was a resolution of the Board in 1895, 3357-61.—Nothing done to amend legislation of 1894 till Mr. Wyndham's Chief Secretaryship; during last year and a half Board had done more in the way of purchasing land than during their previous existence, 3362.—From 1896 to 1903, Board had purchased more land than they had funds to deal with, 3363-5.

Drainage.

Board had effected substantial improvements on many of the estates they purchased by carrying out extensive drainage works; Lung river drained, a watershed of about eighty square miles, and had been deepened and improved throughout its length of twenty-two miles; forty-six miles of main tributaries had also been deepened and improved; area drained by operations over 12,000 acres, 6,000 of which were bog; value of land increased by about £1,200 a year, 3370-3.—Dalgan, Yellow, Ceestaun, and Glore rivers also improved; £46,257 of total of £206,210 expended on improvements, spent on main drainage; £76,719 on buildings, £76,257 on road-making, fencing, etc., 3373.

Cost of Improvements.

Expenditure largely covered by revenue derived from estates while in hands, very small proportion charged to tenants on purchase, 3374.—For instance, Dillon estate was between four and five years in hands, 3375.—Tenants required to pay full rent during first few years, after that, rent less a temporary abatement of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the £; that revenue less $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. interest on purchase-money was available as set-off against cost of improvements, 3376, 3379-80.—Rent was £20,000, interest £8,250, difference available for improvements, 3377-8.—Board had paid in round figures nearly a quarter of a million in improvements of estates, and re-sold them at a net loss of £39,000, though they had charged tenants very little more than first cost of estates, and never charged more than first cost for a holding sold in unimproved condition, 3380.—Delay in sale of estates essential to place Board in position described; it had also enabled them to effect radical improvements which could not be done in a hurry; poorest tenants got most of the outlay in wages, and something like £200,000 was paid for unskilled labour, £60,000 being paid in wages on Dillon estate, 3381.—Board had never been censured in connection with Dillon estate, 3382.—Expenditure on drainage was apportioned to estates affected, and charged against them to extent to which they were improved, 3385, 3387.—Deficiency in connection with Lung scheme only about £300, 3386, 3392.—Loss occurred only in small isolated estates; outlay on drainage thoroughly reproductive, tenants quite satisfied, 3388.—Nobody at present responsible for maintaining drainage, 3389.—Board could not recover expenditure on drainage in cases where they were not owners of improved estates, 3392.

Agricultural Development.

Having regard to limited area of untenanted land available, witness was of opinion that much more good could be effected by agricultural development than by migration; no schemes suitable for congested districts would be efficiently administered through County Councils; poor districts, and especially remote districts, not sufficiently represented on County Councils; schemes were worked by County Committee, County Councils responsible because they ratified selection of members nominated by District Council, and also because they supplied the money, 3394-9.—Congested districts required more expert, differential, detailed, impartial, and sympathetic treatment, and more expenditure than any system of administration under Agricultural Department methods and County Council Committees could supply, 3399-4005.

Delay in Vesting.

Delay in vesting was a serious hindrance to Board's operations, 3383.—Of all estates purchased by Board under Act of 1903, only about £9,000 worth were vested in March, 1906, 3407-8.—On the remainder, Board had not been able to alter holdings or parcel out land among holders, 3409.

Unfair Criticism of Board.

Criticism of Board had been on the whole fair, 3367.—But witness considered that Board had been subjected to unfair criticism by people who did not trouble to get correct information; he wished the Board to be supported by popular opinion if they could secure that support by doing the right thing, and he did not consider it his business to correct people who criticised ignorantly, 3412-20.

Sub-division of Holdings.

Very little tendency to subdivide an economic holding, 3422, 3444.—But in poor and backward districts where fishing or migratory labour was the main source of livelihood, there was a strong tendency, 3422.—This should be checked, 3423, 3460.—Constabulary had to visit each householder yearly in connection with agricultural statistics, and they could report when a second house was put up or about to be put up; if people knew they were under supervision they would not attempt to sub-divide, 3424.—Sub-division was a breach of conditions of purchase, and a man could be sold up for it, 3425.—If he had redeemed the holding he could do as he liked, 3427.—Impossible to prevent family arrangements, 3428-37.—Except where occupiers held under judicial tenure, 3455.—When a son married, the usual arrangement was for the father to give him two-thirds of the holding, retaining one-third for his own life, usually quite a satisfactory arrangement, 3438-40.—In fact the only one possible, 3452, 3466, 3470.—Old people, by the time they got their children settled, were not, as a rule, able to work much on the land, 3441, 3453, 3467, 3469.—Though they were useful, 3442.—System in the South practically identical with that in Connaught, 3464-5, 3468.—It would be unfair and detrimental to make documents in such cases invalid in case of tenant-purchaser, 3471.—No sub-division on estates sold by Congested Dis-

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tricts Board, 3443.—There should be perpetual provision to prevent sub-division, 3449-51.—Not likely to be arrears in future, Government insisted on punctual payment of annuities, 3446-8.

Debt.

Witness would like to see it enacted that debts should not be recoverable against farms purchased under Land Purchase Acts, but enactment should not apply to existing debts, 3457.—A man would still get credit on his character and visible means, 3459.

Sporting Rights.

Board always tried to buy everything when they bought a property, in a few instances sporting rights had been reserved, 3472.—On Dillon estate, sporting rights passed to the Board, 3473, 3476.—Tenants, for Commission's purposes, were mainly judicial tenants, 3474.—Sporting rights not an appreciable source of income when Board bought the estate, because they had not been properly preserved; tenants at first were willing to purchase without sporting rights, which Board proposed to convey to trustees nominated by tenants to manage and preserve game, and nurse it into a valuable asset; subsequently, however, they took the view that they wanted to have their holdings free from any burden, and the Board gave way, 3479, 3500-1.—Change of attitude instigated by Mr. Morrough O'Brien and a local politician, 3502-6.—Since then tenants had let the sporting on the Knock section for £50 a year to a club, 3479.—Board recognised the importance generally of game and fishery, but tenants would not, as a rule, combine, and game was not of much value on congested and small estates, 3480-0A.—Board let fisheries for £120 a year in one case, £110 in another, 3481.—In these cases Board had separated value of sporting rights from the land, 3482, 3489-90.—Board did not usually reserve game; if tenants wanted their holdings without reservation they were allowed to have them, 3483.—Plantations on Dillon estate were not conveyed to tenants, 3484-5.—Board was looking after them, 3487.—They contained very little game, 3488.—When tenants were vested with proprietary rights in holdings, sporting rights would still be reserved in possession of Board or sold to a sporting tenant; tenants benefited, being employed as gillies, etc., 3491-2, 3495.—Where sporting rights had a substantial value, tenants did not claim, 3493-4, 3496.

Salaries and Administrative Expenses.

In estimating total cost of dealing with estates by Board, salaries and other expenses ought to be included, 3498, 3507, 3510.—Salaries and expenses of surveyors and clerks of works were charged to estates, those of remainder of outdoor staff were charged to administration, 3508-9, 3519.—Salaries and administrative expenses in connection with work of Board amounted to £31,000 a year, 3512.—Estimated cost of works this year was something over £108,000; £11,000 was what the Board could lose out of their annual revenue after providing for other expenditure, 3516-8.

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Witness's Connection with Fisheries.

Witness appointed Inspector of Fisheries in 1890, 4654, 4656.—His experience of South Coast of Ireland fishing dated from childhood; special interest began in 1887, when he reported on South-West Fisheries for Royal Dublin Society; in 1890, Government, in conjunction with Royal Dublin Society, undertook survey of West Coast fishery, which lasted two years, 4656-7.

Spring and Autumn Mackerel Fishing.

Spring mackerel fishing round South Coast began in 1862, grew rapidly; very valuable in 1890, fishermen got £175,000 for two months' fishing, besides what was paid for packing, transit, etc., 4657-8, 4668-700, 4754.—Boats engaged, with nine men in each, 4659—forty or fifty tons, some French, Scotch, and English; only half were Irish; new development had started in 1887; American mackerel failed in 1886, and Americans came to Berehaven; they found the fish cured differently to what they were accustomed to, but in 1887 they started curing on American plan; after that, autumn fishing nearly equalled spring fishing, 4660-1, 4715.—Spring mackerel sent fresh to English market; autumn fish cured; no demand for fresh fish in autumn, 4662-3, 4670-3.—Autumn fishing used to last from August till Christmas; spring from end of March to end of June, 4664.—Great changes in fisheries, 4665.—Up to 1887 only prosecuted for local consumption, fairs, etc.; practically nothing earned in 1887, 4666-7.

Autumn fishing fluctuated; in 1903 worth £93,848; reached nearly £100,000 several times for fish alone; would probably drop this year; difficult to find labour for curing, everyone employed; autumn mackerel fishing carried on almost entirely by local boats; £10,000 paid down in one creek, which had only canoes, 4668, 4966.—Drift nets and seine nets used, 4669.—Before steam trawlers existed stock of fresh fish at its lowest in spring; mackerel sold in England for £2 a box of 60 fish, 4671.—In autumn fresh mackerel fetched 10*s.* a box, 4672.—Better prices got for pickled fish, varied from 4*s.* 6*d.* a hundred, that is 126 fish, not worth prosecuting fishery for less; price in America varied, barrel could not be placed on American market under 10 dollars, 4673.—Typical barrel held 300 fish; price of barrel holding pound's worth of fish, 4*s.* 6*d.*; salt, 4*s.*; labour, 5*s.*; freight to Liverpool, 2*s.*, on to America, 2*s.*; duty, 8*s.*; two dollars duty killed the trade; an attempt had been made to raise it, but there was an agitation and a dollar was taken off, 4674.—Competing native American fishery important; collapsed in 1886; not yet recovered; better some years than others; always a demand for Irish fish; if it were better cured, 2 dollars more would be paid for it, 4675-6.—American merchants pleased with Irish fish in 1888, 4677.—Unfortunately a few bad Irish curers gave it a bad name and affected price, 4678-9, 4689-91, 4742.—225,000 cwt. mackerel landed in 1905 in spring fishery; 274,666 cwt. in autumn, 4,699 in congested districts; £29,000 value of spring fishing, £61,000 autumn, 4700.

Question of Curing Brand or Licence.

Trade mark had been considered useless if not absolute guarantee; cost a great deal to apply it, as curing trade was scattered round creeks along coast; Congested Districts Board had built many small piers and slips for facilitating fishing, and there was a curing station at each; supervision would be complicated, 4680.—Autumn fish close in shore, and could only be caught by small boats, which could not travel far; many centres therefore necessary, 4681.—In Scotland fish were 70 to 100 miles out at sea; as easy for large boats going that distance to go from one port as another; those were herrings; no mackerel in Scotland to speak of, 4682-3.—Fish three or four miles out on South Coast, but not on West; Board's ships concentrated on coasts facing north, 4684.—Important to get fish cured quickly; difficult to collect them at sea and take them to a centre without injury, 4685.—Mackerel brought in at 7 o'clock in the morning must be pickled by 4 o'clock in the afternoon, highest class fish cured, etc., before life was out of it, 4686.—If curers were licensed supervision would be required;

in Scotland inspection went on at various times of curing process; final inspection of barrels not a guarantee of purity of fish, 4687-8, 4694-5.—Three or four different firms curing at each station, 4692.—They attached their own trade mark and name, 4693.—Witness had suggested having a brand when fishing was in its infancy; it would have been simple then; a great number of supervisors would be wanted now; all small places would have to be inspected to put them on equal footing with larger centres, 4696.—Licence would not do at all, 4697.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF MACKEREL AND HERRING FISHERIES.

When Board began work mackerel fishery worth more than herring; since development of Donegal coast herring fishery went into large figures; autumn herring fishery in congested districts worth £58,000; spring mackerel, £29,000; autumn mackerel, £61,000; summer herring, £14,000, 4701.—Mackerel was the predominant fishery in Ireland; great fluctuations; herrings began low, £37,000 for all Ireland; rose last year to £121,000; larger in quantity in 1898; 450,000 cwt. fetched £69,000 as against £121,000 for smaller quantity; reason was the great development which took place in two places, in Waterford and in Trawenagh Bay, Donegal; herrings not highest class; present rise due to development of Donegal herring fisheries, which produced good fish, 4702.

SUMMER HERRING FISHING.

In the South, summer herring fishery concurrent with spring mackerel, 4703.—Scotch boats carried on summer herring fishing, Irish boats engaged with mackerel; both ended same time, middle or end of June, 4704-5.—Not worth while for Irish boats to have both mackerel and herring nets; occasional friction between two classes of fishermen, 4706.—Herring fishery in North and South at same time, 4707.—Summer herrings must be fished by Scotch boats; occasional French and Irish boats came, 4707A.—Not due to lack of enterprise of Irish; they were fully employed at that time, 4708.—After spring fishing men looked after their farms until autumn fishing, which kept them going till the winter, 4709.—Opening for more Irish boats, but summer herring fishery not enough to make them pay; men would have to go elsewhere to follow fishing, like the big Scotch boats, 4710-2.—Some Arklow boats did so, and this year did well at Shetland, 4712-3.—There were forty-five or fifty tons of fish; Arklow men had been brought to show the men in congested districts how to fish, 4714.—Summer herring fishing at Kinsale, and in north and west, at same time, had been tried off Galway, but dog-fish made it impossible, 4753.

AUTUMN MACKEREL FISHING—CURERS.

Curing and development of autumn mackerel fishing done by private enterprise, 4716.—Curers: Irish, English, Scotch, and two Americans, 4717.—First men were Americans, who used the intelligent Irish, and showed them how to cure; Irish handled the fish; Scotch and English firms sent foremen to look after the business at the centres, 4718.

KERRY MEN AS CURERS.

Kerry people, naturally sea-going, men of Dursey Island, had always been fishermen, 4719.—Kerry men enterprising and intelligent, but were in part farmers, not simply fishermen, and could not go to a distance; that was not necessary; curers came near their houses and that gave a chance of adding to their incomes; £100 made out of Kerry fishing by a canvas canoe, 4720.—Every man, woman, and child employed in curing during the season; difficult to get enough labour, 4721.

Counties of Galway, Mayo, and Donegal could not be treated in a general way, people were different; some had been fishermen from time immemorial; they would make a success of the fishing; others were engaged burning kelp or carrying turf, etc.; it would be difficult to make them fish and to eradicate the habits of generations, 4722.

CLARE FISHING.

Clare Coast, technically non-congested, people just as poor as those in congested areas, 4723.—It was unjust that no money should be spent there, while the Board was helping other districts; since the Department of Agriculture was started non-congested areas were dealt with in the same way as congested, 4724-6.—Clare a difficult coast to deal with; it was an iron-bound shore, with no natural facilities; fishing there could not be developed much more than it had been; canoes safer than row-boats on a stormy sea; money had been spent on Liscannor; pier would have been built at Ballaghaline if it had not been for legal difficulties in various Acts constituting Department of Agriculture and County Councils, 4726.—Liscannor Harbour was enlarged for taking stones from quarries; very little fishing there, 4727-8.—Mackerel good all along Clare Coast, and curing could be carried on there.

ARAN ISLANDS FISHERIES.

Fishing in Aran Islands, which had been good 100 years ago, practically unknown at time of survey; only six canoes fishing from an Island of 3,000 inhabitants, 4729.—After fishing failed in days gone by it was never picked up again; mackerel was not known to exist; experiments started to prove they were there, and Arklow boats taken round to start the fishing, 4730.—Herrings caught there 100 years ago, 4731.—Difficulty of getting rid of fish one cause of decline; post-boat the only means of getting rid of fish when Board first went there, 4732.—100 years ago hookers made special trips to Galway with fish; when Board first went there was only a local trade and fish was bartered for turf, 4733-5.

Survey finished in 1891, and witness reported on possible developments; mackerel fishing off Aran Islands recommended first; spring mackerel fishing at that time very valuable; seven Arklow boats brought to exploit fishery; two large boats provided by an English lady for Clifden crews; two for Connemara crews by another lady, 4754-5.—In 1892 Mr. Shimmin made manager for Board and Inspector of Connemara and Mayo coast for mackerel fishing; witness fished off Aran till arrival of Arklow boats; no fish found at first; then they struck the fish, and £350 to £450 a boat made in six weeks; new crews made money; thing a success; Aran Islands now had large fleet, 4755.—Fleets now on Connemara coast, 4755.

In 1905 Board opened at Cleggan; that was successful; cod and ling on coast in early years of Board's work; ten curing stations opened in 1892; cod and ling left coast; those now caught marketed fresh, 4755-6.—Assistance of Mr. Duthie secured in 1893; Mr. Shimmin had charge of Connaught coast, Mr. Duthie of Donegal; credit of good name of Irish herrings due to Mr. Duthie, 4756.

Aran Islanders had all the fishings; cod and ling in early spring, spring mackerel, summer herring, early autumn herring, autumn mackerel, trawling at various times, 4757.—Board marketed fish at first; had an ice hulk with 600 tons of ice and thousands of fish boxes; fishermen given what fish fetched in English market, less 7*s.* for freight, etc.; that principle worked for three years, 4758.—7*s.* did not always cover price of box, 4759.—Board had special steamer and trains; Post Office laid a telegraph cable to island; steamer subsidised, and now ran three times a week to Aran Islands; communication formerly very uncertain; development of West of Ireland fishing depended on communication and hampered still in some districts for want of it, 4760, 5080.

Blacksod Bay fishing opened for people of Erris; nearest railway station Mallaranny; ice hulk and thirteen tons given as a start; steamer chartered to take fish from Blacksod to a new station on Achill Sound; steamer expensive; boats had to go far to shoot nets; carried on for six years; failed on account of expense; Broadhaven offered more prospect of success, a good harbour, railway needed; steamer three times a week did not go for fresh fish, 4761-3.

Survey of Irish fishing waters was sufficient to tell what they were worth, 47336.

GREEN, Rev. WILLIAM SPOTSWOOD—*con.*

PIERS AND HARBOURS.

A want of piers and harbours for fishermen was keenly felt on Cork and Kerry coast; if fishing were to go on as it had been, and demand remained good, more piers brought more boats, 4737-8.—Present time critical; curers had not yet come; they had immense stocks on their hands; price in America not good enough to enable them to sell; American markets were being watched, and latest telegrams were more hopeful, 4739-41.

PRICE OF HERRINGS.

Donegal herrings had beaten all records in Continental markets; fifty roubles paid in St. Petersburg when best Castle Bays sold for 35, 4743.—Not so many Irish as Scotch herrings in market, 4744.—Downing's Bay herrings cured by Irish girls, 4745.—Work done through friendly mixture of Irish and Scotch enterprise; relations between Scotch and Irish fishermen most harmonious, 4747-8.

DONEGAL FISHERIES.

When Board first went to Donegal, herrings were brought from Shetland and sold in Burtonport, 4749, 4810.—Now Burtonport exported £30,000 worth of herrings all over the world, 4749.—Autumn herring fishery was the first started, and went on from October to Christmas; a few years ago summer fishing started and was now most remunerative, 4750.—Mackerel not found in paying quantities in Donegal, 4751-2.

TRAWLING.

Fluctuation in fishing in United Kingdom as well as in Ireland, but Irish fishing more affected by it than English, which was supplied with steam trawlers, 4764-9.—Development of steam drifters serious; they already came to Ireland, but were not so injurious to sailing boats there as in Scotland, 4770-3.—Fish further out to sea in Scotland, and steamboats got there and back quicker and secured the market, 4774-5.—Steam drifters came from Scotland and England, 4776.

RAILWAY EXTENSIONS SUGGESTED IN 1887.

Railway extensions suggested in 1887 for adequate development of fisheries; (1) Ballycotton to Mogeley; (2) connection at Cork to Skibbereen and Bantry Railway with Great Southern and Western Railway; (3) Kinsale Railway station to entrance of harbour, where pier should be built; (4) Baltimore Harbour to Skibbereen; (5) Castletownsend Harbour to Skibbereen; (6) Glandore Harbour to Skibbereen; (7) Cahirciveen Harbour to Kilorglin; (8) Dingle to Great Southern and Western Railway, near Tralee; (9) Bantry Station to harbour; (4, 7, 8, and 9) carried out; (2) arranged for, 4780.

Money earned by fishing would not repay construction of a railway, but other trades would want railway; a line to Broadhaven would create a new fishing centre, 4788-90.—Unhealthy thing for part of the community to be so isolated, 4790.—Fish would not be diverted from other railway lines if there were one to Broadhaven; fish off coast not caught at present; railway would make it possible to catch them; plenty of demand if they could be got to market, 4792-4.—If railway were made it should go along northern coast from Killala; Broadhaven must be touched if line were to be any good, 4798.—Railway into Belmullet insufficient; must go as far as pier for Sligo steamer; better to go farther, 4799-800.

DONEGAL FISHERIES—EXPANSION QUESTION.

Donegal coast fairly fished, 4782.—Room for more boats for summer herring fishing, but not for autumn; boats could not live out of summer fishing alone, 4783-4.—Board cautious not to add too many boats at a time, 4785-6.—Fish on banks further out, but were frequented by steam trawlers, 4787.

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MACKEREL FISHING—AMERICAN MARKET.

Unlimited boats could be employed fishing mackerel shoals; but market depended on American demand, 4795.—Fish could be cured and large supply forwarded if there were demand in America; business could be started under healthy conditions if a dollar were taken off duty in America, 4796-7.—Thirty years ago pilchards were on Kerry Coast; not since then, 4801.—Pike, dog-fish, sometimes blue sharks, in the nets, but not spotted dog-fish, 4802-4.—One most troublesome in herring nets was eighteen inches long, 4805.

VARIATIONS IN SIZE AND IN TIMES OF APPEARANCE OF HERRINGS.

Date of spawning of herrings variable in different parts of the country, two seasons, some in October and some in late spring, 4825.—Not highest priced herrings at spawning time, after that they were spent, 4826-8.—April earliest time of finding herrings now, 4829, 4831.—Few times of year when herrings were not to be found, but not in sufficient quantities for commercial fishing, 4830.—Winter herrings larger than autumn ones in old days, different mesh used for nets, half-penny mesh for autumn fishing, penny mesh for winter, 4830, 4832.—April herrings same as winter ones were, 4833.—Reason for change not yet known; Department engaged in fishery investigation in conjunction with Continental countries; investigations went on simultaneously four times a year, from Dutch Coast round Scotland and into Atlantic, inquiry had gone on five years, 4834-7.—Temperature of sea had a good deal to do with fish development, some migrations for food and some for spawning purposes; there were conditions of temperature favourable for food production, thus determining migration, 4838.—Temperature dependent on movements of currents and also the cause of currents; food supply, etc., varied with movements of ocean water, 4839.

HISTORY OF IRISH FISHERIES.

At end of eighteenth century buildings were erected at Rutland Island and Inishcoo for fishery; £30,000 spent in 1788 on fishery buildings and custom house near Burtonport; portion Government grant, 4808-9.—Fishing brought in £20,000 a year, about the same as now; Father B. Walker started the fishing in 1891; Board bought herrings and cured them, and then it passed into private hands; important fishery in Donegal and Galway Bays at end of 18th century, particularly South Connemara, Roundstone, the centre in beginning of 19th century, £500 a day paid during two months in 1835, 4810-13.—Great fishing used to be 12th January to 1st March, at a time of year when there are no herrings now; in the thirties, 700 boats fishing from Killybegs alone, 4813-4, 4841.—Heavy fishing in Connemara in 1800 and 1806, then a blank; fishing revived in 1835, 4813.—Witness quoted from report of Commission of 1835; business was worked by large boats from East coast of Ireland, Skerries and Howth, of 45 tons, going to Killybegs with cargoes of salt and a yawl on deck to fish with; in 1835 there were 45 or 50 Skerries boats there and 800 row-boats fishing; great disasters once or twice, and lives lost; but fishing successful for number of years, 4815.—It was close to shore, 4816-7.—Like autumn fishing now, boats also came from Isle of Man, Cardigan, etc., 4818.—Roundstone fishing same character, and carried on at same time of year; worked by 500 or 600 Connemara row-boats and hookers of 7 to 15 tons, from Claddagh; Connemara men wished for larger boats, 1,000 boats fishing at one time; smacks came and loaded at sea and took the fish to Galway, 4819-20.—Fish were cured in bulk in vessel's hold and piled in salt in stores; little export trade; Irish population then enormous; demand for salt herrings so great they were imported from Scotland on the east coast, 4821-3.—£32,000 worth of herrings cured in Galway; there were two fishings, harvest and winter; transit difficulties immense; carts came with coal from Kilkenny and took back fish, 4823-4.

Decline of fisheries at Roundstone and Donegal due to departure of fish and other causes, 4840-1.—

Burtonport herring fishery at its best at end of eighteenth century, 4841, 4854.—After that a blank of ten years, revival in 1835, when fish came back; bounties paid from 1819 to 1830; failure of winter herring fishery within that period, 4841-2, 4916.—Idea of bounties existed throughout eighteenth century, extended to Ireland in time of distress; Commission of 1835 appointed on account of distress; bounties began before the blank, last bounties began in 1819, all abolished in 1830, 4843-5. —Fish further from shore in 1835 than before; Claddagh men with large boats better able to fish them than Connemara men, 4846.—During blank herrings were not found even further out at sea except on a few occasions when found by Skerries boats; two fishings now, summer and harvest; there used to be herrings to be found in summer, but they were not fished except for bait, 4847.—Summer herring fishing had probably always been possible, but local boats too small to go to sea for it, 4648.—Winter fishing had disappeared, always a possibility of its revival, 4849.—Winter herrings now caught in small quantities; as a great fishery it had never revived since 1835, 4850-3.—Roundstone fishing had flourished from 1806 to 1820, 4855-6.—Fishing had revived at Killybegs and Roundstone at time of 1835 Commission, 4857, 4862.—Fishing at Killybegs failed from 1822 to 1831 at Roundstone 1827-1833, failure practically concurrent, 4858-61.—Revival lasted till famine time, principal cause of decline was boats and gear going to the bad after the bounties ceased, 4863, 4923.—Everything collapsed at famine time, 4864.—Report of 1844 showed failure of herring at all stations, recovery in condition of boats, good fishery of cod, ling, and haak, 4865.—Great number of boats just before famine and great deal of fishing, 4866.—1870 first year in which Inspectors of Fisheries reported; they were created in 1869; summary of boats and crews given in Report; there had been Fishery Commissioners since 1842, office now attached to Department of Agriculture, independent of Board from 1870 to 1900; 19,800 boats and 113,000 men employed in Irish fisheries in 1846, the year famine began, 4867-9. —In 1844, 369 first-class boats from congested districts, 1,887 for all Ireland, 7,500 second-class, 14,000 for all Ireland, 4870.

Great fishery for large fish on west coast of Ireland by Spanish boats in time of Elizabeth and Philip and Mary, Sir Humphrey Gilbert reported about 1570 that there were 600 Spanish fishing boats on west coast, 4873-4.—A number of the fishermen must have been in Spanish Armada, 4875.—Traditions about Spanish Settlements on south-west and west coasts, 4876.—More trade, in other commodities as well, between Galway and Spain than between Galway and other parts of the world, 4877.—Irish population small at that time, not much more than a million, 4878, 4912.—More meat eaten, and not so much salt fish wanted as when they lived on potatoes, 4878.

Plenty of fish in Ireland, but development of fisheries depended on other things as well as supply, 4879-81.—Irish fishing trade did not differ from that of other countries, 4882.—Revival took place about 1830, and went on with fluctuations till famine, 4883-4.—No revival after that till discovery of Spring mackerel fishing in 1862, except at Howth and Ardglass, 4885-9.—When Congested Districts Board started there were no boats at Roundstone, and only a few canoes at Aran Islands, and new crews had to be trained, 4890.—They began in 1892, 4891.—No herrings found in survey, experiments in herrings began in 1892, when mackerel boats were fitted with herring nets; Claddagh men had fished for herrings to supply local demand all the time, 4892-3.—Decline of fishery was due to lack of herrings, 4894.—There were still none in Connemara, 4895.—Abundance in 1846, but gear was wanting after bounties ceased, loan system had died out, no way to help men to acquire new materials, people very crowded, and poor could not get gear to catch fish, and when weakness of famine came they had not the strength, and died in thousands on shore, while sea was alive with fish; in County Mayo in 1847, herrings sold for 4*d.* per 100, and £200 paid in a day, 4896-900.—Fish went away after famine, 4901-2, 4904, 4910.—Always a little fishing, men knew where fish were; in 1895 Manx fleet of boats organised experiment; herrings not to be had where they used to be; present autumn fishing not to compare with that of 100 years ago, 4903.—Best fishermen emigrated after famine, they started the long line fishing on Banks of Newfoundland, 4905, 4908.—Gear had been pawned to buy meal, 4906.—Salt herrings not wanted if there were no potatoes, 4907. —Combination of circumstances caused failure of fishing, 4909.—Seaboard population were absolutely dependent on potatoes, 4911.—Facilities on southern littoral of Connemara for growing potatoes were great where there was seaweed for manure; demand for fish arose to eat with potatoes, 4913.—Potatoes not introduced in Elizabeth's time, 4914.

BOUNTIES.

Bounties were on outfit and building of boats, on barrels of herrings cured and weight of cod and ling cured, 4917.—Statistics of boats at time of bounties not reliable, supervision not sufficient, 4923.—Free trade the reason of withdrawal of bounties, 4924-8.—Bill to re-establish bounties brought in on recommendations of Commission of 1835, but was thrown out, 4928.

Congested Districts Board did not give grants, they gave assistance by having boats built and giving them to fishermen on terms of repayment, only thing Board lost over was instruction of crews and bad debts accruing from men who were not solvent, and had not luck to make money, 4918-9.—It was not payment by results as bounties were, 4922.

LOBSTER FISHING.

Lobster fishery important, brought in £23,000 a year in congested districts alone, £2,000 paid amongst poorest islanders, £48 divided in one season between two men in a canvas canoe, went on all through depression, 4929.—Prices varied, very high during oyster scare, 8*s.* to 13*s.* a dozen, 4931.—No export of crabs on west coast of Ireland, 4932.

SALMON FISHING.

Salmon fishing in summer greatly developed lately, thousands killed in the sea, 4932, 4934.—One buyer sent 500 boxes of salmon, 4933.—Ten or more in a box; drift-net fishing had gone on for twenty years, greatly developed during last five years; in Letterkenny district licences paid enabled Board of Conservators to keep up steamer to enforce law, 4934.—Boats fished three to seven miles out to sea, 4935.—Boats had to go through three-mile limit, and salmon-nets had to have licence for landing, 4936-7. —Effect of sea-fishing on rivers was under consideration; 2,000 people in Donegal employed in sea-salmon fishing, 4938.—Mayo people also fished, 4939.

DIFFICULTY OF GETTING IRISHMEN TO FOLLOW THE FISH.

Other competing industries had to be considered as well as development of fisheries; kelp burned in some districts, turf carried in South Connemara, difficult to get crews away from these things; constant demand for turf in Clare, Galway and Aran Islands, turf-carrying a source of income, and mainstay of present large population, if fishing were good enough, men would leave the turf-carrying, but it was not, 4942.—Fisheries would relieve congestion if men could be made into fishermen; it took two generations to establish habit of following fish at sea and making a business of fishing, custom hitherto was to have boats for other purposes and only put out nets when fish came near home, 4943.—A serious obstacle, Board trying to build up men as fishermen pure and simple; to live in comfort out of fishing they had to go over hundreds of miles of sea to get good fishing as well as cultivate what there was at home, 4944.—Had succeeded to certain extent, 4945.—In old times the only men who went away were from south and east of Ireland, 4946.

COD AND LING FISHING.

When Board began there was plenty of cod and ling on west, they had now cleared off, and were not found in paying quantities, 4947.—Many of these grounds ten miles from shore, within possibility of being worked by comparatively small boats; water deepened rapidly off west coast; too deep for fishing at fifty miles out, 4948-9.

PIERS.

Small piers and landing places essential for West of Ireland fishery, 4952.—Costly piers needed only where special transit facilities existed or where expenditure could create better facilities, or where fishing was so good that transit would be provided as commercial enterprise, 4953.—Conditions always before witness's mind when recommending piers; Board had no funds for large undertakings, 4954.—Might be better to let reserves accumulate, more would be done if there were more money, 4955-6.—Policy of developing fishing by means of landing places followed, small piers and landing places valuable to small boats, many fisheries were so close in-shore they had to be prosecuted by small boats, 4957, 4961-2.—Transit most important for fresh fish, small piers as good as large ones for curing trade; curers provided transit; large firms sent tramp steamers to pick up fish, 4958.—Curing stations near railways got telegram when American market was favourable, and could despatch by next steamer, making more money than those in isolated places, 4959.—On West of Ireland piers could not be built in exposed places, sheltered harbours too far from fishing ground for small boats, larger boats required, 4960-1.—Large boat needed two miles to shoot nets, and could not fish in-shore; two important fishings, autumn mackerel and autumn herring, both in-shore, large boats wanted in places, and for Donegal summer fishing, 4962.

Large marine works must always be considered with transit facilities, there were places where greater average expenditure was desirable, Board found such large works had to be left to chances of special Government grants, costly works only needed where transit facilities existed or where fishing was so good, craft might be expected to concentrate and transit be provided as commercial enterprise, 5157-8.—Piers at places where distribution of fish took place like Downing's Bay; that was not a place where vessels could live all the year, 5199.—Considerable expenditure on piers necessary for use of larger boats; that would give fishing an impetus; other things as desirable as extension of piers, 5200.

STEAM FISHING.

Developments all round coast of Great Britain by change of propulsion from sail and oar to steam, 4963.—Already affected boats used in Ireland; fishing declining not only from point of view of supply, 4964.—Steam-fishing diminished fluctuation, fish always to be found somewhere, 4965.—When Board began, there were not enough men trained to go long distance for fish; great demand for boats in good years, in bad ones people could not pay instalments, 4966.

EXPERIMENTS IN FOLLOWING THE FISH, &c.

Larger boats could fish elsewhere in bad years, Board tried to train men for that, but had been unfortunate in experiments, 4967-8.—Boat went from Mayo to Donegal and anchored in Downing's Bay for two months, and no fish came; having spent their money they came home, and a week afterwards fishing started, 4969-72.—Boats had gone from Achill with expert fisherman on board, provided free by Board, they had only arrived a week, 4972.—Fishing there slack in quantity, but good in price just now, 4973-4.—Herrings recently so near shore in Inver Bay large boats could not fish, 4975.—Large boats could not pay in one place, they must go long distances to earn money, 4976.—In good years small boats as profitable, 4977-8.—Large boats could go anywhere, small ones not beyond a certain point, 4979-80.—Men with small boats were farmers who only fished when it came their way, land compensated for failure of fishing, 4980, 4982.—A few fishermen pure and simple along the coast, 4981.—Commission of 1835 reported in 1837, 4984.—It recommended the concentration of efforts on centres with natural facilities, and professional aptitude on the part of the people, 4985.

Witness occupied a dual position, as member of Congested Districts Board he supervised their expenditure on fisheries, and as Inspector of Fisheries, was connected with new Department, 4990-1.

QUESTION OF ABSORPTION OF FISHERY FUNCTIONS OF BOARD IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Same work could be done by Department as by Board, but fishing grounds were off congested districts where Department's funds were not applicable, 4992-3.—Board and Department had both done their work admirably, Department quite competent to handle funds for fishery purposes, 4994.—Delay in administering funds for other purposes considerable, fishery money different, Department had free hand in administering £10,000 for sea-fisheries, their position was therefore much the same as Board's, 4995-6, 5027-8.—Expenditure controlled by heads of Department, any other officer in witness's place could expend in the same way independently of Boards that assisted Department, 5029-30, 5042.—No great difficulty if Department dealt with fishery question except that there would be a different set of men, 4996.—Right way was to put a man in charge who understood business, and gave him a free hand under proper supervision as regards expenditure, Board had had experience and was capable of running business on a large scale, 4997.—Witness controlled both one way or another, 4998.—He acted for both as regarded inspection, 5000.—He advised the Board in fishery matters, 5001-2.—None of Department's £10,000 spent in congested districts except on protection, for which they were responsible all round the coast; Department also made bye-laws for fisheries in congested and non-congested districts; loan fund was divided between Board and Department in 1891, 5004.—Witness went to congested districts to encourage sea-fisheries as member of Board, 5005-8.—No difference in his treatment by people when he went for Board or Department, no feeling against a Government official, 5009-13.—One Board or other could do the whole business for congested and non-congested areas, 5014-6, 5044.—Board had done its work well, and had good men, and witness would not like to abolish it, 5015-6, 5018-9.—Its continuance would be of service to fisheries, 5017.—If Board's work were handed over to Department, the latter would require more officials, fishery work done by officials of Board who already existed for other purposes, 5023.—As regards time, witness's work for Department interfered with that for Board; when he first worked for Board he had less to do as Inspector of Fisheries than since creation of Department; since there were funds to spend work had increased enormously, 5024.—Two men to do judicial work of three, as well as maintain steamers, a dredger, look after building of piers and slips, etc., 5025.—Work on Board went on harmoniously with that of Department, 5026.—If sum of £10,000 were increased responsibility in controlling would be greater, and alteration in authority for spending might be desirable, only persons with knowledge of fishery should be given authority; interference of other Boards would create danger of schemes being stopped by ignorant persons, 5031-3.—Money could not be spent so satisfactorily with additions to authority, but responsibility for larger sums could not be put on few people, therefore if Board and Department were amalgamated there would be less freedom in expenditure, and work might be less satisfactory, 5034-5.—If conditions were reasonable work would not be hampered, 5036.—In the case of large sums of money when estimates and budget were made out, the freer the authority of the head the more enthusiasm there was and better work, 5037.—In branches of new Department other than sea fisheries, even smallest schemes were argued by Board, 5038.—That might occur with fisheries if Department had larger sums, better to leave things as they were than that, 5039.—Must be a limit of responsibility in expenditure of large sums, that applied to Congested Districts Board, too, 5040-1.—Expenditure on fisheries by Congested Districts Board was sanctioned by that Board, 5042-3.—Very little saving in cost of administration if fisheries were entirely managed by Department, 5045-6.—More sympathy with Board composed of all parties than with a Government Department, 5047-8.

—Work in fisheries carried on outside turmoil of political considerations; if there were a representative Board of Fisheries, political questions would come in and hamper work, 5049-51.—If Vice-President of Department changed with the Government there would always be a faction in country opposed to man in authority, that would be disastrous, 5052-3.

Crabs, Lobsters, Mussels, &c.

Crabs got on west coast, would not bear long journey, despatch confined to north, east, and south coasts, 5057.—Vessels coming for lobsters were specially fitted for them; did not take crabs; smaller shell fisheries capable of further development; had been developed in one district in consequence of railway facilities having been provided; over £1,000 paid in freight one year for mussels sent from Killorglin; mussels as good elsewhere, but no railway, 5058-61.

Oysters.

Oysters on the west coast of Ireland good and pure, but scarce; whole oyster fishery depressed, 5062.—Effect of railway development on oysters was to cause beds to be worked out; Department now trying to re-stock them, bed in Tralee Bay fair, as a result of putting in a bailiff and enforcing law price of oysters rose from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.*, 5063-4.—Oyster culture could not secure large employment for people, 5065.

Railway Transit.

There had been complaints against railway companies for delay in transit of fish, no serious complaint about oysters; freights charged for herrings and mackerel moderate, 5066-8.—Department had never to bring complaints to notice of railway companies, 5069.

Business side of Fishing at Aran and Cleggan.

No new fishing stations at present where special treatment was necessary, when Board started at Aran they took all risk, bought cargo of ice from Norway, anchored a hulk in Killeaney Bay where ice was stored; this was a bargain with buyers, Board bought fish and despatched it, in 1893, ice nearly ran out; mackerel fishing at Cleggan opened the same way, taken off Board's hands by trade, only help now given was to sell ice to buyers, 5070.—Nothing done in Aran now except providing boats and gear, etc., the men there were sailors and soon took up the business themselves, 5071-4.—If fishing had been uniformly good men would be in good position, but there had been bad years and men were in debt for boats, 5075.—Not sufficient competition for buying at Aran, best chance was to contract with a buyer at a fixed price, long ago engaged prices were general, then open market took its place, 5076.—In early days in Donegal Board reserved right to cut in if merchants did not pay proper price for cured fish, 5077.—At time Board managed Aran fishing so much was deducted for cost of boxes, ice, labour and percentage to salesmen that it did not pay and fishermen were dissatisfied so it was abandoned to private enterprise, Board could not compete with private seller who did not have to pay salesman, 5078-9.—Communication with Aran by steamer every day during spring mackerel fishing, fish sent to market by it, often no buyer last year, 5080-1.—Most of the fishermen did not contract this year, difficulty with merchants about payment for special trip of steamer, 5082.—Steamer might be better, shallow on account of Galway tidal harbour; harbour a great drawback, 5083.

Cleggan and Aran compared; ice hulk provided in Cleggan and ice sold to all comers, buyers packed on the quay and numbers of buyers came and competed which sent price up; Norwegians came last year and sent price up 2*s.*—Fish despatched by land in carts to Clifden railway; in Aran buyers packed on ice hulk where there was only room for a few, steamers came alongside and took fish straight to Galway, packing could not be done on shore on account of tidal harbour; not enough fish for buyers to bring their own hulks, there was therefore less competition and prices were lower, 5084-5, 5091.—If there were a very big pier at Aran packing could be done on it as at Cleggan, it would have to be twice the size it was at present, 5086-9.—A jetty might do, its floor would have to be inconveniently high so that highest waves could not go over it, 5090.—Buyers might go to Aran if packing could be done on shore, but there were other difficulties, 5092.—Island convenient when one buyer took all the fish, transit by steamer better for fish than carting, Aran fish used to fetch 1*s.* a box more than Cleggan, 5093.—If number of buyers likely to come were known difficulty could be got over by providing another hulk, hulk cost £300, cheaper than building a pier, 5094-7.—Pier built in the thirties, extended four or five years ago, 5098.—Large enough for boats used at time it was built, 5099.—No use now for despatch of fresh fish as boats would have to wait for tide, 5099-102.—More help wanted by Board to do fishery justice, more organisation and local supervision needed, good man in Aran at present, but Board weak since Mr. Shimmin's retirement, man living in the place wanted, 5103-5.—Aran fishing small to divide amongst number of buyers, mackerel fleet divided since opening of Roundstone as a station, fishing at Cleggan larger, local men took part in buying and money made by buyers thus distributed in district, 5106-8.

Instruction in Fishing.

Thousands of pounds spent on instructing youths from seventeen upwards, difficult in some districts as they had to be trained in sailing as well as fishing, in places like Aran or Connemara people were already sailors, 5110-5.—Instruction in Carna up to the present, boats with instructors did better than any other Galway boats last year, 5116-8.—Two itinerant instructors in net-mending, no use keeping them long in a place, net-mending quickly learnt, 5118A-9.—When boat was started with crew of six hands a Scotchman or Arklow man was put on board as a kind of skipper or instructor, he received a salary and no share of fish, his salary was deducted from earnings of boats, 5120.—Young men under instruction got share of earnings and no wages; crews of ships worked on share system, insurance and cost of instruction deducted before division of earnings amongst men, 5120-5.—Loan system adopted in Connemara, very old and successful system, less inspection required, 5126.

Insurance of Boats.

Boats insured under scheme between Board and Department, deduction made for insurance of boats now issued, voluntary for other boats, 5127.—No security besides boat, full price of boat not insured, could not be done, 5128-8.—No insurance company in Ireland would insure west coast boats, 5130-1.—Decked boats usually insured in clubs, with headquarters in England, sometimes in English clubs, 5132.—There were clubs in Scotland, 5133-4.—Greater risk for boats without decks, Board's plan was to have boat valued from time to time so that man could recover three-fourths value of boat at the time but not of a brand new boat, 5135.

Loan System of Supplying Boats.

Zulu and Nobby boats had large hatch, generally open, but could be closed, 5136.—"Gold Seeker" began as share boat, was then sold to someone wanting boat under fishing loan; fishing loan system needed personal security, man applying for boat gave names of two solvent securities, large boats mortgaged as well, success of system remarkable, loss in fifty years on loans 1 per cent., 5137.—Boats sold under loan remained in fishing trade, 5138.—Sum down sometimes paid, balance borrowed, number of years fixed for repayment of loan, interest 2½ per cent., loan and interest for period added together and divided into equal half-yearly instalments, boat property of man from beginning, share system facilitated number of men who could not get boats under loan system, 5139.

Very few large boats on west coast, 5185.—Boats only fifteen to thirty tons; Arklow and east coast boats good, 45 or 50 tons, 5186.—Lack of large boats due to cost, 5187.—Large boats would not pay unless men went out to sea, and men could not go out to sea without boats; Board was working slowly and gradually increasing size of boats, 5188-91.—Nothing over 30 tons on share sys-

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tem; loans given for larger boats, 5192, 5201.—Some men accumulated money which would enable progress in fishing to be kept up, 5193.—There were cases of further loans being applied for, and some accumulated capital to buy boats without loans, 5194.—No objection to men borrowing rather than using their own capital, 5195.—Loan system for boats had existed 100 years, 5196-8.

Migratory Labour *v.* Fishing.

Value and possibilities of Donegal fisheries, discounting fluctuations, pretty well known, 5140. Difficulty was to place coast population in position to avail themselves of possibilities, question of the people to be dealt with, 5141.—Fishing could be made to pay, question as to whether a man was a farmer or prepared to leave home must be considered, 5142.—Sons of the farmers were being trained to be genuine fishermen, difficulty with Achill men was that they were migratory labourers and wanted to go to England and leave boats when fishing was slack, some had given up migration and taken to fishing, 5143.—Fishing paid better if the fish were there, 5144.—£20 per man had been made in one season, 5145.—Men accustomed to migrate had better outfits of clothing, etc., it was more enterprising to migrate, on Aran they migrated to America; result of fishing was to stop emigration; migration to America not common but was done, 5148-51.—£20 the average a man could make at fishing in one season—the average he made by going to England, 5144-5, 5152-3.—If he fished more than one season he could make more than by migration, 5154-5.

Training of Fishermen.

Training of fishermen necessary for some years to come, the severer the better, if not continued greater share of work accomplished would drop back to condition of 1890, 5159-60, 5173-3.—People differed in character, very little nursing of fishing done in Burtonport and Arranmore—men had pushed ahead when they saw money in it, more nursing necessary in Downing's Bay, men not such seamen as in Rosses, good results from small efforts in some places, by efforts with poor results in others such as South Connemara, 5161.—Considerable development in near future to be expected from people naturally efficient, many years' training required in other parts of the country a good deal of enterprise resulted from the good fishing being there, South Connemara people good sailors but the fishing was poor, if there was money in it they would go fishing, if not they would stick to turf business, 5162.—They could not go to Aran for fishing, turf more remunerative, 5163-4.—Turf becoming dearer, as it got further from shore it was more expensive to get, 5165-6.—Connemara people less enterprising in everything than those in other congested districts, 5167.

Prospects of Donegal Fisheries.

Donegal boats were being increased yearly, movements of fish might be expected to give chances of fresh development, business capable of development, but not of being doubled, 5168-70.—The same applied to Inishowen, herrings in Downing's Bay for ten years, no reason why they should not go to Lough Swilly, that would open new field, there would certainly be changes, herrings now returning to Killybegs, 5171.—Number of instructors had been reduced, 5174.—Crews had to pay for instruction so were anxious to get on alone as soon as possible, 5175.—In a short time half of them could get on without instructors, 5176.

Number of large Donegal boats fished out at sea, more might be employed, summer fishery could work any amount, but one season's fishing would not support large boats, 5177-8.

Donegal fishing had reached limit where it required development by Board; it could not employ more boats in small creeks, but it could in open sea, if boats went elsewhere in off season, 5179-81.—Plenty of fishing in other places; if crew of large boat succeeded one year off Tory, they might be induced to go to Shetland Islands the next, 5182-3.—Not as dangerous as for Achill men to come to Downing's Bay, 5184.

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Work of Boats off Galway Coast.

Larger boats were all round the coast, 5202.—45-ton boats in Aran, 5203.—They fished for mackerel at one time of year, trawled in Galway Bay at another, fished for herrings at another; favourable position of Aran Islands gave other opportunities of making a living; some of the boats bought without assistance, 5204.—They anchored at Killcaney Bay, used no pier, hulk in Galway Bay and spring mackerel put on board; Galway steamer came alongside hulk and took fish away, 5205.—Boats went behind big pier; greater facilities if pier were bigger; there had been one disaster; three boats totally lost; good fishermen drowned, 5206.

Development of Fishing.

West coast fishing could be developed to be of great importance; much had been done already; Rosses people better off than if they had been migrated or had holdings enlarged, 5209-11.

Increase of £5,000 in Congested Districts Board's estimate for fisheries, spent on large boats, would mostly return in re-purchase of boats, 5213.—Expenditure on fisheries dropped during last five years, £14,000 in 1898-1900, £2,200 in 1905-6, 5214.

Character of Population in South Connemara.

People on southern littoral of Galway capable of taking advantage of development of fishing, 5216.—Prospect of fishing not so good as in 1890; could be developed; Board hitherto unfortunate in crews, 5217, 5219.—Problem of development difficult; fair success in Roundstone, great drawbacks; serious responsibility to leave people dependent on such fluctuating fisheries, 5219-20.—Everything should be done to give them as good holdings as possible, 5221.—Much had been done to give them industries; money earned by lace-making, turf business, and kelp burning successful; not all so successful as western parishes, 5222.—Coast population of South Connemara not to be compared in maritime instinct with Aran people, 5223.—First process was to make them capable, 5224.—Very long process, 5225.—Would take at least two generations, 5226.—They were not bad sailors as far as hooker sailing went; ideas of keeping gear, boats, and houses unsatisfactory; Rosses a great contrast to South Connemara; people as poor, houses and boats kept very differently; whole line of life in Connemara wanted raising; more spent there than anywhere by Board with little result, 5227.—Complete success must be remote, 5228.

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Definition of Congestion.

Inspection, duty of, was placed upon Secretary to the Board, 4.

Word "congested" did not imply an over-crowding of people on the land; it was only a euphuism for great poverty, 4, 363.

Government fixed on certain areas as "congested," and then made a test to bring those areas, and no others, within the definition; the test was the ratio between valuation and population; areas were scheduled as congested where total rateable valuation of electoral division divided by number of population amounted to less than £1 10*s.* for each individual, and where county to which the electoral division belonged contained 20 per cent. of its population living in such electoral divisions; every electoral division which came within statutory definition was scheduled in Counties Donegal, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and West Riding of Cork, 5-14.

Definition not satisfactory; numerous congested districts in non-scheduled areas all over Ireland, in Counties Down and Antrim, Island of Rathlin, and part of Co. Tyrone, where the people needed assistance; on poor land, but within easy access of richer areas, and therefore not in quite so low a category as congested districts in Mayo, 16, 18-24.

Discretionary Power of Scheduling.

Discretionary power of scheduling and dealing with areas at present excluded, proposed for body in authority, 17-8, 25-6, 36-43, 85-6.—Without regard to size of area, power to extend to towns and areas outside present congested counties, 44-52, 68-9, 87-8.—Discretion for the Board in scheduling areas ought not to reduce expenditure in very poor districts, but it depended on amount of money available, 71-2.—Scheduled areas contained poorest districts in Ireland; greatest distress always arose in West Galway and Mayo, 73-4.—Power of Lord Lieutenant within one year of passing of Act of 1891 to include or exclude as a congested area any electoral division in a congested districts county, 27-35.—Counsel's opinion that power was very small, 27-35.—Certain electoral divisions added by Lord Lieutenant on report of Congested Districts Board; Census Returns brought some districts within definition; others put in because districts all round were congested, 35.—Preferable to give discretionary power of scheduling to the Board rather than to Lord Lieutenant, 36-7.

Existing definition of congestion should be repealed; should be no rateable test; whole country required developing; Congested Districts Board or whatever body was appointed should be given power and income to effect necessary improvements, 53-5, 70, 75, 89.

Development of Industries.

Local efforts to start industries to be supplemented in cases where industry would stand on a commercial basis after a short period of help; not proposed that any Department should run an industry as a private individual for sake of developing a locality, 56-67.

Indirect Taxation.

Indirect taxation in form of expenditure on tea and tobacco very heavy on people who had not reached a tax-paying standard; fair claim to aid from public money in developing industries; even stronger claim in districts where former industries had ceased to exist, 76-82.

Decrease in Population.

Returns handed in showed that since 1881 every county in Ireland had decreased in population; some of the towns had risen, but the majority had fallen, 89-93.

Constitution of Board.

Congested Districts Board, as first constituted, consisted of ten members, two *ex-officio*, one the Chief Secretary and the other a member of the Land Commission; five permanent and three temporary members, all of whom were unpaid; chairman was the Chief Secretary for the time being, or in his absence, the Under-Secretary; Mr. A. Balfour was the first chairman, 94.—Board was non-political and according to a memorandum by Mr. A. Balfour was not a Government Department in the ordinary sense, not being subordinate to the ministry, and all correspondence being conducted independently, with exception of applications to the Treasury for expenditure out of the Vote, which had to pass through the Castle; also for certain purposes specified by statute the Lord Lieutenant must be consulted; Chief Secretary was chairman by election of colleagues and not *ex-officio;* members had equal power with exception of temporary members, 95-103.—Originally the Board had a separate estimate for salaries, but they were now paid under the vote of £25,000, 104.—Commissioners were appointed by Royal Warrant, 105.—Independence of the Board was an essential factor in success, 106.—Connection with Government through Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary most useful, but it had not greatly aided efficiency of Board, 106-11.

Restrictions on Powers of Board.

Land purchase powers of Board restricted up to 1896; original object of Board not land purchase, but to promote relief of congestion through migration and amalgamation of holdings; section unworkable, 115-17, 126, 146-52.—Financial powers also limited; no funds for purchase of estates, except income of £41,250, and power of mortgaging the capital that produced the income, 116, 119.—Board suffered from hampering legislation and difficulty of satisfying requirements of Land Commission, 118, 142.—When Land Stock was advanced for purchase of estates purchase practically prevented by prohibition of sale to anyone with valuation under £10, 120.—Interest paid on advances, but repayments from purchaser did not begin for two years; arrangement had to be amended, 121.—Nothing was done in land purchase until after 1898; means and methods gradually improved until, under Act of 1903, more land was purchased in two years than in all the preceding years of Board's administration, 123.—Lack of money and of compulsory powers to acquire land had prevented earlier purchase, 125.—Board applied for power to buy estates in Land Court, and it was granted, 127-8.—Board had not even yet as much power as they wanted; Acts passed in 1896, 1899, two in 1901, and one in 1903 granting additional powers, 129-34.—Compulsory powers and other powers had been asked for, but application had been unsuccessful; impossible to get legislation owing to state of business or to one thing or another, 135-41.—Decision of Land Commission that Board was not a landlord within the meaning of the Act threw things out altogether, 142-3.

Income.

Not much difference in income of Board since the start; nothing adequate to requirements, 112, 144-5.—Under Act of 1891 income consisted of £41,250, salaries and administrative expenses being paid by the Treasury; Treasury declined to pay amount claimed and refused to pay salaries of outdoor officers, offering a contribution of £1,000 a year instead of the £9,000 they used to pay; eventually the Board was given £25,000 a year in lieu of all salaries and administrative expenses, 153-7.—Three conditions made by Treasury in regard to £25,000: (1) grant to be applied for administration, improvement and settlement of estates, technical instruction for rural industries; (2) Board to contribute from other resources half sum supplied by Treasury; (3) Board's expenditure on engineering works to be reduced as rapidly as possible to £5,000 a year, 157.—Parliamentary grant of 1894-5 was £1,000, 158.—In 1905-6 was £45,000, which included £20,000 out of Development grant, 156-60.—Board's present income: £41,250 from Church Surplus, £25,000 under Act of 1899, £20,000 under Development Grant Act of 1903; total, £86,000, 160-3, 165, 176.—Additional income out of Equivalent grant, 164.—Increases in income inadequate for their purpose, 166.—Money in respect of estates purchased and sold did not represent income of Board, 167-9, 173.—Part of the rents used for improvement of estates, 170.—Permission to repay loans with stock for a few years a gain to income, 171.—Purchase of estates accounts now appeared in those of Estates Commissioners, 174.—They appeared in Board's accounts when no advance was got from Estates Commissioners, 175.

Board's income very small, ten times as much wanted to develop industries, 594.—A million a year in initial stages, 595.—A great deal could be done and result would be good, without that population would continue to go away and country would get poorer and poorer; much would come from land purchase operations, but that would not touch all districts, 596.

Procedure Adopted.

Procedure of Board suggested by Mr. Balfour: various matters, such as agriculture, fisheries, small holdings, etc., to be referred to small committees of members to elaborate schemes; for schemes to be effective preliminary survey of districts must be undertaken; districts divided into natural divisions; conditions of inhabitants of divisions minutely examined, as areas differed greatly from each other; account of dwellings, receipts, and expenditure of inhabitants given; eighty-four districts formed as result of suggestions; answers to forty-five queries giving full details obtained from gentlemen acquainted with districts, 177.—A great deal contained in these reports still true; houses had improved in some districts, 179-80.

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Improvement Effected.

Teelin so improved since Board began operations that people had money to buy potatoes in case of failure of crop, 181.—Board had changed whole face of country in Swinford district, 183.—Improved condition of Ffrench Estate a public fact, 184.—Board's land and fisheries operations successful in these districts, 185.—Improvement in East Mayo due largely to Parish Committees, 185.

Necessity for Personal Supervision in Poorest Districts.

Reports were obtained so as to enable Board to begin operations in worst places; that had not been done, 177, 187.—Operations of Board two-fold—one to develop districts under live stock and fishing schemes where practicable; witness would have made determined effort to improve people in North West Mayo and South West Galway; fishing industry could have been re-created; it had existed there before the Famine, 188-9, 203.—Results of fishery quick; successful in Teelin, Aran, and Burtonport, 190-4.—Witness had recommended Board to centralise in poorest districts which were well known, only if they had there would have been little money to go round, 195-6, 198, 204.—There must be some man acquainted with these places with his eye always on them, 197.—Funds not so much needed at Gorumna as personal attention, 199.—Enough to start a fishing there in addition to industrial efforts under Mr. Walker, 200.—Population carried turf and seaweed; they used to fish before the Famine, 201.—Decline caused by utter breaking up of society at that time, 202.—Places which used to rely only on potato crop, and therefore suffered more in times of distress, now had other resources such as industries; their cattle were improved, 205.—Witness still thought it best to raise poorest districts to level of others though present conditions were different, 206-7.—He thought people could be enabled to live there both inland as well as on seaboard, 208-9.—Great deal to be expected on seaboard from fisheries, 210.—Much could be done in respect of land in places like Erris, 211.—Land very bad west of Tully in Spiddal district, 212.—It could be useful if people earned money from other sources also, 213-4.—Development of fishing a *sine quâ non* along Galway and North Mayo to Belmullet, 215-6.—At least four natural harbours on North Mayo coast, 217.—Fishing industry had great variations, 218.—Formerly £5 to £10 a year made by it in a family; more made in bad years now, 219.

Labouring population on western seaboard an advantage should tillage ever become more general, 221-2.—Men could all dig and pick, 223.

Conditions of Life.

Thorough knowledge of the country required long, careful observation and inquiry at different times of year; condition of inhabitants of West of Ireland varied; occupier supported entirely by potatoes with pig to pay the rent, seldom seen; nearly every family had holding of land; most had additional sources of income; standard of living as regards clothing and comfort low; only in exceptional districts in a bad year low enough to seriously impair health; percentage of pauperism in every district; widespread starvation rarely to be feared; low dead level of discomfort should appeal for alleviation, 225.—Principal sources of income in congested districts: (1.) Wages earned in England and Scotland. (2.) Money from relations abroad. (3.) Sale of cattle, butter, &c. (4.) Fishing. (5.) Kelp. (6.) Sale of seaweed. (7.) Sale of turf. (8.) Needlework. (9.) Spinning and weaving. (10.) Employment as labourers on road, 225.—Value of home-grown food such as potatoes, rye, &c., £6-£20 a year, 225-9.—Style of living in least necessitous of congested districts miserable; diet vegetables, occasional bacon, eggs, salt fish; much tea used, high priced, and left too long in pot, 229.—Above description applied in 1891 and to many places still, 230-3.—Cattle, &c., often shared dwelling-house; erection of out-houses extending, 234.—No resident gentry in large areas; parish priest the chief man, he had great influence; improvement observable in clealiness and tidiness; want of industry until recent years the result of arbitrary increases of rent, which deterred tenants from making improvements; changes taking place in that respect, 234.

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Family Budgets.

Sample budgets framed by inspectors after careful inquiries; witness framed Rosses budgets about 1892, 237-9, 249, 286.—Entries were the actual cost, 240-1.—People in country not so poor as those in Dublin with same income, as they had house and fuel, 242-5.—But they were desperately poor, 246.—Highest receipts in budgets £45 a year, 235.—Inquiries had been made as to what was spent on various items and all sources of income calculated; average expenditure and receipts were then put down, but not balanced, as there might be a deficit, 247-55.—No comparison made with towns, 256.—Expenditure of people mainly in cash, barter and credit in shops in some cases, 273-5, 291.—Income of tenants very small, 283.—Budgets had been compared with those of Charles Booth and Mr. Rowntree; their system of inquiry the same; they gave individual cases instead of average families, 284-5.—Difficult to get people to be accurate, 286.—Witness knew people of district and looked at shop accounts, 287-9.—Good deal of competition amongst shopkeepers of West, 290.—Price of tea 2*s.* or 1*s.* 10*d.*; high-class tea bought, 292-7.—He thought the Donegal men sturdy and strong; people of North Mayo and South Galway physically poor, 259.—Would be stronger if fed up, 260.—No crime, possibly a little hot temper, 261.—Families averaged five decimal something, 262-3.—"Ordinary" family meant in numbers and financial condition, 264-5.

Sale of Kelp and Turf.

Some produce of holding sold, 266.—As much as £40 or £50 made sometimes by sale of kelp, 267-8.—Kelp found only in small area, 269.—Price £3 10*s.* a ton; £4 some years ago, 270.—Took a fortnight to make a ton, 272.—Turf not sold in Rosses or Glenties, 278-80.—Free turf in congested districts; "bank" rent sometimes paid to landlord, 281-2.—Bogs marked off for tenants who bought, 282.

Causes of Condition of People.

Poverty of land in congested districts a cause of condition of inhabitants, 298, 301-3.—People moved to north-west at time of plantations in James I. and Cromwell's time; richer lands given to settlers; no one would have gone voluntarily to poor lands, 298.—Land in West Donegal previously unoccupied; people had not advantages of joint ownership as they had under tribal system; they were put under English tenure, 299-300.

People's condition would be improved if they had more land; good unoccupied land available in Donegal, Mayo, and Galway, 304-6.—A few places had no good land, 306A-7.—Very little in South Connemara, 308.—Little could be done by means of land in that district; fisheries or industries must be resorted to, 309-12.

Grass lands usually better than tillage, 313.—Best lands were in plantation grants; great deal taken up by landlords when tenants were evicted in time of famine; lands better handled by men of capital and improved, 314-7.—Cattle paid better than tillage; landlord had financial motive for clearing tenants off holdings after Poor Law of 1838, which made him liable for poor rate on holdings under £4 valuation, 318.—His political power was fairly secure; freedom from taxation the stronger incentive, 319-22.—Above historical reasons sufficient explanation of existing poverty; there were others as important, 323-5.

Land legislation up to 1881 enabling landlord to turn out a man and put on any rent was one cause of impoverished condition of tenants, 357-9, 362.—Continuance of legal power of eviction added to landlord's privileges, 361.—Hostile legislation with regard to industries, and free trade legislation were other causes of poverty, 364.—Lack of education another cause; still existed people too ignorant to avail themselves of improvements offered, 364-6.—Habit of regular hours one of the chief advantages of education, and very necessary in industry, 367-8.—Penal and repressive legislation made people less independent; no steps taken by Government to develop country; over-taxation another cause of condition of inhabitants of congested districts, 368.

MIGRATION.

Migration necessary to cure congestion, but people would not go, 326-7.—They did not like leaving their relations, 329-31.—They might listen more readily to an Irish national authority, 328.—Would be more ready to move if several families went together, 332, 338-9.—Residents did not like invasion of strangers from fifteen or twenty miles, 333.—If their claims were settled as well they would not mind, 334, 337.—A number of relations might be moved together without taking the old and incapable, 341.—Breakdown of company in connection with Bodkin Estate due to large graziers in Kilclooney objecting to small tenants being brought in, 343-4.—Land to north of Connemara coast better than near shore; was used for grazing; people might be persuaded to go there for half the year, 346-50.—They would lose seaweed for manure and kelp; people in Rosses and Achill lived part of year on shore and part in mountains; they had two houses, 351.—Families emigrated in hundreds under assisted emigration scheme; they ran away to avoid starvation, 352-4.—Going to America now they rejoined their friends and families, 355.—Ten or fifteen miles away meant going to strangers, 356.

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK.

Immense good done by Congested Districts Board in improving breed of live stock and poultry, 370-2.—Alleged destruction of Donegal pony by Board not accurate; breed dying out before Board was created, 374.—Hackney introduced by Board, 375.—Horned cattle and Galloways improved; impossible to improve sheep much except at great expense, 377.

No staff for agricultural work while witness was secretary to Board; Mr. Wrench took up work with staff of Land Commission, and worked at Land Commission's offices though under Board, 378.—Mr. Porter had worked under Mr. Wrench for two years or so before Board was formed; then Board took over staff and worked with him, 378-9.

SPRAYING.

Important demonstrations in spraying had been conducted, 380.—People now aware of its usefulness, but had difficulty in getting stuff of proper quality, 381.—A little spraying done before Board was started, 382.—Encouragement of spraying did a lot of good; people got slack after a few years; many did not spray this year, and were suffering for it, 383.—Spraying question now rested with Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 384-5.—Department took over Board's agricultural staff, 386.

Purchase and re-sale of land operations under Mr. Doran from the start; he had a free hand, and reported his actions to Board meetings, 386.

FISHERIES.

Witness sent by Board in 1891 to look after start of fisheries in South Donegal; curing stations started; fish bought by Board; curing of cod and ling became important; declined all along coast since advent of herrings; white fish sold fresh since light railways were made, 386.—Herring fishery tremendous success; average made per man before witness left Board was £30 15*s.* 4*d.*; in old days £5 to £10 made by a family, 387.—Total expenditure by Board on fisheries since they started, £38,849 17*s.*; receipts £25,434 16*s.* 6*d.*; loss £13,415 0*s.* 6*d.*; loss accounted for by big buildings costing £6,000, and perhaps by steamer, 388-97.—Fishing uncertain; always something to be made, 396-7.

QUESTION OF UTILITY OF STEAMER.

Uncertain whether steamer was necessary, 398.—Supervision could be done from land, 400.—Cargoes of timber carried more cheaply by ordinary trade methods, 401-2.—Suitable boat for inspection could be chartered for a few hundred pounds, 403.—Initial cost of steamer, £11,000; yearly cost, £2,500 to £3,000, 404.—Board had weighed pros and cons and still kept steamer, 405.—Prevention of encroachment of trawlers done by Admiralty in England; that service refused in Ireland, 405-8.—Trawling had increased off west coast of Ireland, 409.—Trawlers came from England, 410.—*Granuaile* did good police work, but it should be done by Admiralty, 411-2.—Cheaper to hire a boat for Board's purposes, 413-4.—Inspectors never used *Granuaile* for supervision, 415.—That should be done on shore; fish caught at night when inspectors did not go out, 417.

TRAFFIC FACILITIES.

Traffic facilities improved by Board; small contributions offered to railways; steamer service subsidised; roads made to unoccupied parts of country, giving people access to markets, 417.—Railways not taken up, 418.—Board's resources useless for that purpose, 419.—Witness would like to see railways bought by the State; tremendous economies would be effected by consolidation of management; cheap and prompt traffic very important, 420-5.—Railway to Belmullet desirable, and had been promised; it would not pay, 426-9.—Witness thought extension from Killala to Ballycastle, Belderrig, and Belmullet the most serviceable of suggested routes, 430-2.

Board gave guarantees for opening telegraph offices, 439.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Parish Committees' work had had wonderful effect on improvement of houses; whole face of country in East Mayo changed, 434, 442.—They did work sanitary authorities failed to accomplish, because the latter could not offer prizes, 435-7.—Committees worked on two methods, 438-9.—No difficulty in getting committees, 441.

RELATIONS WITH TREASURY.

Under Act of 1891, Board had to furnish detailed estimate to Treasury; the latter never asked for a detailed estimate, merely for the amounts required for various branches, such as agriculture, fisheries, etc.; better if sub-section of Act did not exist; it would hamper Board if insisted on, 443, 446-7, 450-3.—Board's fund was not voted, it was endowment, 445.—It was public money audited by Comptroller and Auditor-General, 448.—To secure business methods, there should be a budget at beginning of year, 449.—Under Act of 1899, Treasury put restrictions on amount to be spent on certain heads; this section also not enforced, 453-7.—Charter of Board was that they might take any steps they thought proper; with the men there were on the Board and the Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary for Ireland there was enough security for business being done properly without interference from Treasury, 457-60.—Witness looked forward to increased powers and income for Board, 461.

QUESTION OF MERGING BOARD IN ESTATES COMMISSION.

Board's relations with Land Commission harmonious, 461.—As regards land purchase, it might be desirable for one department to do it if Board's means were inadequate, 462-3, 470.—19-20ths of Board's work was land purchase; the other 20th should be enlarged; it was the real work of Board, 464.—Estates Commissioners could do Board's work if they had different systems for congested and other districts, 465.—And got the funds to bear loss and took over the Board's staff to secure continuity, 468.—Estates Commissioners could not spend enough at present on holdings of really poor, 467.—Special section of Commissioners would have to be created, 469.—Transfer not altogether advantageous, 466, 471-4.—If Board's credit were exhausted, it was a question of giving more money for different re-organisation of Board or of giving work to Estates Commissioners, 474.—Function of Commissioners was to facilitate quick transfer of land to tenant, 475.—Practice of Board was to purchase land and improve it before re-sale, 476.—Board the only body that did that, 486.—Necessary that either Board should continue or some other body do its work, 489.—Estates purchased by Commissioners showed evidence of great care, 477.—They did not do work like Board on a large scale, though they had bought some congested estates, 484-5.—Congestion could not be dealt with more rapidly than had been done by Board, 478.—If limit of £140,000 for land purchase the only obstacle to its work that limit should be raised, 479.—Loss on improvements trifling, mostly covered by

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rents, 480.—Same thing if money for loss were advanced to Commissioners or to Board, unless Commissioners were more efficient body, 482.—Commissioners passed land rapidly through their hands at very small expense, 483.—Because the tenants were in a better position than in congested areas, 468.

Whatever body did Board's work must lose 8 to 10 per cent., Estates Commissioners could lose up to 10 per cent., on certificate of Lord Lieutenant, who relaxed rule of Land Purchase Act, 492-5.—Commissioners hampered in dealing with congested districts estates which could not be purchased except by agreement with landlord within the zones, 497.—Board could get estates at any price agreed to by landlord; prices had gone up recently, 498-500.—New tenants got benefit of 10 per cent., they were given grants, 501-3.

Alteration of composition of Board desirable; administrative body should be put in position of constant supervision and representatives from congested districts counties elected, 490-1.

Question of Merging of Board in Estates Commissioners.

Duties as regards land could be as well carried out by Estates Commissioners, 529, 532.—Commissioners not as free as the Board, they were part of the executive of the country, 531.—Could do all Board's duties if they had the power, 532.

Estates Commissioners worked on two systems at present; they had ordinary estates, and congested estates, on which they could lose 10 per cent., they could not lose that on ordinary estates, 539.—Estates dealt with by Commissioners not on low level of those dealt with by Board, 540.

Better to have all land sales in one department, other things being equal, 541-2.—Might be friction between the two systems, would make a difference if Board's staff were transferred, 543.—Person responsible for work of improvement, would not have so free a hand under Commissioners, 544-5.—Advantageous to leave him freedom, 546.—Abolition of Board would be a loss, even if staff went over to Commissioners, 581.

Commissioners had recently bought an estate in County Mayo, 582.—Witness had seen an estate that was wonderfully well done by them, 583.

"Congested" estate was one not less than half the area of which consisted of holdings not exceeding £5 rateable value, or of mountain or bog land, or not less than a quarter of which was in rundale, 539. (*Note,* page 19).

Improvement in Constitution of Board.

Board as it stood, better than a Department, Government and Treasury control hampered business, 504-6, 530, 533, 537.

A Department should be created with adequate income and power to develop industries and fisheries, land purchase work as well would be too much for such a body, 507-8, 512.

Land Settlement.

Settlement of land initial step to relief of congestion, land should be sold to tenant and then drained and made as profitable as possible, 509, 511-2.—There would still be deficiency of money for support of people, there should be some body to deal with further development of country, 512.

Creation of New Holdings.

Board had existed since 1891 under an experimental income, 513.—It was intention of Parliament to relieve congestion by that section of Act of 1891, 514.—Act practically inoperative as regards creation of new holdings, original purpose enlargement and consolidation of holdings, new ones a development of intention of Act, 516-9.—Holdings enlarged by inclusion of untenanted grass lands in neighbourhood, 520-7.

Popularity of Board.

Driving force of Board was in members and in permanent officials, members made proposals and schemes, Inspector then made inquiries and reported to Board; three Inspectors, Mr. Doran for land, Mr. Duthie for fisheries, Mr. Walker for industries; letters written by public sometimes acted on, 528.

Members of Board keen on work, and had confidence of people, satisfactory body to deal with, 533.—Ten members, average attendance seven or eight, often all, same people attended, a couple of absentees who rarely came, 534-6.

Free Board could make consistent schemes and work them, 537.—Reason of popularity of Board was that intelligent Irishmen got a chance of helping their country, 538.

Disadvantages under which Board works.

With monthly meetings of Board, secretary had often to take action on his own responsibility, trouble had been caused thereby, 547-8, 567-8.—Standing Committees, if elected and empowered, could do work, 549-50.—Elected members would strengthen the Board, there would be more satisfaction, 551-2.—They would be elected on political lines, but witness did not fear their introducing politics into work, 553-6.—Term of elected members could be limited if re-election were permitted, not otherwise, as it took long to learn work, 557-63.—Meetings of term called between monthly ones, 566.—Independence of outside control necessary for Board, work should not be given to less independent body, 569.—Business concerns with Board of Directors meeting monthly had always a chairman or managing director to carry on work between meetings, 570-2.—Members should be elected by County Council if Board were elected, 573.—County Councils did their work from month to month, they had local officers who were not restricted in discretion, and did a good deal, 574.—Not so much discretion in their expenditure as in that of Board, 575.—Appointment of person analogous to managing director had been suggested for Board, he would be paid, 576-7.—Mr. Doran practically held that post as regards land, 578.—Suggestion not received with approbation, 580.

Resources of Ireland could not be developed by body responsible to Parliament, commercial jealousy of Great Britain would be aroused, and had already interfered with industries benevolently treated by Board and Department, 584.

Government Development of Industries and Trade Jealousies.

Representations had been made by English jam-makers, and jam-making started by Department of Agriculture in Boyne Valley in connection with fruit culture was stopped, 585-91, 594.—Similar representations had been made with regard to Board's work at Foxford, but the work was continued, 593.—A new industry should not be assisted by Department if it competed to substantial extent with similar one existing in Ireland, 594.—(*Additional statement by witness,* page 21).

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2. *Statement showing population of towns of Ireland in* 1881, 1891, *and* 1901, . .	228

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See also p. 628.

Definition of Congested Districts.

Immense amount of trouble would be thrown on Congested Districts Board if limit of area of congested districts were left to their discretion, incessant applications for assistance and scheduling would hamper business; better to draw hard and fast line, but more liberally than at present, 599, 692.—Large increase of area would add to cost of administration and reduce money available for more distressed districts, 599, 688.—In 1891 Mr. Micks wrote to the then Under-Secretary with reference to varying limits of congested area; thirty-one electoral divisions recommended to be added to schedule; exclusion of any

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electoral division not recommended, because Board could if they thought fit abstain from putting Act in operation in any district, 599-600.

Constitution of Congested Districts Board—Election of Representatives of Counties.

Election of representatives of counties on Board would probably lead to applications for divisions of funds amongst all the counties; Board's discretion exercised heretofore as to amount to be spent in any district, 599, 665.—Ten members of Board, 606.—Three temporary, Mr. A. Balfour, Rev. Mr. Green, Rev. Denis O'Hara; seven permanent, the present temporary members were the original three, 607, 669.—Only difference between temporary and permanent members in practice was, three permanent members required to form quorum of Board, 608-9.—Difference in their powers in certain business, 610.—Any two members could form quorum at committee meetings, 611.—Any act of Board could be signified under hands of any three members, 612-3.—Temporary members held office for five years; Appointment could be renewed, 615-6.—Originally appointed in respect of special business; Mr. Balfour appointed as founder of Board, 670-1.—All members appointed by Royal Warrant, 617-8.—Complaints had been made by certain counties that they were not represented; good arrangements to specially select members belonging to congested districts counties; nomination better than election, 619-20, 625, 628, 654-5, 657-8, 664, 720, 781, 786.—Only Donegal and Mayo represented at present, 621.—Six members would be added to Board if each county were to be represented, 622-3, 627, 788.—As vacancies amongst present members occurred they need not be filled, 624.—Local residence should be condition of appointment, 626, 656.—Temporary election a mistake; permanent election less dangerous, 665-6.—Elected members would represent localities' wants better and be useful in recommending Board's policy to people, 667-8.—Counties would be more satisfied if represented; easy to find suitable men; advantage of having representative men more than balanced disadvantage of limitation of selection; Lord Shaftesbury looked after interests of Cork and Kerry at present, 783-5.

Board's Meetings.

No difficulty in calling special meetings of Board; always done if matters of urgency arose between monthly meetings; in minor matters Secretary had authority to act with approval of one member of the Board, 601, 650, 673.—Payment made on signature of secretary or assistant secretary, with approval of one member of Board; secretary had no authority to sanction expenditure unless covered by minute of Board; Audit Office passed nothing without Board's authority, 601.—Authority of two members required to call special meeting, 651.—Present procedure worked smoothly; sometimes caused a delay, but not an important one, 652-3.—227 meetings held since Board was formed, average attendance 6·3; committee meetings nearly twice as numerous; formerly certain members were nominated for each class of business, finance, works, etc.; now everything done by Committees of whole Board; result was better business; committee's work carried more weight, and better attendance was given; Board's minutes and committee minutes printed and circulated, 603.

Question of Managing Director.

Special managing director not required, 629.—Useful to have a few members of special fitness on Board from Dublin district; two trustees in Dublin at present; one generally ready to come and pass payments, 9,000 payments through Bank of Ireland every year, 672, 787.

Inspection.

Joint inspections by members impossible now owing to heavy pressure of business, 630, 635, 659-60.—Individual members made inspections, 631, 635, 660, 663.—Not so necessary now as when members were unacquainted with congested districts, 632.—Inspection good for information of Board; nothing further required, as estates business was in such good hands, 633-4, 662.—Expense incurred by inspection trips; false hopes sometimes raised amongst people, 634.—Mr. Green inspected piers, Lord Shaftesbury visited Kerry, 635.—Inspection work should be resumed, 636.—No difficulty in getting members to inspect where it was urgently needed, 661.

Question of Transfer of Land Work of the Board to the Estates Commissioners.

Original constitution of Board the best, more popular and more useful from being untrammelled by official regulation and Treasury control, 637.—Work of Board and of Estates Commissioners could not be compared unless work of Commissioners were carefully inquired into, 638.—Board had advantage in dealing with improvement of estates in not being tied down to particular sum to be lost, 640.—As a fact, they only lost 7 per cent.; Estates Commissioners could lose 10 per cent.; so there was really nothing to choose, 641-2.—Board absolutely free if they had funds; £20,000 a year increase asked for; steady increase in powers conferred on Board by Parliament with which income had not kept pace, 643-4.—Under Act of 1903, Commissioners were restricted in buying estates, Board free, 645.—So long as that was the case no change desirable, 646.—Board's real function to prepare poor estates for operation of Land Acts; no reason for two Departments in same area, 647, 676, 726-7.—Board refused to buy estates not requiring improvement, 648.—Estates Commissioners' agency could be so modified as to suit purposes Board now fulfilled, 649.—Schemes had often to be restricted and applications refused for lack of funds, especially in regard to public works—piers, roads, etc., 675.—Board's particular province was to make pauper landholders into comfortable ones, 678.—Estates Commissioners had dealt with some congested districts estates, which Board would have prepared had they bought them, 699-700.

Delay in Board's Work caused by lack of Funds.

Rapid work impossible if estates were to be prepared thoroughly, 679, 698, 721.—Estimate prepared by Board at beginning of year, necessary to leave balance to carry on to next year, 680-2.—Work often stopped for fear of exceeding estimate, 683.—It had been exceeded on many occasions; contributions in respect of works promised to County Councils which had not been carried out by the Councils on account of difficulty of raising local rates; impossible to say at beginning of year how many outstanding offers would be called for, 684.—Revised estimates sent to Treasury during year; generally a saving under head of works, 685.—Saving absorbed under other heads, 686.

Change in Definition of Congestion.

Change in definition of congestion suggested; electoral divisions had been excluded on account of presence of two or three large holdings; witness would round off congested districts by including all that were almost or quite surrounded by congested areas, also electoral divisions containing considerable population of poor people who had been excluded on account of a few large holdings, Bundorrha a case in point, 689-91, 694.—Not good to include the whole county, as larger income would be required, but more electoral divisions could be included, 693, 738-9, 772.—East and West Galway differed greatly; East fairly well off, 695.—Many electoral divisions excluded in every county, 696.—Case would be met by inserting after words "rateable value" in section 36 of Act of 1891 the words "omitting subjects exceeding annual value of—number of pounds thought right—," minimum would have to be fixed, 722-3.—If Board's income could be sufficiently increased, operations should extend to all Ireland; poor districts in every county, 701-2.—Hard and fast line did create difficulties, though Board could purchase land where they pleased, 703-4.—Board could not use land for settlement of people outside non-congested districts, 705-6.—If Board bought estate on which the people lived, they had power under Act of 1901 to specially schedule that district, 706.

Good arrangement to restore Lord Lieutenant's power of scheduling a particular district for one

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year, 707.—And make power permanent, applicable at any moment, 708.

Electoral division suitable unit, introduction of townlands an unnecessary complication, 709-14.—Act empowered Lord Lieutenant to exclude as well as include districts in schedule, 752-4.—No objection to power of excluding, might cause ill-feeling, 756.—District that was settled so far as land went still remained on Board's books, so long as they existed for other improvements, such as roads, industries, etc., 758-9, 762, 764.—No need for exclusion unless state of people needed no other improvement, 760, 763.—Rested with discretion of Board to carry out work in any district, 762.—Nothing done in some electoral divisions, 763.—No objection to general scheduling of congested counties if Board's income were sufficiently enlarged, 774-5.—Serious disadvantage to include prosperous parts of Galway, expectations impossible to fulfil would be aroused; advantage would be that Board could pick out spots to work in, 776-7.—More satisfactory for Lord Lieutenant to have selecting power, 778-9.—He would act on advice of Board; Board would be relieved of pressure to include unnecessary areas, 780.

Question of merging of Board in Estates Commissioners.

Room for Board and Estates Commissioners so far, 715.—No objection to merging two bodies, if both were equally competent, 716.—Rarely happened that the two Departments bought estates close together, 717.—Arrangements now made to prevent clashing of Board and Estates Commissioners in purchase of estates; it had occurred once, 740-1, 1214-5.—£11,000 available by Board for improvement of estates, 742-3, 797, 1371.—They could lose that amount, which meant they could expend £140,000 a year on purchase, 744-5, 798-9.—If Board could not purchase more quickly than that allowed, estates would be all purchased by Commissioners, and there would soon be no means of relieving congestion, 746, 750-1.—Work must be done by some other department if Board could not get increase of funds, 747-8, 761.—No economy in transferring Board's work to Estates Commissioners, 749.—Record of Board justified its continuance on same basis, fact of members being unpaid an advantage, they were more representative, wider view taken, more discussion, 718.—It was a piece of good luck to have found men willing to give such exacting services for no remuneration; but there would never be any difficulty in getting highly qualified men, 719.—Delay in Board's dealing with estates due to having to wait for them to be vested; under Act of 1903 legal work of conveyance transferred to Land Commission, 721.

Migration without Purchase.

Act of 1891 contemplated temporary working of Congested Districts Board until Parliament saw fit to terminate it, 724-5.—Scope of work not realised; enlargement of holdings, not purchase of estates intended, 728.—Had been assumed Board could migrate tenants on to property of private owners; that was almost impossible, it meant so much interference; co-operation of landlord required, 729-30.—No place to migrate people to when Act was passed; Board not to buy land; they could suggest to owner of an estate that a large holding might be purchased; arrangement could be made for paying for holding, which was then to be held by Land Commission with intention that Board should ask landlord to sub-divide holding amongst other tenants, 732.—Had been attempted, but failed owing to difficulties, 733-5.—Purchase of land necessary for large scheme of enlargement of holdings, 736.—Large tenants should be bought out as well as untenanted land purchased, 737.

Work and Salaries of Staff of Board.

Work of Board had increased chiefly owing to estates work, 788-9.—Staff had been increased to eighty; Board could appoint temporary clerks when necessary, 790-1.—Work temporarily relieved by transfer of payment arrangements to Land Commission and by transfer to Department of Agriculture; seventy-seven clerks employed, excluding Secretary and Assistant Secretary, average salary, £135; average including Secretary and Assistant-Secretary, £153; lowest average of any Civil Service office in Dublin, except Land Commission, which employed 100 copyists; excellent service given by staff, 792.—Temporary clerks in place of permanent Civil Servants had been engaged by Board; they worked well, and did important responsible work, 836.—They get no pensions, 837.—About a dozen members of staff got pensions, 836.

Increase in Price of Land, &c.

Nothing lost in re-selling Dillon estate, 800.—£147,000 spent on it since purchase, part met by rents; Board always used revenue of estate for improvements while it was in their hands, 802-3.—First charge on rents was interest on capital borrowed for purchase, not enough left over to pay for all improvements; Dillon estate bought when price of land was low and tenants paid higher rents, pressure brought on Board to reduce rents, 804-5, 808.—Board's income insufficient because work was more extended, and also land was dearer, 806.—Board sometimes arranged with tenants to charge only an amount approaching that of the future annuity, 807.—Reduced rent did not apply universally, 808.—Dillon estate bought at fifteen years' purchase, re-sold at fifteen and a half, 809.—Larger price expected since Act of 1903, 810, 830.—Annual interest paid by tenant reduced by Act, 811.—Landlords willing to sell at a sacrifice had all sold their estates before that; State assistance required to prevent a deadlock, 812, 832.—Tenants' annuities less, larger capital sum obtained because annuities continued longer, 813-5.—Tenant paid more heavily in the end, 815.—Profit made on land stock on sale of Dillon estate, such profits were credited to Board's general account for management and re-sale of estates, 816-7.—Under Act of 1896, landlords sold at seventeen years' purchase; they lost a large proportion of their income; no landlord now willing to do that, they would still be willing to sell at some reduction in consideration of getting fixed safe income, 832.

Forty-nine years the term of repayment under Ashbourne Act, sixty-eight under Wyndham Act, 833.—Fifteen years' purchase under Ashbourne Act equivalent to present price, 834.

Board ought to continue its purchase operations if it could get funds to do them quickly, 793-4.—Work essential, better to be carried on by staff, etc., that began it, 795.—Plenty for Estates Commissioners to do outside Board's areas, 796.—Board had done its work efficiently, pity to transfer duties to other Department, no economy would result, country better satisfied if Board continued, 819-21.—Transfer of land purchase work would increase cost unless Board were abolished, 822.—No difficulty and no loss of funds in transferring fishery work to Department of Agriculture, 823-4.—Mr. Micks had proposed transfer of part of Board's work and continuation of Board for other purposes, 824.—Whole Board took lively interest in fisheries, 825.—Work if transferred would still fall on Mr. Green, influence of body like the Board with local interests an advantage, 826-7.—Advantage lost by transferring work to paid officials in Dublin, 828.—Insufficient reason for taking it from Board and risk of seriously injuring important industry, 829.

Board's Income.

Board's funds originated under Acts of Parliament, were derived mainly from Irish sources, 765, 768.—£41,250 from Church Surplus, £25,000 under Act of 1899, and £20,000 under Act of 1903, assigned under Acts of Parliament, 766-6a.—All Land Acts, 769.—Increase of funds to be expected from any new Bill, Board's powers had been gradually built up by Parliament; extraordinary if work were now cut short, 770, 818.—Useless to apply to Treasury for increase, 771.

Board's income had increased by £20,000 under Act of 1903, 842.—Origin of present Commission was probably correspondence with Treasury on subject of increase of Board's income, 845-6.—Board informed Government they could not continue the estates business as at present, unless they gave up all other

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work, progress was ridiculously slow, they purchased only very poor estates requiring large expenditure; Board's view was the congested districts required their full share of funds for improvement of Ireland, and Board's assistance as well, 847, 913.—They were therefore entitled to large share of any estates funds obtainable; 98,000 holdings in congested districts; 500,000 in whole of Ireland, good holdings required no assistance; 55,000 holdings in congested districts below £4 valuation averaged £100 in price, total, £5,000,000, maximum loss 10 per cent.; £50,000 a year for ten years would have to be lost in dealing with these 55,000 holdings, there would still be the other 40,000 holdings to deal with; congested districts entitled to large share of funds available for fisheries, Galway to Lough Foyle one-third of whole coast, Cork and Kerry fisheries prosperous before establishment of Board; in the same way the congested districts required large portion of funds applicable to establishments of handicrafts, improvement of agriculture, construction of roads, etc.; need for communication most pressing in remote districts.—Pressure of local taxation claimed attention; all things considered, congested districts should get half funds provided for assistance of industries, 847-9.—No special funds aimed at, 850-1.—Board had enough money for development of fisheries, they wanted more for supervision, 852-3.

Piers and County Control, &c.

Further funds needed for piers and roads, applications for £100,000 worth of work made at first, £134,000 had been spent, £100,000 worth of applications still not dealt with, 856.—Provision of piers neglected in the past, Board of Works had been blamed for mistakes of Piers and Roads Commission of 1882, whose recommendations they had to carry out, 857, 862-6.—Congested Districts Board had done as well as possible, Marine Works Act, 1902, gave assistance, 857.—Several old piers practically useless, 858.—Demands upon Board due partly to unsatisfactory position, etc., of old piers, partly to former neglect, 859.—Backwardness of fishing due in many places to lack of piers, demands were made for piers where they were impossible without gigantic expenditure, 866.—Necessity for piers existed, 861.—Board were anxious to transfer marine works they had constructed to charge of County Councils, special provision for transfer from Congested Districts Board under Local Government Act of 1898, County Councils reluctant to take over charge, 866.—They might let them go to pieces; Board spent £300 a year on supervision, etc., apart from repairs which were constantly required, 867-8, 870.—There were no cases of Councils letting piers fall into disrepair, 869.—Eight piers and slips offered to County Council in County Cork, thirteen in Kerry, nine in Galway, ten in Mayo, ten in Donegal, 873.—Councils of Mayo, Galway, and Kerry refused to take over Board's works, Donegal County Council stipulated for repairs to be done before taking over, Cork Council took over Garinish and Canty's Cove works, and were considering taking over three or four others, 874.—Board's procedure not to consult County Council as to necessity for pier, as a rule they now built on recommendation of local authorities, 875.—When Board first built, Local Government Act of 1898 not passed, since the Act they consulted the County Councils before building, 876.—County Councils refused to take over piers on account of expenditure, they objected to any extra expenditure however small, 877.—Board the statutory promoters of piers, they consulted Board of Trade, who never refused consent, 878-80.—Local bodies had the power but no funds, 881.—They often applied to Board, and most works were jointly carried out by Board and County Council, 882.—Sometimes Board gave contribution on condition of maintenance by County Council, not always, as very few works would then be carried out, Councils would not increase rates, 883.—Board did not always refuse works because they got no contribution, in such cases they had to maintain works themselves, 884-5.—Congested population on western seaboard large, 898.—Development of fisheries main resource, 899.—More piers and harbours would be of great use, and were necessary for relief of congestion, Board prevented by pressure of business from erecting them, 900, 902.

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Board did not continue making roads with their engineering staff, they offered contribution of half or two-thirds cost if a road were urgently needed, would offer more if they had more funds; County Councils could not afford to make piers and roads, Board required £10,000 a year to spend on such works, of which there were 200 waiting to be carried out, 1124.—Board offered only portion of cost, so that county should have to bear charge of maintenance, 1125.—By law, county had to maintain a road they made a presentment for, 1126-7.—Board arranged alignment of road, 1128.—County Surveyor always consulted, 1129.—Board spent large sums on roads on their own estates, 1130.—No contribution made to roads outside congested district, a contribution was therefore partially an assistance to rates in congested districts, though without contribution road could not be made, 1131, 1133-4.—Rate levied on rural district, part of which might be non-congested, or it might be levied on county at large, 1132, 1135-6.—Many roads made partly in scheduled and partly in non-scheduled area, applicants generally told to apply to Department of Agriculture for grant corresponding to Board's grant, 1137.—Board considered want of communication in congested districts an enormous disadvantage, 1138.—Twenty or thirty rural districts in congested counties, of which the greater portion was not congested, 1139-40.—Direct result of Board's contribution to a road was to add to taxation, 1141-2.—County Council's duty to make roads, but they had not enough money without enormously increasing taxes, 1143.—Some District Councils in the West withdrew all proposed new works because they would have seriously increased rates, 1144.—Many of Board's schemes for roads and piers could not be carried out owing to reluctance of County Council to increase rates in poor districts, although County Councils were generous, 1146-8, 1157.—Reluctance to add to rates increasing, 1149.—More economy since transfer of authority from Grand Jury in 1898, though rates had increased, 1150-1.—Council thought as Board was there it might pay for improvements, rates were so high it was not to be wondered at, 1152.—Rates higher than formerly all over congested districts, 1153.—County Council's expenditure had to be higher than Grand Jury's, 1155.—Grand Jury discharged Council's work before 1898, 1156.—Under Act of 1891, Board had large discretion to improve condition of people as they thought fit, 1167, 1169-71.—Parliament had no road-making in mind, but Board took up question from the first, 1168.

Roads.

Time when roads in congested districts would be all made very far distant, 885a.—County Councils the local road authority, 886.—They had not had funds to make required roads, 887.—60 per cent. of expense of roads borne by Board, County Council made to pay the rest, 888-90.—If road were sixteen feet wide, County Councils could maintain it, and many did, 891.—They were bound to, 892.—Board made it a first condition, 893.—£6,000 or £7,000 a year of Board's income allotted to works including piers, 894-5.—127 inland works carried out by Board, costing £56,000, £10,700 contributed to ninety-one works carried out by local authorities, 896.—Expenditure on roads decreased notably last year, 897.—Roads referred to were for connecting hamlets on property bought with main roads, 903, 906-8.—Remote districts badly provided with roads to bogs, markets, etc., 904.—Board's roads did not supersede County Council's, which were the main roads, 905.—County Council had no funds to make smaller roads, 909-10.—They were making them slowly, but needed Board's assistance, 911.—Nobody could make all the required roads even in ten years, 912.—Congested districts got some assistance from general funds outside the Board's, 914.—Allocation of money for districts provided for, depended on Board whether it was spent, 915.

Fishery Work of the Board.

Fisheries between Galway and North Donegal carried on in inefficient manner in 1891; Board developed them from Galway Bay round coasts of Mayo and Donegal to Lough Foyle, 963-4, 965.—Fishing in Cork and Kerry well established, required

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no assistance except in way of piers and loans for boats and nets, 964A, 1081.—£45,151 paid to fishermen for fish in autumn and winter mackerel fishery, which was first established by Board; £189,985 paid for herring by buyers other than Board, 965-7, 969, 970, 975, 980, 986.—Board purchased for a few years at first in case of spring mackerel, 969, 971, 990.—When fishing was established they left it to other buyers, 971, 973.—Board lost a little over the purchase, 974-5.—Herring fishery carried on for last eight years, 976.—Board may have purchased herrings to a small extent at first, 978-9, 988, 990.—General result of spring mackerel fishing £72,391, 980-2, 986-7.

Return of boats built sent in by Board referred only to large deck-boats, they had ordered or built 150, average price, £173, 991, 998.—2,476 open boats had been built, costing £23,142; Department's return showed total of boats built, 383, almost all small, 992.—Board's return would be voluminous if details asked for were given for all small boats, 993.—Fishing near shore done in small open boats, currachs still used for long line and herring fishing, 995-7.—Big boats built in Ireland, Scotland, and Isle of Man, 998.—All in commission now except two or three that were wrecked, 999.—No boat disused, if loan was not paid off, Board took up boat and re-sold, if loan were paid off no further account taken of boat; that some of those might be derelict or worn out was improbable, as owners were most energetic men, 1000.—Boats abandoned by five crews of Achill men two years ago, those had since been re-sold to crews on the island and in the neighbourhood, several still on Board's hands, they were used on share system, 1001-3, 1083, 1094, 1096.—Out of thirteen deck boats used in Blacksod fishery, two remained on Board's hands, 1084-8.—Fishing north of Achill started for benefit of Achill and Belmullet men, did not repay Board's outlay, though it would have paid a few boats; Board ran steamer from Blacksod Point to railway, and provided ice, fishermen agreed with Mr. Green that they would rather go to Cleggan where fishing was flourishing, 1089.—Failure due partly to lack of enterprise amongst men, partly to want of fish, 1090.—Partly to inexperience of men who were unaccustomed to night fishing, they were migratory labourers, 1004.—Fishing began in 1899, first year fish worth £1,261, second year £980, next year £830, next, £43, next £970, next £567, 1091.—Boats abandoned later, in year when receipts were £567, 1092-4.—Board arranged with men to give up boats, 1095, 1097.—Thirteen boats taken up by Board, 1096.—They lost on such a transaction, as they had to fit out and repair boats and sell at a reduced price, 1003.—Instructor provided for each boat with inexperienced crew, 1005-6, 1027.—Two instructors in each of the two instruction boats in Connemara, one in Blacksod and Achill, 1006A-7.—Complaints in Blacksod that instructors refused to go out in bad weather, arrangements made by Board for supervision to prevent such a possibility, 1008.—Six men to a crew, 1009.—Loan system for boats intended to go on indefinitely, would always be wanted, 1010, 1016, 1020-4, 1029.—Boats bought on share system belonged to men, money utilised in a few cases by men to buy boats on their own account, 1011-2.—Five or six crews had lately got new and better boats, 1013-4.—It depended on success of fishing; North Donegal herring fishery uniformly successful for ten years, 1015.—Board encouraged fishing in the hope the men would be independent in future, 1016, 1020.—Population would hardly become rich enough to buy boats without loans, 1017, 1021-2.—Men might possibly club their money and buy their own boats in a distant future, 1018-9, 1030.—There might be men who made money in other business, and would invest in a boat, as they did in England and Ireland, 1025.—They might apply to Department of Agriculture for a loan, 1026.—Charge made by Board for instruction, seventy instructors employed, annual cost, £4,000 to £5,000 a year; £1.200 repaid by men: cost last year, £3,500; £1,253 repaid, 1028.—Competition would be great if fishing were very productive, 1030.—Instalment system progressing most satisfactorily, 1031.—Good feeling displayed towards instructors when Scotchmen, 1032.—Irish instructors employed where possible, 1033.—Large boats built in Ireland when they could be, 1034.—Boats bought in cheapest market in emergency, 1036.—Herring fishery followed by fishermen round the coast, a few went north from Teelin, but not out of Ireland, 1037-40.—Men too inexperienced to go far, they knew the fisheries the other side of the Channel were overdone, 1041.—Steam drifters sometimes made £1,000 from herring fishing, 1042-3.—No steam drifters owned by fishermen in North of Ireland, 1043A.—Scotch and English fishermen coming to Ireland lessened earnings of Irishmen in Ireland, 1044-5.—Subsidiary industries, such as curing, done in Ireland, might eventually be a benefit, but the Scotchmen brought their own curers to Ireland, 1046-9.—As they could not get experienced Irish ones, 1050.—Irish would take place of Scotch when they had had experience, 1051.

Each Department kept its own statistics, 1055.—Information obtained from them when wanted, 1056.—Exact number of population on coasts of congested districts had not been asked for, that of each district was known as it was dealt with, coast population would be less than a fifth of the whole, 1057-61.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Parish Committees had no pauperising effect, because people were compelled to spend money before getting grant, improvements could not be expected without capital expenditure; large sums would have to be spent by local authority to improve a Dublin slum; same work done in country at infinitesimal cost, 916.—Sanitary work of Committees beneficial, had not been done before, 917-8.—Local funds insufficient for sanitary authorities to do it, 919-20.—According to law it was what the sanitary authorities were paid for, 921, 952.—Question of giving money paid to sanitary officers for use of Committees had been considered; Committee only gave fraction of improvements effected, they informed sanitary authorities if sanitary regulations were broken after assistance had been given, 922.—Absurd to put pressure on authorities in absence of funds, 923, 954.—Committees improved holdings and houses as well as sanitation, 924.—Sanitation should be the first thing, 925.—Removal of cattle from dwelling-houses, and of manure-heap; conditions precedent to getting grant, 925-9.—Improvement of farms considered by Committees after improvement of homesteads, prizes given for reclamation and drainage, 930-1.—No Government Department had thought of such a system, though it would be possible to give them powers, 932-5.—Parish Committees the creation of Congested Districts Board, originated by Father O'Hara, 936-7.—No other Irish Department had such Committees, 940.—Driving power of Committees the members, in some parishes, the priest, 941-2.—Normal constitution of a Committee, the chief minister of each denomination, the County or District Councillor, the landlord or agent, six elected members, and the medical officer, 943-4.—Money the means of setting power in motion, 945-6.—Good work done by Parish Committees enormous in comparison with amount spent, 947.—Success due to fact that good men in each locality had initiation and supervision of scheme; only the secretary and supervisor were paid, and they got a trifling amount, £5 to £10 a year, 948.

Case in Donegal where work done in year was twenty-four times grant given, grant system intended to be temporary and to be merged into system of prizes; general system of prizes for improvement of agriculture suggested thirty years ago by Lord Spencer, failed for want of funds, 949-50.—Prize system could be carried on without experts, 951.—Local authority could not give assistance as Parish Committees did, they had no money, 953.—Committees could not work without money, 955.—Impossible to enforce sanitary law against keeping cattle in houses, 956-7.—Sanitary officers practically confined to towns, by law their work extended over whole district, 958.

MARITIME POPULATION.

Only population of townlands immediately on coast interested in fishing, 1062.—Inland men lived too far from boats, they liked to keep their eye on the boats,

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1063.—Some of the Downing's Bay men come from a distance, 1064.—Men on congested districts coasts farmers most of the year, fishermen only in fishing season, 1074.—They would be the first to benefit from development of fishery, 1075.—Census returns gave those partly engaged in fishing, 1074, 1076.—Not the number who might be employed if fishing were developed, 1078. —Board's Annual Return gave number of men and boys engaged in fishing as 2,500, 1079.—700 people engaged on shore curing and carting, 1080.—Carters living eight or ten miles from coast benefited by circulation of money from fisheries, 1079.

Fishery Work.

Supervision of fishing managed by Board in congested districts, and by Department of Agriculture elsewhere; Department had legal powers all round coast, Board's powers only for development, 1065-8.—Want of communication made disposal of fish difficult, it was often carted round country and sold at low price, 1069-71.

Board's figures referred to coasts from Galway to Lough Foyle, 1081-2.

Barrel-Making.

Barrel-making industry of Board had satisfactory results, gross receipts, £19,600; expenditure, including instruction, etc., £19,806, 1097.—Industry still carried on by Board at Burton Port and Downing's Bay, 1099.—Private enterprise taking Board's place in Kerry, 1100.—Might be done in Burton Port, had not been tried, 1101-2.—Nothing done by Board to start independent coopers, they gave instruction and paid expenses of men from southern counties, 1103.—Loan made to one ex-apprentice to start a business with, work tending in that direction, 1104.—No barrels made in former days, high price paid for imported one, 1105-6.—Firkin-making an inland industry, 1106-7, 1109.—Barrels a sea-coast industry, 1107.—Man who made firkins did not want to supply a fish merchant, 1108-9. —Barrel-making would pay, it paid Board and Cork and Kerry people, 1110.—Board would retire if private person were willing to take over industry, 1111. —Barrel-making in Ireland dependent on curing, 1112.—Curer either brought his barrels with him or bought on the spot as he wanted them, 1113.—It was a fresh industry, 1114.—Not exclusively in curers' hands as in Scotland, 1115, 1117.—Barrels not made by machinery in Ireland, 1116.—Fishermen distinct from curers in Scotland, 1118.—Curers were merchants as well in Ireland, 1119.—Fishermen brought women with them to clean the fish, 1120.—Witness meant by curer the person who cleaned, salted, and packed fish, 1121.—Sums paid for cleaning a separate estimate, 1122-3.

Relations with Department of Agriculture.

Department and Board made a compromise, Department carried out agricultural live-stock schemes in mainly non-congested rural districts, Board in districts mainly congested, Board carried them out in four districts in Donegal, three in Galway, three in Kerry; Department's districts were all Cork, four in Donegal, three in Kerry, all Leitrim, Roscommon, and Sligo, 1144-5.

£113,000 required to carry out works on piers and roads; engineering staff of Board now transferred to Department, still mostly employed on Board's work for which they were paid by Board, 1158.—It was thought at the time the Department's work would be the heaviest, 1159, 1165-6.—Overlapping of functions was not the cause of the transfer, 1160.—Merely a departmental arrangement for convenience, 1161-2.—Formerly Department paid for work done by Board's engineering staff, position now reversed, 1163-4.—Mr. Oliver had been appointed Engineer for Department as well as Board, 1164.

Retention of ss. *Granuaile.*

Question of abandoning steamer was before Board last year, when Mr. Green prepared memorandum showing that steamer essential when Board began work, *Fingal* chartered, she had no cargo accommodation, which was found to be required; after two years Board decided to build a vessel, *Granuaile* built at cost of £10,250, on Mr. West's design, she carried cargo of salt and barrels for fishing stations, took up fish, delivered materials for slips and piers Board was building, carried members of Board and inspectors, etc.; she was equipped for carrying cattle for Board's agricultural schemes, and brought cargoes of bulls to the islands.

Board's aim in starting a station where no fish trade existed was to bring it up to standard when merchants would take over business when this had been done, Board no longer fish merchants or curers, interest in more remote places could not be relaxed, Board exercised healthy influence on trade, ample competition in Donegal, not enough on coasts of Mayo and Galway.

Applications in recent years from fishing centres in south-west for aid in developing coopering industry, barrels then imported, coopers making firkins were thrown out of trade by modern methods of dealing with butter, younger coopers sent to learn trade in Board's cooperage in Donegal, expenses of a few outside congested area provided by Department, coopers would be encouraged by provision of material on moderate terms, men having no capital, loans issued to some of the men, two or three full cargoes of staves carried by *Granuaile* every year from Scotland, reasonable freight charged, considerable trade developed without trespassing on shipping business, Board's own cooperage provided with material by *Granuaile*, sale of barrels last year, 10,516; repaid cost, including material, instruction, etc.; coopers thus trained were available for employment by curers, Scotchmen replaced by Irishmen in many cases; *Granuaile* useful in boat-building industry; more might have to be done to assist isolated districts on south coast now Clyde Shipping Company's steamer had stopped; inspection of coasts indispensable to Board's work; *Granuaile* used by Commissioners, etc., with great advantage; steamer must otherwise have been chartered; police duty done for Department by *Granuaile*; expenses then borne by Department; breaches of law now seldom; power of keeping in touch with islands essential; cost of carriage far greater if *Granuaile* were not available; outlying districts more easily managed since railways were extended; time not yet arrived for cutting direct communication with coasts; money spent on *Granuaile* not excessive in consideration of her uses; purchase and up-keep to February, 1905, cost £46,722 10*s.* 10*d.*; earnings, £8,350; total cost, £38,372 10*s.* 10*d.*; average annual expenditure, £3,640; receipts, £662; net cost, £2,978 per annum, 1172.—Hiring steamer inconvenient, and no economy, 1173.—Cost reduced if money were credited for carrying members of Board, etc., 1174.—Inspection of marine works could not be carried out from inland, 1175.—Board must have a steamer; difficult to hire suitable one; £100 freight lately saved by sending material to an estate in South of Ireland, 1176.—Boat often carried stores; not much for estates work, 1177. —Boat required every day of the year, 1178.—A necessity for proper administration of Board's work, 1179-80.—*Granuaile* admirably designed for its work, small, good sea-boat; carried 150 to 200 tons of freight; three cabins for inspectors, 1181-2.—Not like coasting boats, but better in some respects, 1183. —Balance of opinion in favour of retention of *Granuaile* since memorandum was submitted, 1184-7.

Subsidies to Steamer Services.

Subsidies made by Board to steamer services:—(*a*) £700 a year to Galway Steamboat Company for tri-weekly service between Galway and Aran Islands, started in 1892, still continued; loan made to company in 1896 of £2,300, since repaid; found better to improve Aran service than call at places on the main land; (*b*) £300 a year in 1896 for service from Westport and Clifden to Belmullet, discontinued in 1896; (*c*) £250 for service between Sligo and Broadhaven for nine months in 1897; (*d*) £600 a year in 1898 for service between Londonderry and Donegal, calling, as weather permitted, at Burtonport, etc.; stopped in 1901; (*e*) £500 a year to Clyde Shipping Company in 1901 for weekly service on South-West

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coast, discontinued in 1903, as Board would not increase the subsidy in view of local opposition; in 1905 Board gave undertaking not to subsidise any steamer on that coast except purely local ones, and concluded arrangement with railway companies for fixing special reduced railway rates to Sneem, and by which existing rates for goods would not be increased; (*f*) small steamer chartered for several seasons between Blacksod and Tonragee, cost in six years, £2,375; (*g*) subsidy to Bantry Bay Steamboat Company in winter of 1903-4 to take herrings to market; total £17,080 in fourteen years, 1187-90.—Districts did not suffer from arrangements with railway companies instead of steamers; no complaints received, 1191.—Pier constructed at Sneem for several steamers landing there, 1192-3.

Nurses' Residences.

Board built five cottages for Lady Dudley's nurses' residences at cost of £350 each; nursing institution paid interest on capital, 1195.

Question of merging of Board in Estates Commissioners.

Estates Commissioners had full liberty to purchase estates in congested districts; under Act of 1903 it rested with landlord whether he should deal with them or the Board, 1197-9.—Distinction in dealing with such estates was that Commissioners could only lose 10 per cent.; Board unlimited, 1200.—Commissioners had power to deal with estates in the same way as Board, 1201-2, 1204-5.—Board had powers before Commissioners were created, 1203.—two agencies doing same work in same area, 1206.—Estates in non-congested districts more rapidly dealt with; they required less arrangement, 1208.—Mode of treatment would differ in different circumstances, 1209.—It might also differ where circumstances were similar, 1210.—One case where Board and Commissioners bought adjacent estates, 1211.—No arrangement made for preventing that, 1214.—Some inconvenience in similar estates being treated differently, 1216.

Delay in Vesting Estates.

Estates purchased by Board vested by Estates Commissioners since Act of 1903, 1219.—Many estates purchased by Board since then, 1220.—Very few vested up to end of last financial year; more rapid progress since; total value of estates purchased under Act, £1,172,000; value of twelve vested by Commissioners, £203,000; ten vested by Land Judge; minority of property purchased through Land Judges' Court, 1221.—Two years elapsed in many cases between purchase and vesting, 1222.—Improvements could not be made in interval, 1223.—Great dissatisfaction caused by delay, 1224.—People thought Board responsible, 1225, 1230.—Delay caused by want of funds; no arrangement since Act of 1903 for allotting Board separate portion of purchase funds, 1226.—Time of great importance in settling estates; tenants impatient; delay great disadvantage, 1227-9, 1231.—Board frequently urged expedition on Estates Commissioners, 1232.—Machinery handicapped Board; settling title often the difficulty; was the fault of system of land tenure; absence of registration of land, 1233.—Commissioners' legal staff and funds insufficient for work, 1234, 1248, 1272-3, 1309-10.—Estates purchased by Board in 1904 still unvested on 31st March, 1905, 1238, 1241-2.—Only two of those still remained unvested, 1243.—A great many purchased in 1905 not vested yet, 1244.—Improvement in expedition since Sir A. MacDonnell took a strong line in the matter, 1246-7.—Delay often led to loss of a year in improvements, which could only be done at one time of year, 1249.—When Board agreed with landlord for purchase of an estate, their solicitor drew up an agreement; then vendor's solicitor prepared forms required by statute, called originating request; that was lodged with Board and sent by them to Estates Commissioners, whose legal staff inquired into title and completed transfer, 1250.—Stipulation made that Board should receive rents from a certain date, 1251.—Pending purchase they were the landlords, 1252.—They could not make improvements for fear purchase fell through, 1253, 1262-3.—Also landlords' action was paralysed by Act of 1881, 1254-5.—No delay if Commissioners had larger staff and more money, 1256-7.—Board merely collectors of the rent in the interregnum, 1259.—Under Act of 1881, landlord had certain powers to interfere with holdings, 1261.—When estate was vested Board had certain powers of interference, tenants not necessarily always consulted, 1264-5.—Vesting and provision of money generally simultaneous; money distributed by Commissioners, not through Board, 1266.—Board's powers of purchase practically unlimited and Commissioners' funds very limited, 1267-8.—Sure to be lack of funds if both bought land largely; Board's purchases should not be delayed because other purchases were excessive, 1269, 1284.—Since 1903 Board had demanded £1,200,000 of Commissioners' in respect of land, 1270.—Treasury provided £17,000,000, £700,000 paid to Board, balance not yet vested, 1271.—Large number of estates could be dealt with more economically than a few, 1274-5.—Speed depended on staff, 1276.—Speed of investigation of title depended on number of cases and trouble of each, one did not affect another, 1277-8.

Allocation of certain sum for Board's purposes of each loan raised arranged provisionally when Act of 1903 was passed, 1303.—Legal objection raised to giving precedence to Board's estates in matter of reading title, 1304.—If precedence were not given Board would have to wait years before they could deal with estates, 1305-7.—Board objected, and their estates now had the title investigated forthwith, 1308.—Interpretation of the law one great cause of the delay in vesting estates; rapid progress only made since July; want of staff secondary cause and really must have had little to do with it; lack of funds a third reason, 1309-15.

Limitations on Powers of Purchase.

Certain limit to purchase powers of both Board and Commissioners, 1279.—Commissioners might have untenanted land up to value of £5,000,000 on their hands at once; Board limited to £1,250,000, 1280-1, 1285, 1296-7.—Limit so high practically no obstruction, 1282.—Act of 1903, section 40, imposed a limit of thirty times the annual value of the guarantee fund for each county, 1284, 1286-7.—Guarantee Fund, £3,000,000 a year, amount of purchase could be raised by Treasury to £180,000,000; no restriction short of that if money were found, 1288-90, 1294.—Limit, £90,000,000 without reference to Treasury, 1290.—Advances allowed by Estates Commissioners up to that under Land Purchase Acts, 1291-2.—Deducting shares of municipal boroughs, Guarantee Fund capitalised for counties in 1904 was £75,000,000, 1295.—Board's limit of amount of land never nearly approached, 1298.

90,000 acres had been bought by Board, £330,000 given for untenanted land under Act of 1903, £120,000 under previous Acts, 1299.—Board getting more in rent from grazing lands than they were paying Land Commission, 1301.

Agricultural Operations.

Board's Thirteenth Annual Report gave summary of agricultural work carried on by them when it was transferred to Agricultural Department; sums provided in estimate for 1902-3:—£4,480 for improvement of breeds of horses and asses, £5,800 for cattle, £1,150 for sheep, £650 for swine, £450 for poultry, £1,100 for bee-keeping.—Animals stationed in congested districts were 28 horses, 29 asses for service, 37 mares and foals in Loughglynn stud; stud farm 94 horses, mares, foals, and asses, 20 other stock; bulls, 237; twenty-seven sheep-dipping stations, 53,000 sheep dipped; 63 rams sold (1901), 79 boars in districts, 48 sold; fifty-six poultry farms, 53,185 eggs distributed; 100 hives and bee outfits provided, 38 cases of foul breed dealt with, 3,360 sections of honey purchased, 1,600 lbs. run honey purchased in 1902; 335 spraying machines sold in 1902; lectures and demonstrations on potato spraying given in seven districts; fifteen example holdings in operation; 173 experimental plots; 12,065 fruit trees sold in 1902, 156,000 forest trees distributed; 260 cwt. of potato seed for early potato culture given to 160 applicants; 47,615 yards of fencing erected; grants given to fifteen shows, 1316.—Proceeds of manures, £2,750, repayable; £100 for agricultural implements, £125 for encouraging growth of fruit trees, £458 for forestry, £18,155 provided for in expenditure, £7,175 anticipated receipts, net expenditure, £11,000.

MITCHELL, Mr. F. W. D.—*continued.*

Transfer of Board's Work to Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural work of Board transferred to Department of Agriculture on 31st March, 1904, Board undertaking to contribute £2,000 a year, 962.

Department took over entire agricultural improvement for £2,000 a year; results of transfer unknown to Board; rates on congested districts for agricultural purposes, £2,400; if Department had contributed at same rate as at first grant would have been £3,000, making total of £5,400 available; Board used to spend double that, irrespective of rates, 1317-8.—No direct complaints of Department received, 1321.—Department's report did not show congested districts separately, 1322.—Transfer accomplished chiefly because there were two departments working in one area; congested districts rated under Act of 1899, and money so raised spent by Department; extreme case of overlapping, 1322-3, 1325-6.—Board's income gained £9,000 by transaction, as they only contributed £2,000 as against £11,000 they used to spend; Mr. Wyndham wished Board to devote more attention to estates business, 1324, 1342-3.—Special Act passed later enabling County Councils to confine rates to non-congested districts; it was never carried out, 1327.—Department's work done jointly with County Councils; grant given in addition to local rates, 1328.—After estates were improved, Board went on to improve agriculture, etc., 1329-30.—Estate handed to tenant when improved, 1331.—In July, 1906, Department of Agriculture passed a resolution asking for more funds for agricultural work in congested districts, as the non-congested areas required their full share of Endowment Fund, and stating that it had been understood Department would be recouped for the expenditure above their contribution; Board repudiated liability; they would be legally unable to contribute towards the £10,000 spent by Department on seed potatoes, 1333-4.—Funds had been handed over to Department which belonged to country generally, 1335-6.—Board prohibited from losing by sale of seed potatoes, 1333, 1337-41.

An increase of Board's Income wanted.

£11,000 available for estates business out of income was calculated subsequent to transfer of agricultural work, 1343.—£140,000 value of land Board could turn over; if they turned over £400,000 their income could not bear 8 per cent. loss, 1344.—£9,000 saved off agriculture merged in general fund, 1345-6.

Board at end of its tether; £20,000 a year more wanted for it to continue work next year; they also required to borrow money for purchase of tenants' interest; no provision for that, 1340, 1354, 1372.—Treasury had suggested Board should stop operations till fresh funds were obtained, 1350.—Treasury's last letter had not been replied to, 1353.—£60,000 or £70,000 being recovered on re-sale to tenants would help to finance property on hand at present, 1355.—£64,000 expected this year, 1356.—It was money put into estates out of Board's income, 1357.—Board lost on it; were getting back a proportion from Land Commission; derived from operations previous to 1903, 1358-9.—Under Act of 1903 National Debt Commissioners could advance to Land Commission for repayment to Board sums representing increase of price consequent on improvements, 1360-1.—Board still in want of funds, 1362.—£25,000 probably the minimum required, 1363.—£400,000, the price of land, did not go through Board's hands, 1364, 1368.—Lack of funds due to inability to carry out work without loss of income, 1365.—£20,000 wanted to cover that loss, and to admit of further loss, 1366-7.—£32,000 must be lost on £400,000 capital, 1369-70.—Board's work must stop unless they got fresh funds, 1373.—Increase of pace of working caused need for additional income, it had increased since passing of Act, 1374-5.—Treasury only scrutinised Board's estimates, assistance expected not from them but from Government, 1376-7.—Board admitted their expenditure was greater than income, but their work would be ridiculous unless they bought estates at greater pace, 1377.—Treasury had said they could do so this year, but estimates must be revised next year, 1378.—Board had no income that had not been given by Act of Parliament, 1379.—Treasury only guardians of public purse, Board must go to Government for increase, 1380.—Treasury had no power to increase Board's income without Act of Parliament, 1382.—Parliamentary grant of £25,000 voted annually, practically permanent, other sources of income permanent, 1383.—Increased rapidity of purchase was due to fact that opportunity would soon be gone, as Purchase Acts were disposing of land, 1384-5.—Present staff sufficient for dealing with amount of land, 1386.—More than enough if Board had not accumulated so much land, some estates must wait, staff could not deal with them, 1387.—Board's fixed income, £86,000 a year, £41,250 from Church Surplus, £25,000 voted annually by Parliament, £20,000 Development Grant voted annually, given by Act of 1903, when it was recognised Board required more income, £20,000 insufficient, another £20,000 required, 1388-97.—Limit of value of untenanted land which Congested Districts Board might hold at a time under Act of 1903 was thirty times the interest on Church Surplus Grant, or £1,237,000, 1398-9.—Only one-fourth that amount bought since Act was passed, 1400-1.—£20,000 would meet loss on £400,000 a year turn-over, turn-over inadequate to meet urgent necessity for speedy purchase, 1403-5.—Board hardly liked to ask for as much as they thought they ought to have, 1406.—About £400,000 a year spent on purchase since Act was passed, 1407-8.—£1,300,000 worth of property in hand, 1409.—Of £60,000 expected from Land Commission part received, greater part to come this year, only £10,000 or £15,000 to come next year, 1410.—Were it not for this Board would be unable to dispose of property for four years to come, crisis would have come two years ago, 1411.—Would take four years to dispose of property in present circumstances, 1412.—Treasury's recent circulars placed Board in critical position, Board appealed to Government to further policy commenced in 1891, 1413-4.—They were reduced to impotence if Government refused, 1415.—Progress would not be satisfactory even with increase of £20,000, three times the work could be done, great many years still required to deal with all poor holdings, 1416-7.

Rate of Settlement.

98,000 holdings in congested districts, 1419.—Later return gave 85,900, 1419; a million acres of land worth 10*s.* an acre, or £500,000 yearly required to raise valuation to £10, at which holdings became economic, 1420, 1432.—Land could not be acquired under £14,000,000, or twenty-eight years' purchase, 1421-2, 1432.—55,000 holdings under £4 valuation, 1423.—Average poor law valuation of 98,000 holdings was £5 per family, that was uneconomic, 1424-5, 1443.—£300,000 represented lowest annual turn-over of land, 1426.—Forty-six and two-third years necessary at that rate to deal with congested areas, 1427, 1435, 1472.—With turn-over of £140,000 per annum, 100 years required, task would be hopeless, 1429.—Several thousand uneconomic holdings outside scheduled areas, 1430.—They were dealt with by Estates Commissioners, plenty of work for both Departments, 1431.—When Land Act was introduced, it was hoped all tenants would become peasant proprietors in fifteen years, 1433-4.—To do it in ten years, income of £112,000 required, 1436.

Compulsory Powers needed.

Even with that sum a great amount of land would be out of reach at end of ten years, compulsory powers were therefore required, 1437.—Board had communicated their views that compulsion was necessary, in their Fourth Annual Report to Lord Lieutenant, 1438, 1439-40.—Everything should be done on larger scale by Board; much depended on Estates Commissioners' action outside Board's area, 1441.—Congestion could be relieved in other ways besides land purchase; Board started fisheries, etc., 1442.—In applying for increase of income, Board only hoped to be able to deal with a moderate amount of land each year, not to reach all the 98,000 holdings; Mr. Doran thought if people were willing to migrate, and enough grass land were obtainable, all might be reached, 1444, 1447.—Many landholders on and near coast, 1445-6.—Less than forty-six and two-third years required to benefit proportion of small holders affected by land operations, 1448-1473.—Reason Board wanted increased income was because vast quantities of land had come into their hands under voluntary system, 1449.—Compulsory powers needed to purchase

MITCHELL, Mr. F. W. D.—*continued.*

untenanted land, not tenanted, 1450-1, 1453, 1456.—In dealing with an estate, Board took tenanted and untenanted land together, 1452, 1455-6.—Grass lands in County Roscommon wanted, some at a distance from the congested area, 1453-4.—Purchase of untenanted land entailed no loss, it could be grazed and worked independently at a profit; dealing with land and re-selling improved holdings caused loss, 1457-8.—Tenanted land not wanted outside congested areas unless for purpose of obtaining untenanted land on same estate, 1459.—Compulsory powers wanted for land in congested areas as well as outside, 1460.—They would not necessarily mean increase of annual loss, more land would not be purchased than could be dealt with, and such land could be bought as would lead to an annual profit, 1461.—Vast bulk of land at present owned was tenanted; money lost on re-sale of land, 1462.—Board would have option of purchasing estate or leaving it; unless landlord sold fair proportion of untenanted land, Board could refuse to declare it an estate, and landlord could not get bonus, 1463.—Board had power, concurrent with power of Estates Commissioners, in dealing with their own estates to declare property to be an estate, 1464-7, 1468.—Power originally meant to apply to estates sold direct by landlord to tenant, and prevent sale of small uneconomic holdings and retention of untenanted lands, 1167.—No danger of Board buying untenanted land off estate and leaving tenanted, unless holdings were already economic, when there would be no necessity to buy, 1169-70.—Friction would be created if tenants were brought from a distance to settle on land when there were uneconomic holdings in neighbourhood, 1171.

Migration and Land Problem.

People on coast could not be reached by land operations unless migrated, their hope lay in fisheries, 1474-5.—Board's work would be to improve industries and other resources for people whose land hopeless, coast people derived something from land, 1476.—Land unimprovable in some districts, 1477.—Other things must be looked to to improve their lot, 1478.—Industries could not be developed for people to reach satisfactory condition, if they did not emigrate they must migrate, they would probably lose their dislike to it, 1479-85, 1491.—Expense of migration would fall on Board, 1486.—Therefore those cases were not really excluded from Board's work, 1487, 1490.—Land would never be vacated altogether, 1488.—Even in South Connemara, where there was no such thing as agriculture, 1489.—Board had reached 15,000 tenants already, large number of these still had uneconomic holdings, which Board hoped to enlarge in time, 1490.

If holdings on coasts whose occupants were engaged in fishing were deducted from the 98,000 to be dealt with their number would be exceeded by the uneconomic holdings in unscheduled areas, 1491-2.—Number of holdings on Dillon estate had become economic through reclamation, 1493.—Large portion of holdings in West of Ireland might be similarly improved under auspices of Board after re-sale, 1494-5.—By improved methods of agriculture value could be increased by half or even doubled, 1496.—Problem of improving not co-extensive with that of increasing 98,000 holdings, £14,000,000 worth of land very outside estimate, 1497.

Many small occupiers in unscheduled areas, 1498.—9,000 occupiers in County Mayo under £8 valuation, three-fourths of which were under £4 valuation, live in electoral division, which did not answer to definition of congested, 1500.

Relations of Congested Districts Board with Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

Relations of Congested Districts Board with Irish Agricultural Organisation Society shown from extracts from Board's minutes:—On consideration of advancement of co-operative dairying by Sir Horace Plunkett £250 voted towards promoting objects of Society in congested districts; account to be taken of action of Society when grant of £200 had been paid; £250 to be paid for training organisers and to promoting co-operative dairying in congested districts; loan of £200 granted to establish creamery at Aughadown; £500 voted for purchase and re-sale of seeds; Agricultural Organisation Society asked to carry out project, and £200 voted for their expenses in executing

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scheme; this was rescinded, and £500 granted to be used through Agricultural Department of Land Commission apart from Society's work; £25 granted for organisation of Agricultural Co-operative Society with object of developing egg and poultry industry; further grant for salary of expert egg packer and sorter; loan of £100 for capital expenditure of proposed Society.—It was thought work of agricultural branch of Board and Irish Agricultural Society should be independent; £200 granted to Society for organisation of Agricultural Co-operative Societies in congested districts on lines indicated in scheme in previous minute; in 1896 Board refused to make grant that would put them in the position of joining in executive work of any co-operative society; request for grant to I.A.O.S. for expenses in connection with sale of seeds and manures refused in 1897; £100 granted to Society in October, 1897 for organising agricultural credit societies as banks on condition that organiser was not employed on other work for Society while so engaged; £2,555 12*s.* 11*d.* paid to Society for organising and inspecting agricultural banks and co-operative societies; loans of £400 to Skibbereen Co-operative Dairy Company, and £50 to Kilasser Co-operative Society, the only ones made, and they had been re-paid.—Irish section of Co-operative Union of Stores started before I.A.O.S.; subsidy given by Co-operative Union of £200 or £300 a year; agricultural co-operation found more useful than stores; Union's subsidy stopped and I.A.O.S. started; Irish section of Union amalgamated with Scotch, and organisation of stores in North of Ireland carried on under Scottish Branch; Irish section would soon have to be re-started if it was not done already.—I.A.O.S. established many village libraries; in 1902 Board made grants of £3 to eighteen of these; Department of Agriculture subsequently took that business over, and Board made several grants through them, 1501.

Congestion in County Leitrim.

Population of Leitrim no longer within definition of congested, because it was reduced by emigration—not because of improvement in condition, 1502.—Poor rates struck before, and since Local Government Act could not be compared; ratio of number of persons in workhouses and population almost stationary; cost of maintenance and outdoor relief increased, 1502-3.

Emigration not promoted by the Board.

Board was created for aiding migration or emigration, 1504.—They decided at the beginning not to assist emigration, 1505-6.—They never suggested it to the people, who knew they could go if they had the money, 1507-9.—Board sometimes bought farms from people who had no able-bodied men to work them, and who intended to emigrate and join their families, 1509.—Sale of holdings gave the means to emigrate; Board never gave grant, 1510.—Emigration never taken up as part of Board's policy, 1511.

Documents put in by Mr. F. W. D. Mitchell.

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O'BRIEN, Mr. J. R.

CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF BOARD.

Congested Districts Board constituted under section 34 of Act of 1891. Board consisted of ten members, two, Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary *ex-officio*, five appointed by the Crown, three temporary, also appointed by the Crown. Board to continue twenty years from 5th August, 1891, and thereafter till Parliament should otherwise determine. Lord Lieutenant empowered to direct officers of Land Commission to discharge secretarial and other duties, officers for the purpose being added to permanent staff of Land Commission in order that they might get pension; employment under the Board a temporary body not carrying right to pension. Land Commission having claimed right to recommend officers to be transferred, these provisions were repealed by Act of 1894, which empowered Lord Lieutenant, with Treasury sanction, to authorise Board to appoint officers, every officer except Secretary and Under Secretary, to be selected by open competition according to Civil Service Commissioners' regulations.—Temporary officers appointed by Board without reference to Lord Lieutenant. Salaries, &c., of officers and administrative expenses of Board were to be fixed by the Treasury and paid out of moneys provided by Parliament. When Board's increasing work required additional officials Treasury contended that salaries of inspectors and other outdoor officials and legal expenses of Board should be paid out of Board's annual income.—Expenses of indoor staff only were placed on Parliamentary vote up to 1894 of outdoor staff, bringing total contribution from Parliamentary votes up to £9,300 a year.—In 1899 grant of £25,000 a year was made in lieu of £9,300 on condition that for any sum assigned out of grant for administrative purposes, Board should contribute from its other resources a sum equal to one-half. Arrangement with Agricultural Department of Land Commission in 1891 that they should carry out such agricultural operations as Board might delegate to them; salaries of agricultural staff of Land Commission charged to Land Commission vote at first; Board subsequently agreed to pay salaries of three clerks engaged solely on their business, 1513.

STAFF OF BOARD.

In 1897 Board took over their Agricultural business and a portion of clerical staff of Land Commission, Mr. Porter's services continuing to be at Board's disposal. Mr. Porter was transferred to Department of Agriculture in 1900 and continued to act for the Board till 1904, when some of Board's agricultural work with outdoor, and most of clerical staff, was taken over by Department, 1513.

EXPENDITURE ON PIERS, BOATSLIPS, ETC.

In 1893 Board, with Treasury approval, allocated £50,000 out of Fishery Loan Funds to be expended on piers, boatslips, &c., 1513, 1515.—Fund originally a charitable fund; transferred to Board in 1891, 1514-5.

Hon. Mr. Parsons appointed by Board as their engineer, with four resident engineers in charge of districts under him. Mr. Parsons' services dispensed with in 1896; services of two resident engineers dispensed with shortly after; Mr. F. T. G. Gahan continued to act as general inspector till he become land inspector; Mr. C. J. Oliver became engineer to the Board. In 1905 Mr. Oliver and his staff were transferred to Department of Agriculture. Present administrative staff consisted of indoor staff (permanent), secretary, assistant secretary and accountant, chief clerk, first-class clerk, four third-class clerks, two assistant clerks, one solicitor, sixty-three (temporary) clerks.—Outdoor staff (temporary), chief land inspector, assistant chief land inspector, four land inspectors, two land valuers, seven land inspector's clerks, inspector of industries, superintendent of fisheries, five local agents, engineer.—Temporary staff employed, and their salaries and expenses provided for under head of management and supervision of estates; fifteen clerks of works, chief surveyor, thirteen surveyors, nine paymasters, grazing stock manager, 1516.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

Cost of administration should not be measured by Board's fixed income; Board received and paid a large amount of money in small sums, 1517.—£60,000 received from small tenants last year, 1517, 1521-4.—Administrative expenses now about £31,000, including law costs and staff in the country, 1518.

LOANS FROM BOARD OF WORKS.

Congested Districts Board could borrow up to £10,000 from Board of Works, and utilise loan up to two-thirds in issuing loans to small tenants, 1527.

Congested Districts Board collected interest on loans from tenants, 1528.

TOTAL RECEIPTS.

Sum received in interest on loans, repayment of loans, rents, &c. last year was £80,000, 1519. £123,000 included other receipts besides those for rents and repayments and loans by Board of Works, 1524A-6.—On fishery loans Board got in about £8,000 a year in small sums, 1526.—Gross annual receipts of Board £256,749, 1517.—Included everything except cash received from Land Commission for guaranteed land stock lodged for redemption of advances under Land Act of 1896, 1529-30.—Report giving total annual receipts as £238,000 was for 1905; witness's figures for 1906, 1531-4.

GUARANTEES FOR PAYMENT OF PURCHASE ANNUITIES.

Security for advances under Land Purchase Act was first the charge on the land, which included interest of both landlord and tenant, leaving in most cases a margin equivalent to value of tenant right, 1537.—Secondly, guarantee given by Board as charge on their income for payment of annual instalments, 1537-8.—Board's interest on Church Surplus Grant was formerly part of guarantee fund, but was freed by Act of 1903, 1539.—Guarantee was a continuing but reducing liability, 1540-1.—Thirdly, guarantee fund created under 5th section of Act of 1891, 1541, 1544.—Fund varied from year to year; at time of passing of Act of 1903 it was estimated at £3,000,000, 1542—Fund consisted of cash portion and contingent portion, Irish Probate Duty Grant, and £40,000 paid out of consolidated fund as imperial contribution, were paid yearly to cash portion, 1544.—Contingent portion consisted of rates and contributions in lieu of rates on Government property in Ireland; grants for national education and industrial schools, salaries of schoolmasters and mistresses, and of medical officers of workhouses, cost of medical and surgical appliances in Ireland, and contribution in aid of maintenance of lunatics in connection with district asylums, 1544.—All of which were sums contributed out of Imperial funds, 1545.—Act of 1903 removed from fund the Board's income of £41,250, and put in agricultural grant made under Local Government Act of 1898, representing £727,655 a year, and development grant of £185,000; sum of £70,000 payable to Department of Agriculture also added to fund, which made at time of introduction of Land Bill of 1903 a total sum of about £3,000,000; cash portion consisted of public grants amounting to £239,886 paid to local authorities in relief of rates generally, and including the £5,000 a year formerly paid to Royal Dublin Society and the £40,000 a year called Exchequer contribution paid to local authorities; contingent portion included grant of £78,000 a year formerly payable to National Board of Education, now part of endowment of Department of Agriculture, Intermediate Education Grant of £57,240 a year, rates on Government property £48,045 a year, national schools, £1,166,500, industrial schools, £97,124, grants in relief of local taxation, £211,573 and £79,000, 1546.—These sums amounted to about £3,000,000; sixty times this sum represented capital of £180,000,000; thirty times

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a capital of £90,000,000, which was the guarantee to the State for advances for special purposes; the £3,000,000 represented an annuity which would pay off the entire debt of £9,000,000 for land purchase in sixty-eight and a half years, including both interest and sinking fund, 1545.—Maximum sum that could be advanced under the Act was £180,000,000; without Treasury sanction, £90,000,000, 1546.—Guarantee fund apportioned between the counties, multiplying share of a county by thirty gave borrowing powers of that county, 1546.—Limit had not been reached in a congested districts county, 1548-9.—Board now in same position as Land Commission as regarded drawing against the fund, 1547, 1549.

QUORUM OF THE BOARD.

Three members of Board, not including temporary members, formed a quorum, any act of the Board might be certified under hands of three members, 1550.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Elaborate survey and statistics obtained for congested districts, report gave for each district information as to industries and occupations of the people, fisheries as well as industries, 1551, 1553.—Matters discussed by Mr. Micks in connection with "little budgets" were part of inquiry, 1552.—Local rates not shown in report, 1554-7.—Witness had taken some extracts from Local Taxation Reports, 1558.—Emigration of whole families not included in report, 1560.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOARD.

Cost of clerical staff was about 2½ per cent. on amount of rent collected, 1562, 1564.—Outdoor staff more expensive than clerical staff, 1563.—Total sum administered by Board, £256,000, actual administration expenses, £31,000, 1564-5.—Total turnover was roughly, £500,000, 1567, 1570.—Administrative expenses about 6 per cent., 1568-9, 1571.—£30,504 included all heads of administration, 1572.

VALUATION AND POPULATION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Area of congested districts, 3,626,382 acres, valuation, £577,043, population in 1901, 505,723, number of electoral divisions scheduled, 429; electoral divisions situated in forty-eight Poor Law Unions and eight counties, excluding County Clare; six of the Poor Law unions, Glenties and Dunfanaghy in Donegal, Belmullet in Mayo, Oughterard in Galway, Cahirciveen in Kerry, and Castletown in Cork were wholly congested, 1578.—Valuation per head 30*s.* and over in 118 electoral divisions in scheduled area, 1578-9.—Thirty-one of these were specially scheduled by Lord Lieutenant in 1892, increase in valuation in remaining eighty-seven divisions mainly due to decrease in population by emigration, population might decrease while valuation remained stationary altering ratio without any real improvements, 1579, 1587-8; any variation in valuation in congested districts which could only be small, would be due to buildings, 1579-80.—Or to decrease in population, 1580.

EMIGRATION.

Emigration meant a drain on a district, it was the young people who went, 1581, 1597.—When old people died the farm would be taken up by younger people if there were any, 1598-604.—Young men were often migratory labourers and loss of their assistance was serious, 1605-8, 1613-4, 1616.—Migration was different, Board could not migrate individuals, only families, 1609-10.—Receipts of emigration much less than receipts of migration to England, 1614-5.—Continued emigration of young and strong was bound to tell unfavourably on stamina of the population, 1617-22.

QUESTION OF RE-VALUATION.

Return handed in gave population as well as variation in valuation, it gave particulars for Censuses from 1881-1901, 1582-6.—Ratio of population to valuation adopted as basis for definition of congestion was open to criticism, very poor community might be excluded if a good grazing were situated in same electoral division, 1589-90.—Valuation remained same as at Griffith's valuation, 1591.—Date of Valuation Act, 1592.—Value of land did increase under operations of Congested Districts Board, re-valuation needed to give the whole of the facts, 1593-6.—Very easy to dispose of grass lands to returned emigrants or sons of solvent farmers, but that was not the function of the Board, 1611-2.—Witness understood that there were difficulties in the way of re-valuation, he knew report of Committee of House of Commons, 1623-6.—Witness was not aware of any loss on the Dillon estate, 1626-7.—Board had hoped to dispose of the house and the sporting rights, 1629.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Parish Committee scheme started in 1897 to encourage small holders to improve their holdings and dwellings by means of prizes and small grants, scheme confined for first year to Swinford Union, 159 Committees now operating, 34 in Donegal, 22 in Leitrim, 10 in Sligo, 44 in Mayo, 8 in Roscommon, 16 in Galway, 17 in Kerry, 8 in Cork. Total amount of grants to Committees up to 31 March, 1906, £40,576; each Committee appointed its own supervisor subject to Board's approval except in Donegal, supervisors usually paid a lump sum for the season representing about 10 per cent. on grant, Committee paying half out of grant, Board paying other half; in Donegal supervisors were engaged throughout year at £1 5*s.* a week with 7*s.* 6*d.* a week bicycle allowance, whole of parishes in county being divided among six supervisors; during six years ending 31st March, 1906, 16,333 grants or prizes amounting to £29,159 were paid, value of work done being estimated at £132,913; grants or prizes were given for erection or improvement of dwelling-houses or out-offices, making and repairing drains and fences, making or improving accommodation roads and miscellaneous works, 1630-1.—£44,860 estimated cost of works to dwelling-houses, 1632.—Discrepancy between witness's figures and those of Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Mitchell excluded Donegal, 1632-5.

SANITARY WORK AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

In regard to question raised as to whether Committees were doing work sanitary officers were paid to do, it was useless to insist on removal of cattle from dwelling-houses till out-offices were provided, but when Board had enabled people to build the offices sanitary officers could act effectively, 1635-9.—Sanitary officers' duties not confined to looking after dwelling-houses, 1643.—Salary about £10 a year, 1646.—Clerk of the union and others besides, all received salaries for putting in force Public Health Acts, 1645.—They only acted on sanitary officers' report, 1646.—Two schemes in operation, grant system in Mayo and all counties except Donegal where prize scheme had been adopted and successfully worked, 1640, 1642.—Grant system worked well in early stages, it was hoped that it would develop into prize system, 1641.—Operations not confined to Board's own estates, 1647.—They might be doing what was done elsewhere by landlords and tenants themselves—kind of improvement effected meant very small expenditure and would not affect rents to any appreciable extent, 1649-52.—Expenditure was borne by Board, scheme carried out by local people subject to general supervision of office and inspectors, 1653.—No difficulty as a rule in getting local Committee, there was an increased demand for grants, 1654.—No grant given unless people gave labour, 1655.—Grant often for materials for which cash had to be paid, 1656.—All labour done by people themselves, 1657.—Scheme had a great educational effect, 1658-60.—And it was a great advantage for children to grow up in better houses, 1659.

LOANS.

Loans for agricultural purposes number up to present 718 amounting to £13,882; 28, amounting to £257 for bee-keeping appliances, 259 amounting to £3,187 for purchase of live stock, 127 amounting to £1,603 for erection and improvement of houses and out-offices, 153 fencing loans for £1,858, mostly in Donegal, £200 advanced for erection of creamery, £17 for a hand separator, 8 loans amounting to £56 for purchase of boats for agricultural purposes, one of £25 for egg development, £20 for spraying machine, 9 loans amounting to £104 for fines for purchase of tenants' interest total loans for agricultural banks amounted to £6,555, of which about £6,000 was at present outstanding, 1662.—£10 only written off, some difficulty in getting money in case of fishery loans, 1663-6. —Considerable arrears in some cases on Connemara coast, £2,373 written off on large, £214 on small loans.—Rate of interest 2½ to 3½ per cent., 1663. —The £13,884 was not all outstanding now, 1666. —Cash found partly out of Board of Works' loans, 1667-8.—Board could borrow from Board of Works up to two-thirds of amount lent on house improvement scheme, 1667.—Board of Works' loans only applicable to certain purposes, part of them already paid back, 1669.—Interest charged had gone up from 2¾ to 3½ per cent., Board charged at same rate as they borrowed, 1670-3.

Creamery loan was made to a co-operative society, it had been paid back, 1674-5.—It was made through Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, 1676. —Loans for live stock restricted to Board's own tenants, two securities required, 1678.—Loans would be made for purchase of stock in case of enlarging holdings, loans confined to migrants and to tenants whose holdings had been substantially enlarged, 1679.—Loans not made to very poor people, risk too great in absence of live stock insurance scheme, 1680.—Term of redemption for loans for agricultural purposes and fencing, five to ten years, Board had ceased to deal with fencing loans since agricultural work was transferred to the Department, 16824.—Maintenance had to be left to tenants, 1684.—Loans for live stock given for three to five years, 1685.—Measures taken for inspection of cattle, 1686.

Loans to Agricultural Banks.

Loans made to seventy-two agricultural banks, amounts varying from £50 to £100, 1687.—Banks composed of local people directly interested in district; Board had made loans to extent of £6,000; amount locally deposited was about the same, 1688.—Most banks successful; Board had no loss, 1690, 1693-4.—Banks had been in operation since 1898; at present sixty-seven had loans from the Board, 1691-2, 1698.—£6.000 set apart for loans to banks, 1694.—Loans were applied chiefly to purchase of live stock and various needs in connection with agricultural work, 1695.—Board worked in connection with Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; Society allotted special officers for the work; Board paid their share of expense; work of banks closely supervised, 1695.—Banks merely distributed Board's grants, 1696.—In some cases they got advances from joint stock banks, 1697.—Total working capital, apart from accommodation given by joint stock banks, was about £12,000; Board had provided £6,400; £6,000 was locally contributed, 1699-700.—In some cases local deposits were made by non-members, 1701.—Joint stock banks allowed an overdraft, as much as £700 in one case, 1702-3.—Some objected to make these advances where agricultural banks received local deposits, 1703.—Very little overlapping between Board, Agricultural Department, and Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, 1704-6.—Rate of interest charged to borrowers varied; 5 per cent. was usual, 1710, 1719-20.—Ten per cent. the outside limit, 1720.—Board charged only 3½ per cent. on loan, 1711-2.—Balance-sheets, etc., checked by Agricultural Society's officers, audited by qualified auditor, etc., and sent on to Board every year, 1695, 1714-5.—Banks were in places where ordinary joint stock banks were not convenient or where there was a class of people who would not get the ordinary accommodation, 1716. —Joint and several liability on each member, 1717.—Advances could only be made to members, 1718.

Fishery Loans.

Two systems of loans for fishery purposes; "share" and loan systems, 1721.—Two boats of Scotch "zulu" type sent to Teelin in autumn of 1896 and given to local crews on "Donegal Share" system; crew of each boat consisted of six men under charge of Scotch instructors; earnings divided into nine shares, of which Board took three; those three placed at first to credit of cost of boat and gear, but after first year one of the three was credited to cost of instruction; experiment was so successful that more boats of same type were purchased and given to local crews on similar terms; at present Board retained four-ninths of earnings, three shares going to sinking fund; five to crews, interest at three per cent. being charged on outstanding balances; 2½ per cent. deducted from earnings and credited to cost of management; 73 boats supplied up to the present to Donegal fishermen on the "share" system; they had been worked by 100 different crews, policy being to encourage experienced crews to take new boat, transferring old ones at a valuation to inexperienced crews; cost of the seventy-three boats, including fishing gear and upkeep, was £27,500; total earnings, including this summer's fishings, £62.840; amount paid to crews, £39,700; amount placed to credit of sinking fund, £17,120; to instruction, £5.285; and to management, £735; six boats had become property of crews; four were wrecked, loss to Board being £265; sixty-three boats still in Board's hands; outstanding balances amounting to £5,660; value of boats and nets which were kept in good order and condition and were insured was considerably more than balances still payable.—In summer herring fishery at Downing's Bay and Teelin, 1906, fifty-five of Board's boats took part; total earnings for six weeks being £4,650, or £84 10*s.* per boat; amount paid to crews, £2,662, or average of £48 to each crew of six, which worked out at £8 per man, or £1 6*s.* 8*d.* per week for the season; one boat earned £302, or £4 10*s.* per week for each man for the season; one other earned £251; eight over £150 each; nine between £100 and £150; eight earned less than £10 each. 1722.

In autumn and winter herring fishery at Downing's Bay and Kincaslagh, fifty-eight boats earned £10,500, an average of £180 per boat; amount paid to crews £6,110, equal to £105 per crew, or £17 10*s.* for each man, being at rate of £1 7*s.* per week for season of thirteen weeks. Total sum credited to sinking fund, £3.355; to instruction, £810; to management, £220; eleven boats fished without instructors; cost of instructors for remaining forty-seven boats about £600, after deducting amount credited out of earnings; earnings of the several boats varied from £473 to £4; two earned over £400; two between £300 and £400; twenty between £200 and £300; fourteen between £100 and £200; rest less than £100 each. Twenty-five boats of "Nobbie" type had been supplied to Galway and Mayo fishermen on "Galway and Mayo Share" system; three additional boats of same class sent for use as instruction boat; total cost of the twenty-eight boats was £11,000; total earnings, £10,000; payments to crews out of earnings, £4.264, in addition to advances for "grub money," which amounted to £2.553 in Connemara; six shillings a week "grub money" was advanced to each member of crew, loss falling on Board in a bad season; results of system so unsatisfactory that Board decided to sell boats under loan system; twenty share boats and one instruction boat sold at prices amounting to £3,046, less than amount outstanding on share accounts; deficiency was being written off against instruction in fishing; five share boats remained on hands; outstanding balances amounting to £1,591; two still worked as instruction boats.—Twenty-one yawls supplied to crews in Galway and Mayo to be worked on Donegal share system; cost of boats fully equipped, £1,187; earnings, £2,075, of which crews received £1,380; Board retained £154 for instructors' services; balance of £541 was applied in reduction of amounts due from crews, leaving balance of £457 still outstanding; two yawls were wrecked, loss to Board being £52; further loss of £65, when four crews were dismissed and yawls sold on loan system, 1722.—Loans amounting to £82,064 made since June, 1893, for purchase of boats and fishing gear at 2½ per cent. interest; time allowed for repayment varying, according to amount of loan, from two to eight years, principal and interest being repayable in half-yearly instalments; £46.778 advanced for purchase of 176 boats, costing over £40 each; £35.275 for smaller boats and gear; number of loan accounts now open, 1,875, including 89 large boat cases; total sum written off was £2.587; arrears, £5,053; bad debts and arrears related almost entirely to large

O'BRIEN, Mr. J. R.—*continued.*

boats' accounts, 1723-4.—Principally in respect of County Galway loans, Carna and Aran districts accounting for £3,576, 1724-7.—Size of boats varied; typical case of an Aran boat was where loan would amount to £500 for a 36-foot "Nobby"; it was too big a capital for poor people where fishing was not steady, 1728-9, 1742, 1747.—Loss often fell on Board if fishing failed, because sureties might be small holders, not good for the amount, unless their holdings were sold out, 1746.—Casual nature of fishing and poverty of the people made it impossible for them to accumulate capital; a man like a shopkeeper could provide capital, 1749-50.—Aran fishing very poor of late; fish came in late, or weather prevented fishing, and prices dropped, 1730-5.—There had been some difficulty in getting a merchant to go there, 1736.—Boats could not go out when it was stormy; they fished from a particular port near home, 1737-9.—Fishings always variable, particularly on Connemara coast; it had been very good on Donegal side, 1740-1.—Loss very small on small boats, unless there was a wreck, 1742A.—Insurance scheme recently started, but it was voluntary, and many boats had not come in yet; premium was three per cent., 1743.—In Scotland fishermen insured at less than three per cent. with satisfactory results, 1744.—Loans for gear particularly risky, but people had not capital to supply gear themselves, 1746, 1748-9.

LOANS FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKS.

Total number of loans made by Board for industrial work was 716, amounting to £20,851; in 1893 Board lent £7,000 for enlargement, etc., of buildings and fitting up of industrial school at Foxford for development of weaving industry, and £3,000 to Ballaghaderreen Industrial School for development of knitting and shirt-making industries at 2½ per cent. to be repaid by fixed half-yearly instalments spread over eighteen years; extended to twenty-eight years in case of Ballaghaderreen School; Board amply secured by mortgage on lands and premises in County Dublin; instalments regularly paid; amounts outstanding, £2,183 for Foxford; £1,774 for Ballaghaderreen, 1754-6.—Other loans—Eighty-eight for weaving looms, amounting to £605; 255 for knitting machines and spinning wheels, amounting to £674; 198 for carpenters' tools, amounting to £198; 150 for barrel-making materials supplied to Cork and Kerry coopers, amounting to £6,252; 23 for miscellaneous purposes, amounting to £3,121; interest 2½ to 3½ per cent.; present rate 3½; total amount written off, £153, 1756.—Two sureties taken for small loans, 1757.—Straw bottle envelope industry at Kiltyclogher, County Leitrim, a failure; Board wrote off £64 12*s*. out of a loan of £200, 1758-63.

BOARD'S CLAIM TO SHARE OF IRISH NATIONAL FUNDS.

Board was created to deal with exceptional conditions in certain especially poor and backward districts; therefore any funds given to Board should be in addition to those applicable to Ireland generally; legislation, however, had tended to exclude congested districts from sharing in funds originally applicable to all Ireland, 1764-5.—Board's income at present, £41,250, interest on Irish Church Surplus Grant; £20,000 Ireland Development Grant; £61,250 total Irish funds; also £25,000 Parliamentary vote; advance made to Board for purchase of estates simply secured by Irish funds; entire loss of floating necessary stock charged to Irish, not Imperial funds; bonus for vendor provided for out of savings on cost of administration in Ireland; instances of unfair treatment of congested districts were (*a*) repeal of section 20 of Arrears of Rent Act, 1882, and of section 12 of Tramways and Public Companies Act, 1883, 1765, 1773-6.—(*b*.) Residue of Exchequer contribution of £40,000 a year, out of which reserve fund was built up under section 5 of Act of 1891 was to be paid to poor law unions towards the cost of labourers' cottages; in many unions containing congested districts

Labourers' Acts were practically inoperative, and under provisions of Labourers' Act of last session any unissued balance of grants was to be transferred to unions which had put up the Acts in operation; loss entailed was considerable, £9,558 for Mayo, £5,131 for Galway, £2,933 for Sligo, 1765.—Ratepayers in congested districts could not see their way to make fresh charge on rates to provide cottages, 1766-7.—Where Labourers Acts were worked, a number of small holdings had been added to unions which were uneconomic in the sense that no one could live on them, 1778-9A.—Cottages were subsidiary to demand for labour, 1780-1.—Plots were scarcely holdings; cottages were usually substituted for old insanitary cottages, and did not as a rule increase number of uneconomic holdings, 1782-6.—Acts practically inoperative except in Kerry and Cork, where considerable number had been erected, 1787-9.—No way of showing to what extent operative in congested areas, 1788.—In some cases a shilling rate had been struck for cottages, 1789.—Rich people would pay larger proportion than the poor, 1790-1.—Parliamentary return showed amount of each union, congested and non-congested, rateable valuation per head, last poor rate struck, number of cottages built and poundage rate struck for provision of cottages in each rural district, 1787, 1792.—(*c*.) Department of Agriculture had an income of £166,000, £78,000 from local taxation, £70,000 from Irish Church Surplus Fund, £12,000 from equivalent of salaries of Irish judgeships, £6,000 equivalent of expenses of Glasnevin and Munster institutions, and in addition capital sums of £19,890 and £166,886, no part of which funds could be applied for benefit of congested districts; congested districts also deprived of share in annual sum of £5,000 paid to Royal Dublin Society for improvement of horses and cattle; Act of 1903 repealed provisions of Act of 1899 prohibiting Department from expending their funds in congested districts, but Department claimed that they should have additional funds to spend in congested districts, as their present income was intended for benefit of non-scheduled areas, and was not enough for both, 1768.—Under Probate Duties (Scotland) Act of 1888, £30,000 was allotted as annual grant in relief of local taxation in highlands and islands; grant reduced to £10,000 on objection raised in Parliament that exceptional relief to highland counties should be an imperial charge, 1768-72.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS REQUIRED SPECIAL TREATMENT.

Congested districts required special treatment; considerable amount of illiteracy shown in last Census report, 1793.—Rates very heavy in poor unions and valuation low, 1794-6.—General adjustment of grants given in aid of local taxation would be of great assistance, 1797.

Grant of £10,000 by Department of Agriculture towards cost of providing seed potatoes came from the endowment fund; witness did not know from what source interest was defrayed, 1798-803.

Board had £1,300,000 worth of property now in hands, 1805; witness did not know how long it would take to get rid of it if funds asked for were not provided, 1806.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTION.

Present definition of congestion unsatisfactory; Board should have discretionary power to schedule, 1807-10, 1812, 1822.—By electoral divisions, 1813; and a corresponding power to resign areas now scheduled, 1883.—Dillon estate not yet ready to be discharged from schedule; many holdings still required help, 1824.—There were a number of holdings below £8 valuation, 1827-8.—Witness had always contemplated that most of these poor estates would want help for some time after disposal under Purchase Act, 1825.—Perhaps for a generation, 1826.

Cowper Report defined congested district as one where land was inferior; not good enough for pasturage and not naturally adapted for profitable agriculture; occupied by large number of poor people holding at small rents; each separate holding being not of itself capable of supporting holder and a family, 1814-9.—More a description than a definition, 1820-1.

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It would take a considerable time to get rid of congestion, even if Board got all the funds it asked for, 1811.

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O'HARA, Rev. DENIS.

Poverty in West of Ireland.

In the year 1880 after failure of potato crop, great distress prevailed in West of Ireland, if it had not been for charitable funds many people would have died of starvation, 3522, 3650-4.—Poor Law relief was limited to those who had only a certain amount of land, 3653.

Spraying.

Spraying was work of the new Department, 3524.—It was not practised until long after 1879, 3525.—People in witness's parish were first to take it up; if spraying had been recommended more strongly and earlier, a great deal might have been done to prevent blight, 3523.—Poorer class of tenants with valuations under £2 and £4, sprayed regularly, 3532 —Work generally done by women while men were in England, 3532.—But they did not get such a good crop as better class of farmers owing to poverty of land, 3533.—Spraying more effectively done by machines than by brooms, 3534-5.—Necessary to get at under portion of leaf, 3537.—More effective spraying was done in dry weather, 3548.—If people sprayed properly and a proper number of times they would get as a rule a fairly good crop on good land, 3539-40.—Failure of potato crop this year was in great measure owing to good crop last year, people were unwilling to invest in spraying materials and let things take their chance, 3544, 4487.—Seed had nothing to do with it, 3545.—It was climate alone, 3546.—Blight existed in South where they had rotation of crops, but not to same extent, 3547.—If people were satisfied spraying was best thing, there would be no grievance in enforcing compulsory spraying, 3541. —Without compulsion Board had induced people to improve their houses by giving prizes, 3543.—Compulsory powers not always effectual, as had been shown by sanitary inspectors who were unable to carry out improvements, if police were appointed sanitary authorities in a few years there would be a great improvement, 3542.

Potato Failure.

Connaught suffered more from blight this year* than any other part of Ireland, on fresh land only they had good potatoes, 3526, 3531.—Smallest holdings suffered most, land was starved out and had no resisting power, 3526.—People had used black mud as manure which destroyed the land, too poor to keep cattle to produce manure, 3527.—Many districts in rundale, 3527.—No rotation of crops, only potatoes and oats, 3528-9.—Bad system of agriculture, 3531.—In Swinford 3,000 holdings under £2 valuation and 5,500 under £4; holdings were so small people could not manage rotation, 3531.—Lately grass had been tried in some districts, 3530.—"Small" farmer meant one who could not live on his holding under any conditions, 3549-50.—Uneconomic holding was one which could not support an industrious man with an average family, 3551.—Small holdings could rear a cow, but it would be so bad that a goat would do as well, 3555.

Dietary.

Potatoes were sole support of small farmers, 3552, 3554.—In witness's parish in 1878-9 there were not half a dozen families who eat meat once a month, 3552.—Most people then did not eat meat once a year, 3612.—Standard of living had improved in congested districts during last twenty years, 3613-4, 4221.—Blight affected quality of potatoes and in bad year caused disease among people, 3615.—Potatoes were a good food if people had Indian meal as well, 3616-7.—Salt and Indian meal without milk not sufficient food, 3553.

Amount spent on Relief.

Relief Committees had to be formed every four or five years when there was not enough food of any sort, 3618, 4217.—If the amount of money that had been spent in the West since 1879 on relief of distress, had been properly administered it would have set people on their feet again, 3618, 3622, 3727.—In one year Mr. Balfour expended £1,500,000, 3623.—But no permanent effect resulted, 3624.—Witness suggested Commission should get particulars of total amount expended by Government on relief works in the West since 1879, 3622-3, 4217, 4222-3.

Improvability of Dillon Estate.

Conditions could be improved if land were better managed, most of the holdings on Dillon estate might be made economic, 3556, 3627-8, 3632, 3641-2.—Witness's remarks referred to Ballaghadereen alone, 3557, —Drainage scheme most important work for benefiting West of Ireland, 3629-31.—Then tenants were able to improve land themselves, 3634.—Dillon estate had been well drained, 3630.—Witness had great faith in a poor man's ability to make a living on his holding, however small, if he worked it properly, 3635-6.—No proper system of agriculture at present, but if people were instructed and given some help things in Connaught would improve, 3637.—Labourers from Dillon estate used to go to England, but when they became owners of homesteads, they tried to improve their land and stayed at home, 3638-9.—These holdings had fair areas of improvable land if these were brought into cultivation holdings would soon become economic, 3641, 3675.—But where holdings were much smaller nothing would make them economic, 3645.

Drink and Indebtedness.

Small tenants contracted debts for large amounts, 3571-3.—Mixing up consumption of spirits and business effected financial condition of people, they were in the grip of shopkeepers who supplied them with liquor, 3574-5.—Condition of people had improved immensely since they became owners of the land, 3576-7, 3581, 3586.—They spent less on drink and become more thrifty, 3577.—Tried to pay off debts and clear off loans, 3578-9, 3592, 3646-9, 3655, 3660.—Many men who owed money to bank in Ballaghadereen now had deposits, 3580.—Shopkeeper would be willing to allow tenant-purchaser to run up larger bill as he would have the land as security, 3648.—Legislation as a safeguard for the unthrifty would be a good thing, 3648, 3656.—So that shopkeeper could not recover beyond a certain amount, 3657-62.—Improved condition of tenant-purchasers would benefit labourers, they would get more wages and better food, 3584-6.—Country banks, Hibernian, National, etc., 3587-9.—Charged lower rate of interest for large sums to tenant-purchasers than to other borrowers, 3587, 3590, 3606.—General rate for small loans under £10 was 10 per cent., 3587, 3602-5, 3607-8.—Interest on credit allowed was not charged by better class of shopkeepers, 3593.—Peasant proprietors as soon as they could buy for cash got better value for their money, shopkeepers could sell at lower price for cash, 3594-601, 3601.—In Carna people paid 2*s.* per lb. for tea, which could be bought for 10*d.* or 1*s.*, 3597, 3610. —Unless they paid a high price they thought tea could not be good, 3598-9, 3611.

Most of the relief works except railways were unreproductive, 3625-6, 4217, 4232.—Roads to some extent were useful but cost more than they ought to, 4232-5.—If Government would spend on permanent improvements the amount they used to spend on relief works condition of people would improve and they would not require relief every four or five years, 4219, 4231.—Conditions in Aran Island and Clare Island had improved under management of Congested Districts Board, 4219.—And smallest landholders felt they were raised socially and would not ask for share in relief scheme, 4224-6.

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* 1906.

O'HARA, Rev. DENIS—*continued.*

DRAINAGE.

Drainage works would be better than roads or railways, they would have a lasting effect, 4237-8.—Board should undertake main drains before giving over land to tenants, 4244.—And there should be a law compelling tenants to maintain drains, 4244.—Witness was inclined to give this power to Rural Councils, 4254.—Where the area was large and several Rural Councils were concerned there should be a Court of Appeal, 4257.

OBLIGATION TO PAY RENT.

Tenants in the old days did not feel morally obliged to pay landlord arrears of rent, 3578, 3664, 3671.—Which were fixed at an exorbitant figure, 3675.—Tenants were forced to agree to landlord's price or leave the land altogether, 3678-80.—When rents were fixed in Land Courts of 1881 at a fair price tenants paid punctually, 3673-7.—Ownership of land was greatest security, 3665.—And inducement to tenant to pay his instalments, 3666.—If he failed to pay under Land Purchase Act ratepayers had to make up default, 3668-9.

PURCHASE OF COSTELLO ESTATE.

Condition of people began to improve when Costello property was purchased for tenants in 1883, 3683, 3689.—Feeling of ownership stimulated them to expend labour on land, 3731.—Costello property was bought under Act of 1881, for £25,000 (average eleven and a half years' purchase), and landlord gave in 3,000 acres of mountain and bog for nothing, 3683.—Tenants had to make up a quarter of purchase money, 290 tenants on estate and they could only raise £1,500 in cash, balance was borrowed at 6 per cent. from bank and guaranteed by two principal traders in Ballaghadereen, 3683, 3720.—The whole was repaid in seven years, 3684.—This was almost an unique case, 3715, 3721.—Land Commission had details of transaction, which would prove it was advantageous for tenants to make sacrifices to become purchasers, 3712-4.—Purchase price was governed by quality of soil, and it was not bought at low price, good land was cheap at any price, 3699, 3985.—Five-sixth of Irish land would be more valuable under tillage than grazing, 3986.—Tenants were always willing to give a fair price, 3723, 3874, 3984.—Land Commission refused to give the first price fixed and one years' purchase was taken off, 3700, 3718.—Owner of property was dissatisfied with reduction and case was brought up in Parliament, 3701.—Land was striped by landlord before the purchase, 3692.—Only additional striping was 3,000 acres of bog, 3693.—Striping increased value of land, slightly, 3697.—And was often means of raising rent out of all proportion to increased value, 3698.

DECADAL REDUCTIONS.

State only advanced three-quarters of purchase price and charged 4 per cent. for 49 years, 3704-6.—No decadal reductions, 3707.—When Ashbourne Act was passed tenants got benefit of decadal reductions, 3707, 3731.—Four in number, extending over 72½ years, 3709.—Repayment spread over 72½ years; worked out almost equal with present 68½ years, 3710-1.—Amount of annuity depended on length of period of redemption; question whether it was good policy to have large payment at the start, and smaller payment at end of term, 3729-30.

SOLUTION PROPOSED OF THE PROBLEM OF THE WEST.

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Mountain pasturage, objections to striping system as destroying grazing capacity of mountain, stripes not worth fencing, system introduced by landlords for purpose of squaring farms, system should be done away with and mearing made between top of mountain and arable land when owners could graze according to size of holdings by the stint; belt should be planted out of public funds between arable land and commonage, plantation would encourage tenants to plant, would improve appearance, shelter and climate, and would prepare a supply of fuel for time when peat was exhausted, 5259.—More quarrels and lawsuits from present system than where land would be grazed in common, stripes not worth the fencing needed to make them useful, 5260, 5275-6.—Plantation would benefit all alike and if one disagreeable person objected to it there should be power to compel him to accept it, 5261.—Everyone would have an amount of belt proportionate to his holding, 5262.—If Congested Districts Board purchased estates benefit of capital expended should not be given either to landlord or tenant, 5263.—It might be dangerous to change system in case of estates already sold, 5265, 5297.—Plantation should be under trustees of Congested Districts Board at any rate till trees were mature, 5266, 5270, 5271.—Gaps, as many as were convenient should be made and fenced to give access to commonage through plantation belt and there could be a road that would be common, 5271-2.—Additional cost would be something, not very much, 5273.—Donegal formerly very much planted, 5274.—Trees would grow at top of arable land, there would be enough shelter on face of mountain between pasture and arable land, 5277-8.—Witness did not say planting could be universally done, but it could be beneficially done in many cases, 5279.—Proposals confined to mountain not capable of any reclamation, 5280-3.—Nothing done hitherto because there was no one to do it, 5284.—Stint made and agreed to when mountains were in common, 5285.—Custom not much in use for last fifty years, 5286.—Making of improvements suggested should be a condition of purchase by Congested Districts Board, 5287.—Allotment of land justifiable only with arable land or reclaimable land and there was none on the mountains, 5289-90.

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Bog roads needed, very difficult to get anything done by County Councils because they wanted to keep down local rates, 5302-3, 5306.—Road-making and maintenance part of business of County Councils in Ireland, 5305.—Congested Districts Board had made one road in the barony, 5307.—But in general roads were paid for out of local rates, 5307-8.—Congested Districts Board might advantageously make bog roads for the general public out of public funds where no county roads existed, 5309-12.—Initial expenditure all that was asked for, County Councils would maintain roads as they did piers, if they considered them of public utility, 5313-23, 5328.—County Councils should be compelled to maintain roads no matter who made them, 5320, 5324-5.—Even when Congested Districts Board constructed a road, county authority made a shilling presentment, 5326-7.—Small bridges over rivulets needed to accommodate mountain holders and small holders, 5329-39.—Falask was a place in point, 5336.—Congested Districts Board should build such bridges and any further road they might think right, 5334-5.—Materials needed, stone, lime, planks or a little iron bridge, 5340.—People concerned would give labour gratis, 5341.

Parish Committees.

Improvements in houses and holdings due to prizes given by Parish Committee, £70 in prizes representing £700 worth of improvements, 5342, 5351-3, 5355-9.—Committee cost the public nothing, 5342-4.—Supervisors on Committee not employed by Committee, 5343.—Improvements could be seen three or four miles off at Sandrum, 5346, 5348-50.—Parish improvement scheme had been in operation five or six years in Buncrana, 5354.—Six parishes in union of Inishowen, expenditure for whole union £420, 5361-2.—Improvements mostly in dwelling-houses and approaches to dwelling-houses, 5363.—Sanitation not the greatest portion of improvements, 5367, 5376.—Salaries paid to sanitary officers, £105, 5364, 5368, 5371.—Sanitary officers could not compel the poor people to do what Parish Committee had encouraged them to do, 5374-6.—Sanitary officers had seen to removal of cattle from dwelling houses but never very effectually, 5375.—Grants for such improvements demoralizing, some of the people would not take them, 5379.—Prizes had no demoralizing effect, 5380.—Witness knew no other part of work of Congested Districts Board that had called out so much local co-operation, 5381-4, 5387.—Expenditure should be out of public funds where benefit was common to a number of people, 5385.—Not more than three or four years since first instalment for prizes was given, 5388.—Procedure under prize system, Committee took applications for works people intended to do, Congested Districts Board supplied rules and regulations as to expenditure of prize money, 5389.—Witness prepared to enforce law in regard to sanitation but encouragement given by Parish Committee would itself cause a great change, 5391-2—No part of Buncrana electoral division scheduled as congested district because number of buildings had raised the valuation, Turladale and Ballynarry district should be scheduled, 5346-7.

Boats.

Fishing industry of Inishowen needed encouragement, 5393.—People should be encouraged to get boats by subsidy of some kind which should be repaid, 5394, 5400.—Lough Swilly people had no large boats at present, 5400.—Industry needed encouragement, fishermen did not know enough to take the initiative, 5401-5.—Nothing had been done in the district so far as witness knew, 5406-7.

Piers and Boatslips—Fishing and Curing.

Piers and boatslips should be built from public funds, 5394.—Buncrana Pier required extension, 5395.—And there should be two or three harbours and slips between Buncrana and Donaree, and one at Newbridge, just opposite Buncrana, 5396.—Only three piers on Lough Swilly, public money would be well expended in making little harbours for small boats, 5399.—No blame attached to Congested Districts Board, 5407-8.—War Department to blame for not improving Buncrana Pier, 5409-10.—Local Committee

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to assist fishermen desirable, 5412-4.—No pier at present from Buncrana to Malin Head capable of giving shelter to fishing boats, 5415.—Large fishing fleet came into bay, 5416-7.—Principally Scotch boats, 5418.—Buncrana Pier used as quickest way of getting to a railway station, 5418.—Good deal of curing done for last few years, 5419.—Employment principally in foreign hands, 5420.—Position of Buncrana, advantage of proximity to railway station, 5421-2.—If the railway went further down Lough Swilly boats would still want the shelter of the harbour, 5423-5.—Pier which could be used by large boats would greatly stimulate fishing industry, 5427-9.—Depth of water eight or nine feet at lowest, twelve or fourteen at highest tide, 5430.—Development of cooperage and net-making industries would follow, but not unless they were subsidised, and the Congested Districts Board was the best Board to do it, 5431.

MULLIN, Mr. J. B.

Congestion. Uneconomic Holdings.

Buncrana was not scheduled as a congested district, but bordered on congested area, 5433, 5461, 5517, 5518.—As great congestion was to be found near Buncrana as in any other part of Donegal, 5433.—Average farms were too small and poor to support occupiers, 5433, 5447.—Horses necessary for work in the spring were unemployed during great part of the year, 5433.

Industries.

Additional employment for both men and women necessary, 5433.—Formerly shirt industry supplied this want, but now female home workers were idle half time, 5433.—Witness proposed establishment of knitting industry, woollen mill, or carpet factory, 5433, 5437.—Ample water supply at Buncrana for such industries, 5433.—Large mill, formerly used as spinning mill, now lying idle, might be rented, with water rights, 5433.—Congested Districts Board should start and assist industry, 5439-40.—Should be self-supporting in a short time, 5441.—Proposal had not been made to Congested Districts Board, but woollen mills started privately at Convoy and Spamount were very prosperous, 5442-5.—No private enterprise at Buncrana, 5446.—Where private enterprise failed the Congested Districts Board should step in, 5447.—Congested Districts Board had not stimulated industry as they might as knitting industry had not been started, 5448.—Private enterprise assisted by Congested Districts Board would probably suit, but private enterprise was very unlikely, 5449, 5450, 5465.—Private enterprise should not always be assisted by public funds, not in Londonderry for instance, 5451.—But it should in any congested area, 5452.—Cooperage, similar to that at Killybegs and Burton Point might be established at the same mill, 5433, 5437, 5438.—Opening for compressed peat industry, as peat was of good quality and there were facilities for transit, 5433.—Compressed peat industry successful in other parts of Ireland, 5453.—Successful factory on main line from Londonderry to Dublin, 5454-6.—Sufficiency of peat supply in Buncrana district, 5457-8.—No waste of fuel if industry were started, 5459.—Good water power at Buncrana, 5460.—Need for help from the Department of Agriculture and Industries rather than from Congested Districts Board, 5462.—Benefit to people in scheduled area if peat industry were started at Buncrana, 5463.—A public body should give instruction and grant-in-aid, 5464-6.—Result of investigation would be favourable, 5467.

Parish Improvement Scheme.

Parish Improvement Scheme was a success, 5433.—Increased grant from Congested Districts Board and grant of prizes for spraying potato crops and planting gooseberry trees advocated, 5433.

Buncrana Development as Summer Resort.

Formation of Buncrana into Urban District for development as residential and summer resort advocated, 5434.—Development of Buncrana and keeping pace with other seaside resorts impossible under control of Rural District Council, 5434.—Meetings of Rural District Council never held nearer than Carndonagh, 5434.—Witness was a Londonderry merchant resident in Buncrana, nominated by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to give evidence, 5436, 5516.

Pier Accommodation—Means of Transit.

Want of sufficient pier accommodation caused great loss to fishermen yearly, 5433.—Instance in May, 1904, when loss was estimated at £600 on one night's catch, 5433, 5484, 5487.—Difficulties of shipment of iron ore, 5433, 5468-70.—Twelve to fourteen hundred tons of ore from Clonmany and Mentiaghs waiting shipment, 5433, 5434, 5472-6.—Peat export trade handicapped by unsuitable pier, 5434.—High rates demanded for transit of iron ore from Buncrana because of bad pier accommodation, 5469.—Higher rates charged by ships at bad piers than at good ones, 5477.—Buncrana not the only pier from which high rates were charged, 5478.—Length of time iron ore was stored waiting for shipment, 5479, 5480, 5483.—Quantities shipped, 5481-2.—Boats waiting to land herrings in May, 1904, were Scotch as well as Buncrana boats, 5485.—Scotch boats came habitually to Buncrana, 5486.—Which was their headquarters while fishing off that coast, 5488.—Employment given to curers, etc., 5489.—Curers ready, but owing to congestion at pier fish deteriorated and quantities had to be destroyed, 5490-2.—Fish must be landed and cured immediately, 5492-5.—Herrings spread out and salted if there was such a glut that curers could not do work in time, 5497.—When catch was good there was always difficulty in landing fish and curers would refuse to come unless conditions were better, 5498.—Estimate of cost of making pier efficient was £7,000, 5499.—County Council offered £1,000, Agricultural Board, £2,000, 5500.—Extension of railway further down Lough Swilly had been proposed, 5501.—Effect on Buncrana fishing industry, 5502-5.—Impracticability of enlarging pier at Malin Head, 5506.—Grant made, but not used, 5507.—Representations had been made to Government about Buncrana, 5508-9.

Employment of horses possessed by small farmers on development of iron ore industry, when not wanted on farms, advocated, 5510-11.—Agricultural holders generally had one horse, 5512-3.—Locality of Port New, 5515.—Object of Inquiry to widen scope of powers of Congested Districts Board, if necessary, 5519.

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Scheduling of Non-scheduled Areas.

Comparison of congested and non-congested parts of Milford Union, statistics of low valuation of townlands which ought to be scheduled, 5521-6.—Reason they were not scheduled possibly was that valuation per head of the electoral division was not under 30*s.* per head, 5527.—Alteration of definition of congested districts to allow of inclusion of such townlands advocated, 5528-9, 5531-2.—Basis of witness's valuation was that one pound per head represented great congestion; the townlands in list presented had valuation of 14*s.* 10*d.* only, 5530.—Congested Districts Board was tied by Act of Parliament, but the Commission was to inquire as to scheduling districts which were not scheduled, 5533.—At present Congested Districts Board had no power to include those places, 5534-5.—The electoral division was the present unit, but alteration to the townland division was advocated, 5537-8.—Witness did not know of any case scheduled which ought not to have been, 5539.

Industries.

Improvement of cottage industries advocated, 5540.—Good grey and red granite were found at Barness Gap and Glen, 5541.—Granite had been worked at Glen by an English Company, but the work was stopped, 5622-8.—Shipments of granite were made from Fanad, 5629.—Barness Gap had the disadvantage of being a good deal inland, 5630.—But railway passed through, 5634-5.—English company failed

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through want of money and management, not through bad granite, 5639-40.—Carpet and woollen factories might be established, as there was abundance of water power, 5542.—Crochet, shirt-making, sprigging, knitting, and lace-making were required for the girls, 5542.—Mountain reserved by landlords should be purchased and apportioned among tenants for purpose of sheep-rearing to supply woollen factories, 5542, 5560-2, 5570.—Failure of weaving industry owing to bad carding, 5564-6, 5618.—Flax mills were not working through failure of crops in Ireland and importations from Holland, Belgium and Russia, 5555.—But industry was reviving in County Donegal, 5556.—Land available for migration in Cranford, Moyagh, Moyle, Croaghan, in Fannet, 5559, 5587.

Migration and Sanitation.

Purchase of 500 acres of good land in Milford Union for purpose of migration advocated, 5543, 5558-9, 5587.—Congested areas were valued too high, 5543. —Crops on mountain holdings were not half as good as on good land, while labour was twice as great, 5543, 5551.—Many young men and women who had friends there who could pay passage for them emigrated to United States, 5543, 5548.—Emigration tendency was not decreasing, 5547.—Young men too poor to go to America went to Scotland for nine months of the year, girls hired out to farmers, older men went to Scotch harvest for five or six weeks, leaving their own crops to their wives and children, 5543.—Congested Districts Board very popular in Ireland, people believed they meant to help as much as funds allowed, 5543.—Imports of foreign farm produce had lowered price of crops at home, chiefly affecting the large farmers, 5543.—Witness took exception to the Rev. D. O'Hara's statement in Dublin respecting the idleness of sanitary officers, 5543.—Sanitary law was enforced and obeyed in Milford Union, 5544-6. —Quantity of sheep and cattle maintained in Donegal was much greater than in 1871; witness did not maintain that the land was less valuable than then, 5552-3.—Increase in value due to some extent to land going out of cultivation, 5554.

Mountain Land.

Holdings adjoining mountains were very small, 5567.—Striping system should not be adopted, 5568. —But land should be used as commonage, 5569. —No sales had taken place on Earl of Leitrim's estates where mountain in question was situated, 5571.—The mountain was reserved by being wired in, 5572-3.—It was formerly used by tenants as commonage, 5574-9.—Landlord had not much stock, and would probably give it to tenants if it could be reasonably purchased, 5580.—Tenants paying certain charge had access to some portion of the mountains, 5581.—Lough Salt was its name, running west from Mulroy, between Lough Keel and Glen Lough, 5582-4.—Commonage rights would give tenants same advantages as thirty or forty years ago, 5585.—Purchase of whole estate, including mountain, advocated by tenants when Trinity College Commission came to Milford, 5586.—If the 500 acres mentioned were used for migration, evicted persons might object to new tenants, 5592.—Witness suggested that two or three small holdings should be put together, and then occupiers arrange among themselves which should migrate, 5593.—Witness was not sure whether they would migrate to another county, 5594-5.—Proprietors of the 500 acres proposed for migrating used them for grazing, 5598-9.—300 acres on the River Lurgy could be reclaimed and used for migrating, 5600, 5541, 5608.—Proprietors bought at fairs stock reared by small holders, 5601.—Stock was sold at fairs to the best bidders, not necessarily to local men, 5602-4.—Something was radically wrong, as the population was getting less and people were no richer, 5606.—Grazing plots would be tilled if distributed among the tenants, 5607.—Widening and deepening of Lurgy should only be undertaken in the part in congested districts, 5609-12.—Lennon River also required to be drained, 5614.—The two rivers should be dealt with simultaneously, 5616-7.—Glen and Termon, where red and grey granite were found, were both congested districts, 5620-1.

YOUNG, Mr. GEORGE L.

Migration.

Witness had known Inishowen for twenty-five years, 5641.—He managed his family property in that district, 5642.—The only way to improve conditions was by fostering industries, especially the fishing industry, as no large grazing tracts were available for increase of holdings, and the people could not be induced to migrate, 5643, 5705.—Migration of some families in order to divide their holdings among others who remained would be commercially impossible because of the large tenant-right; which would mean very high prices for their interest, 5645.—Landlord's interest would have to be purchased first, and tenant's interest dealt with afterwards, 5646.—Equivalent interest could not be obtained in land to which he would migrate, as it would have to be acquired by the Congested Districts Board and buildings erected by them, 5647-9.—Witness did not know of any untenanted land in Donegal or neighbouring counties that could be bought in, 5650. —Large farms were cultivated, 5654.—No grass land within ten miles of Inishowen, 5655.—Home instinct was so great that only a very large bribe would induce people to leave, 5657.—The fishermen would not migrate; though some large farmers might, 5658.—Not sufficient public spirit to induce some to move for the benefit of others, 5659.—Tenants themselves had not considered the question of migration, 5661-2.

Fishermen—Enlargement of Holdings.

No enlargement of holdings had taken place since 1883; when State-aided emigration enabled holdings to be added to adjoining holdings, 5663, 5773.—Enlargement of fishermen's holdings was no advantage, 5664.—Fishing was a more valuable asset than small holdings, 5665.—Average of a series of years of fishing was not very different, 5666a.—Heads of families would not work on holdings while sons went fishing; but each would share work; witness thought this could not be altered, 5667-8.—Fishermen would not go far afield; witness had tried to get some men to go for training in large boats from Malin Head to Downing's Bay; but they refused to go even that distance, because they thought the shelter in the big boats insufficient, 5669-70.—One-third of the population of Inishowen followed fishing industry, 5671. —Witness knew of no holdings used for grazing which could be used for enlargement of tenants' holdings, 5672.

Congestion in Derry, Antrim, and Tyrone.

Witness advocated extension of operations of Congested Districts Board to parts of Londonderry and Antrim; as some districts there were more congested than scheduled districts, 5673.—Part of Tyrone should also be included, 5674.—Commission could inquire into congestion of such districts, but could not schedule them, 5675.—Electoral division was too large a unit, 5676.—Townland should be the unit, 5677, 5679, 5692.—Witness knew townlands which ought to be scheduled, and some which were, but which ought not to be, 5680-1.—£4 valuation of holdings in a townland was a fair standard for congestion, 5682-4. —But townland should not be scheduled if average was above £4, 5683.—No one suffered if land continued to be scheduled when it was no longer congested, 5685.—£4 valuation was a lower standard than the present one of thirty shillings per head, 5687.—Rateable value to a certain extent a test of the economic value, 5688.—Holding valued at £4 would not be sufficient in itself to support a family, 5689.—Rateable value was fixed sixty years ago; but though value of land had increased the £4 holding was not an economic holding, 5689, 5690.—The rateable value fixed sixty years ago was the best standard available, 5691.—Thirty shillings per head of the population of the townland unit would be as good a definition as the £4 valuation, 5693-5.

Piers.

Improvement of piers to admit larger boats being used would lead to a greater number of people taking to fishing, 5696-7, 5725.—Culdaff Pier was given as an example of need for improvement; Mr. Gerald Balfour's opinion of the poorness of its work, 5698.—The County Council was not maintaining the pier though they had not objected to

YOUNG, MR. GEORGE L.—*continued.*

taking it over, 5699, 5700.—The pier was used to some extent for fishing boats, but not for general commercial purposes, as it did not go far enough and anchorage was not safe, 5701-3.—County Council and others thought that if it fell to pieces another might be built, but patchwork was no use, 5704.

INDUSTRIES.

Home industries must be fostered; the Board had already given great help establishing Agricultural Show at Carndonagh, giving prizes for home industries; lectures had not succeeded as well as they should owing to quarrel between County Council and Department of Agriculture, 5706.—Fruit-growing, poultry keeping and small industries had been much improved during the last twenty years, 5706-7.—Cattle breeding was improving, 5709-12.—Witness thought that Congested Districts Board could prevent people keeping unfit sires, 5711-2A.—Lectures should be given on cookery, laundry work, crochet, knitting, and sprigging, 5713-4.—Lectures had not been given in Inishowen, 5715.—Work would not be dropped after the lecturer left, 5717.—Gooseberry culture should be encouraged, 5718.—Witness meant by home industries weaving, knitting, crochet-work; but hand-loom weaving was a thing of the past, 5720.—Knitting industry was very useful, 5721.—Shirt-making rather depressed, 5722-4.—Steam-trawling had destroyed banks which local fishermen used to use; so larger boats were required to go further off, 5726.—Trawlers tore up the spawning grounds, 5728.—Old beam trawls had been done away with and other trawls used, 5729.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.

Witness thought Congested Districts Board managed agricultural schemes better than the Department of Agriculture; at present there was no agricultural scheme for County Donegal, 5730-1.—The cause of dispute between Department of Agriculture and County Council was that Department refused to allow appointment of residents in a county as lecturers in that county, 5732-4.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

Labourers' cottages built in Inishowen had been placed in areas crowded with small holdings, 5737, 5757-8.—They were not so much needed there as in other places 5738.—And the expense was far more than they were worth, 5739.

PEAT INDUSTRY.

Compressed peat industry did not commend itself to witness, as supply of peat was inadequate for both fuel and industry, 5741.—One such industry started in County Antrim failed after one year, 5743.—An English Company was extracting chemicals from peat in County Antrim, but they had a large bog area to work from, 5744.

PRICE OF TENANT RIGHT.

List of sales of tenant-right on Mr. R. G. Young's Estate since 1st January, 1882, 5747.—Average price realised was nearly twenty-five years' purchase, but average of holdings under £4 sold for higher than the average, 5749.—Tenant's interest sold high when it was sold, but that was rarely in Innishowen, 5750.—On small holdings houses, as a rule, were thatched cottages, 5752.—Demand for cottages in excess of supply, 5753.—Sub-division and mortgaging of small holdings should be prevented, Land Purchase Act of 1903 provided sufficiently for that, 5755.—Eldest son, on his marriage, remained on holding, and trusted to custom to its being left to him, 5756.—Six labourers' cottages which were built were in the scheduled area, 5757-8.—Tenant's interest only was sold, subject to the payment to the landlord of the rent, 5760A.—Proportion between landlord's and tenant's interests not fixed; landlords depended on rent fixed in Land Court, and tenants on market price in the locality, 5761.—Tenant's interest was the right of occupation subject to a rent, 5766.—Capital value of landlord's interest averaged 25 years' purchase, 5768.—While the tenant's might be as much as 66 years' purchase, 5769.—In Burtonport district tenant's interest on small holdings had gone up to 200 and 300 years' purchase, 5770.—Largest farm on Mr. Young's estate sold at 36 years' purchase of the tenant-right, 5771.—Size of largest farm, 25 acres, with valuation of £14 or £15, 5772.—Large farms in the Burt or Inch areas would not bring so much as in Innishowen, 5774.—Migration of young men to Scotland for work during harvest, 5776.

IMPORTATION OF COAL IF PIERS WERE IMPROVED.

One reason why Culdaff and other piers should be improved was that coal could be imported either from Ballycastle or Scotland at reasonable rates; this was very necessary, as the turf supply was practically exhausted, 5777.—Scotch coal could be imported and a return freight of limestone could be sent, 5778A.—No return cargo of "pit" wood could be sent, as there was no wood; planting of tracts by Congested Districts Board advocated, 5779.

PLANTING—SURFACE DRAINING.

Untenanted land where turf had been cut could be procured for planting, 5780-2.—Surface drainage would make it fit for planting, 5783.—There were too many blocks of old trees in it to make it fit for growing potatoes, 5784.—Surface drains for sheep were destroyed in two or three years if cattle were put on the land, 5786.

LOCAL LANDLORDS SHOULD BE CONSULTED.

Local landlords should be more consulted by the Congested Districts Board, 5788.—Fishery pier at Portaleen might have been better situated if landlord had been consulted, 5789-90.—Congested Districts Board refused to put a pier in better place, but offered contribution of £50 to County Council, who would not undertake it, 5791.—Smallness of Board's offer due to large amount spent on the other pier, 5793.—Board should take the best advice available as to locality of marine works, 5795.—Both places might have piers, but if only one had to be chosen, the Board should have chosen the other site, as most fishing boats were there, 5796, 5804.—Board acted solely with the idea of taking the best place, 5797.—Objection of Board was that there was a licensed establishment at better site, 5798.—But that was got rid of, 5800.—No local contribution was made to the pier that had been built, 5801.

DRAINAGE WORKS IN CULDAFF DISTRICT.

Witness ought to have been consulted about drainage works which were run through his land, 5805, 5809.—In the Culdaff district, 5807.—Drainage had been originally made by witness's grandfather in famine times, but had got silted up, 5810.—Board's scheme was a bigger one, as it ran through another property as well, 5814.—Tenants had not kept drain in good order on witness's property, therefore it had silted up, 5815-6.—Low level made it difficult to maintain drainage, and there was no power to compel tenants to do it, 5817, 5822.—The work of the Congested Districts Board was a great improvement, but it had not gone far enough, 5819-21.—Board had no power to enforce maintenance of drain, 5824.

COMPARISON OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness thought that Congested Districts Board should not be amalgamated with Estates Commissioners, as it was doing good work alone, 5825, 5848.—Better than either Estates Commissioners or Agricultural Department, 5826.—There was less red tape about it, 5828, 5837-8, 5843.

DELAYS DUE TO REPEATED INSPECTIONS.

Commissioners very slow in carrying out sales, 5830, 5836-7.—Cause was repeated inspections; one estate had been inspected three times, but sale was not yet carriad through, 5831.—Witness had neither sold nor purchaed through Congested Districts Board, 5833-4.—Estates Commissioners said they had plenty of money, but could not distribute it, 5839.—Congested Districts Board was freer, because it was not a Government Department, 5840-1.—Repeated inspections were made by Estates Commissioners to see how they could improve property, 5844.—Inspections produced unrest in the neighbourhood, 5847.

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Prohibition of New Licences.

Board should be given power to prohibit all new licences for public-houses or spirit grocers' licences when purchasing estates, 5848.—Licensing Act would expire next year; the only way to prevent new licences was by having judicial rent fixed, as magistrates had no power to prevent new licences, 5849.—Unless the Act was renewed, 5850.—Congested Districts Board should be given compulsory powers to get rid of existing licences and prohibit new ones, 5851.—Board had taken upon itself to prohibit new licences, whether it had the power or not, 5852.

GALLAGHER, Rev. JAMES.

Rathmullan and Fanad.

Witness had been stationed twelve years in Rathmullan, 5853.—He did not appear in his clerical capacity, but as one who had lived among, and known, the wants of the district for thirty-four years; evidence confined to parishes of Rathmullan and Fanad, the area of which was about 53,000 acres, and population 10,360.—The two parishes contained eleven electoral poor law divisions, six of them congested, and five non-congested; population of congested area, 6,066.—Valuation of the two parishes, £18,360; of congested portion £6,360, or only about one-third of total, though area was more than one-half; average valuation of landholders, poor tenant farmers (tenants from year to year) was £5 5*s.* 10*d.*; soil either reclaimed bog or inferior gravelly clay, with blue-clay sub-soil, 5855.

Estates Sold.

Two estates had been sold under Ashbourne Acts, and one under Act of 1903 at 25 years' purchase, plus bonus to the landlords, 5855.—Tenant from year to year meant statutory tenant under Act of 1881, with fixity of tenure at specified rent for fifteen years and onwards, 5857-9.—Cochrane estate was sold under Act of 1903, Batt and Woodhouse estates under Ashbourne Acts, 5859.—Land Commission valued Woodhouse estate and fixed fourteen and a half to fifteen years' purchase, though landlord had previously consented to sell at sixteen years' purchase, 5859.

Character of District.

People in congested districts were poor, struggling peasantry; the standard of living was very low; the sources of revenue were farms, fishing, help from relatives abroad, home industries, but in no case known to witness had a single family existed on the farm without some extraneous assistance, 5859.—Proportions obtained from various sources were difficult to determine, 5859.

Work of Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board had given grant for weaving industry at Milford, assistance for making roads and bridges, four or five large-decked fishing boats, £50 to be nucleus of fund to found an agricultural bank, they had improved breed of poultry and founded a lace industry, which was very successful, an average of seventy girls earning from 8*s.* to 10*s.* a week, 5859.—Lace was sold at a depôt in Grafton-street, and earnings of girls at Rathmullan for one year were nearly £600, 5862.

Parish Committee Schemes.

Parish Committee scheme of prizes introduced into Donegal redounded to credit of Board, 5862.—In the West of Ireland assistance was given to complete certain works; in Donegal Parish Committee gave prizes for certain improvements in houses and surroundings; committee cost the public nothing, 5862.—In Rathmullan value of work done in proportion to grant averaged in the first year six times the grant; in the second year eleven and a half times, and in the third year fourteen times the grant, 5862-4.—Grant for first year was £25; second, £35; third, £40; and fourth, £45; £5 was allocated for a small show, and £40 distributed in prizes, 5862-3.—In Fanad value of work done last year was twenty-two and a half times amount of grant, 5864.—Prizes were offered for improvements in houses, piggeries, dairies, fowl-houses, home industries, 5865.—Prizes were really rewards to all who did good work, 5866.—Prizes were awarded to work most strongly recommended by supervisor, 5867.—Most who competed got prizes, if not one yar, then another, 5870.—Inspectors examined and reported to committee result of year's work, 5871.—Number of competitors closely coincided with number of prizes, but there was no wire-pulling; people competed or not as they liked, 5872.—Disappointed competitors strove to recoup themselves the following year, 5874.—Number of competitors double that of last year, 5875.—People carried out whole work whether they received a prize or not, 5876-7.—Prizes were limited because the grant was limited, 5879-81.—In Fanad competition was keener, 5882.—Improvements were made which could not have prizes, 5883.—Board's supervisor appraised the work done, 5884.—Estimating cost of material and value of labour, 5885.—Labour was not thrown away if prizes were not awarded, as improvements remained, 5886.—Prize a stimulus to self-help, 5887.—Working of scheme had done great good in Donegal, 5888.—Congested Districts Board might increase grant to Parish Committee, 5921.—Prizes had been mainly for improvements of dwelling-houses, but later, reclamation and drainage might be undertaken, 5922.—Material condition of the people had not been improved by the prizes, 5922-3.—But property was made more valuable and the doctor was kept out, as contagious diseases were lessened, 5924-6.

Price of Land before and after Act of 1903.

There was not much difference in annuity between purchases at eighteen and a half years before the Act of 1903 and those at twenty years after the Act, 5889.—Landlord fared better by waiting for Act of 1903, tenants expected they would get the farms at previous offer, but tenants in arrears influenced the others, and more years' purchase was given, 5891.—In consequence of reduction of annuity, tenant purchaser could now give more years' purchase and yet be in the same position as regards annuity as if he had bought prior to 1903, 5892.—Period of repayment longer, viz., sixty-eight and a half years, without decadal reductions, 5893.—But annuity was less, 5894.

Effect of Ownership.

Since purchase under Ashbourne Acts improvements had taken place, 5895-6.—Food of people had not improved, but sense of security had, 5897.—Tenant had now courage to make improvements, as he knew his rent could not be raised in consequence, 5898A.—Both those who had bought land and those who had not were anxious to compete for Parish Committee's prizes, 5899.

Initiation of Improvements in very Poor Districts.

In Donegal very poor landholders were not able to initiate improvements; witness advocated visits of Sub-Sanitary Inspector, who could report on improvements required to Parish Committee, who could ask Congested Districts Board for grant, 5900.

Definition of Congestion—Extension required.

Board should have statutory power to tackle congestion and poverty wherever they were met with, 5901, 5901A.—The Board should have the power to fix on a certain number of people in a district below a certain valuation, and of adding townlands to districts already scheduled, 5902.—Standard of 20 per cent. in a townland under a certain valuation might not reach all cases, but it would make a fair attempt at reaching all, 5904.—Act of 1903 had been working such a short time that it was difficult to judge of its consequences, 5905-6.—Sub-division had ceased in

GALLAGHER, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

Donegal, 5907.—Older sons often emigrated, and farm was left to the "refuse of the family," 5908.—Youngest son was not always the "refuse," 5909.

Difficulties in the way of Migration.

Board should enlarge farms by migration, but this was impracticable in Donegal, as there was no land which could be used for migration, 5909, 5911.—In South Donegal there was some untenanted land, especially on Mr. Bustard's estate, where about sixty families were evicted in 1847-8, 5910.—Fisher-folk would not migrate, as homing instinct was too strong, 5912.—They went to America because they were compelled to go, 5913.—They would consider it as great a hardship to go to Meath or Westmeath, as to go to America, 5914.—Fishermen were amphibious people, they would not like to go inland for farming only, 5915.—Though whole families might be induced to go, 5916.—Witness did not know of any untenanted land in Fanad, as the late Lord Leitrim gave back all land to tenants who were evicted thirty or forty years ago, 5918.—There was plenty of mountain land, but people would not migrate on to that, 5920.—Witness had never asked the people whether they would go to Westmeath, but he thought main reliance must be placed on development of home industries and fishing, 5921.

Development of Fisheries.

Fishing industry might be developed by grants for building big boats for open sea fishing; a fisherman who had received £45 grant had almost paid it back and made much more than if he had only been able to fish close to the land, turbot, sole, and plaice were caught, 5927.—Fishing from Malin Head to Sheephaven lasted from 15th April till Christmas, 5929.—Herring-fishing was prohibited during April, trawling, hand-line, or long-line fishing not prohibited at all, 5931.—Artillery practice interfered to some extent with fishing in Lough Swilly; fishermen's experience was that fish were more numerous and more easily caught where trawlers were not allowed, 5934.—Construction of breakwater at Newbridge was necessary, as there was no shelter on that side, 5935.—Buncrana would be nearer the rail, but shelter was required on that side, 5936.—Local demand for fish was considerable, 5937.

SWAN, Mr. THOMAS.

Congestion Near Small Towns.

Areas close to small towns required to be dealt with as congested quite as much as more remote places, as inhabitants in greater poverty, 5941.—Buncrana and Carndonagh towns should not be included in congested area, but the boundary should be brought nearer the towns, because small farmers were even poorer than in congested areas, 5942, 5945.—Proximity to towns was not much advantage, as none were very far away from market towns, 5943-4.—No lands in Inishowen available for relief of congestion, 5941, 5951.—Most holdings were too small, 5941.—Good deal of land had been reclaimed and added to arable portions of holdings, but more might be done and loans made for the purpose, 5941.—Witness was against any system of "free-grants," they took away self-respect and self-reliance, grants should be reserved for those who tried to help themselves, 5941, 5960.

Care in Selection of Breeding Animals.

Keeping inferior male animals for stud purposes should be prohibited and made a criminal offence, precautions would probably only be needed for four or five years, 5941, 5968-9, 5977.—Experimental mountain farms should be established, where advice might be given and facilities afforded for procuring good, fresh seed; sale of old, impure, or unsound seed should be severely punished, 5941.—

Encouragement of Local Industries.

Witness did not approve of "municipal trading" or "agricultural banks," but thought that enterprising young men and women might be encouraged to start industries, 5941, 5978-9, 5982.—Women were better supplied with work than men, 5941.—Woollen manufacture and peat products were the most hopeful, 5941, 5982.—Congested Districts Board might advance half the initial capital as a loan, 5941, 5982.—Help should not be given for establishment of rival firms in locally established trades, 5941.—Witness did not know that grants had been made to start industries, 5984.—Sand at Newbridge was excellent for building purposes, and might be developed if railway was reasonable regarding freights, 5986-8.—Railway company had not encouraged local industries along the line as they should have done, 5989.—Board should wait until proposals were made to them, they should not initiate industries, 5990.—Railway ran through witness's mill yard, but company would not give siding, 5991-2.—Also they would not allow electric light poles to be put down outside their line, although the railway was made by Government, 5993.—Police should be made sanitary inspectors, as they had no local interests, 5941.—Tree-planting on a large scale would not be practicable in Inishowen, but planting trees round dwellings might be facilitated, 5941.—Publichouses should not be run in congested area, 5941.

Diet.

People should be encouraged to return to oatmeal and wheaten porridge, eggs and milk, which had been largely abandoned for Indian meal, fine flour, tea, and tinned manna, with result that physique was deteriorating, 5941.—Witness advocated small factories for shirt and such like industries, as country factory system developed fine, healthy girls, home work weak and sickly ones, 5941.—Lunacy was greatly on the increase, due to unsuitable food, consanguineous marriages, marriage of lunatics and persons of weak intellect, 5941.—Witness advocated alteration of food, lessening drinking facilities, and encouraging people to marry out of their own parish, 5941.—Buncrana pier, though not in congested area, served congested districts, and if enlarged would yield increased income, 5941.

Unit of Congestion.

Witness advocated the barony being made the unit, and would exclude from benefits of Congested Districts Board all persons over £10 valuation, 5945.—Conditions in Donegal only, referred to, 5947.—Large area should be included in operation of Board if it were generally poor, 5948—Term barony had been done away with by Local Government Act, but larger area than present limit could be arranged, 5950.—Inishowen possessed no large farms, 5952.

Advances for Reclamation.

Advances to tenants by Board for reclamation of land advocated, 5953-5.—At present advances were made by Board of Works, but that was an expensive way of doing it, 5955.—Witness would not interfere with principle of giving loans by Board of Works, 5959.

Public Grants and Local Contributions.

Piers should be built out of public funds, but people locally should be tested as to whether they really wanted them, by giving contribution of either money or labour, 5962, 5967.—At Newbridge, for instance, fishermen might contribute one or two weeks' labour, 5963.—County Council and Department of Agriculture had fallen out over instructors, but witness thought there was some agricultural scheme, 5973-6.

Municipal Trading and Agricultural Banks.

Agricultural Banks worked well in some parts of Ireland, 5980-1.—Witness objected to municipal trading, as it would not work locally, and nobody was paid for looking after it, 5994-7.—But there was no objection to State banking, as State officials would manage it, 5998.—Farmers could not manage a bank themselves, as no one had sufficient time to devote to it, 5999.—Trading capital of Agricultural Banks was small, but witness thought they could not be worked without loss, 6000-3.—Parish Improvement Scheme was the best possible way to encourage people to better their condition, 6004.

O'DOHERTY, Mr. J. E.

Large Farmers in Ulster.

Cookstown to Strabane badly congested, Sir A. MacDonnell's observation "In prosperous Ulster" quite wrong, last ten or eleven years had been a desperate time for large farmers, 6008.—Large farmer was one with 80 to 100 acres of land, and formerly employed labour; now they let the land for cropping, smaller farmers took land at enormous prices, system did very well for seven or eight years, but destroyed fertility of land, 6009.

Con-acre.

Con-acre or annual letting system general from Omagh to Coleraine, not unmixed evil, as it provided winter feeding for cattle of small farmers, 6010, 6013.—Small farmers paid £6 or £7 an acre for land for oats, 6011.—This tided the big farmer over, but witness did not think half of them would get over it, sales of farms by auction almost as bad, mountain holders with small capital glad to buy small reasonable farms, better if they sent their sons to labour, but nowadays any man who worked his farm to profit employed machinery, 6012.—Auctioneers, not tenants, who were getting benefit of farms, 6015.—Sixty or seventy-acre farm worked by farmer and his family would be profitable, 6016.—Witness's principal experience had been in Gweedore and Cloughaneely and Fanad, in connection with Lord Leitrim's estates; witness had conducted cases for all the Fanad men and districts round, and was acquainted with all conditions, 6017.

Condition of Tyrone and Derry.

In Tyrone and Derry spring late, winter early, altitude to which cultivation had been carried astonishing, best solution for difficulties of congested districts was to go and see what had been done in Derry, farmers had gained experience in plains on bad farms and at Agricultural School at Lough Ash; reclamation followed by increases in rent and price of turbary, and high-handed conduct of landlords, one tenant charged for notice to quit, 6017.—Incident occurred in 1884 or 1885, 6018.—Before 1881, witness found Irish-speaking people had difficulty in giving evidence in English, 6019.—District referred to was above Plumbridge, on Spearin estates and other neighbouring estates; rent increased three times in all cases, often four or five times, bog raised from 1*s.* to 5*s.* concurrently with rent, 6020.—District came within scope of Commission's inquiry as being congested, farms very small, population thick, 6021. —Same problem in Donegal, 6022.—Condition of County Tyrone more clament, in Gweedore labour not principally applied to land, money produced through hiring out in the Lagan, etc., but in Tyrone, living had to be made out of land; holdings should be inspected, grazing should be in common, and marked by a "stint," 6023.—Witness desired that these lands should be scheduled and dealt with as if in congested district, 6024.—Districts in question, rural districts of Strabane, Gortin, and Cookstown, 6027.

Unit of Congestion.

No need for mathematical definition of unit, distinction was between clay and bog, 6028-9.—Definition of congested district in Act of 1891 should be amended to take in all poorer districts, 6050-6, and *note.*—Farmers living in valleys high up in the mountain, although only part of the townland should be dealt with, 6030.—However small the numbers, if within reach of organisation, but more often there were 200 families in a valley; witness's observations applied to County Derry, district above Claudy, quite as much as to Tyrone; Tyrone men better farmers and land better worked, 6031.—Congested part of Strabane on mountain away to the east, 6032-3.

Rateable Valuation as Standard of Comparison.

In Connaught, rateable valuation per head, £2 5*s.*; Derry, Donegal, and Tyrone, £2 $\frac{4}{7}$ (1860 valuation); Ulster, 25 per cent. higher in proportion than other provinces; therefore, taking the three counties and whole of Connaught, the proportion per head was the same; decrease of rural population in Tyrone 13.3, Donegal 6.6, Mayo 9.2, Galway 9.7, Derry 13.1; nearly 50 per cent. of greater decrease in Ulster, death-rate of small farmers also greater, 6035.—Rateable value unsafe guide, comparing Ulster with rest of country, 6036-7.—Ulster valuation made in 1860, 6040.—The other, 1845, 6041-2.—Between those dates conditions had changed, 6043-4. —Griffith's valuation continuous from 1840-60, rate increased between commencement and finishing, 6045-6.—Evictions and ejectments more frequent in Ulster than other provinces, Commissioners should get amount of ejectments from Excise authorities; same conditions applied to Tyrone as to Gweedore and Cloughaneely, 6047.—Witness convinced same conditions existed in Strabane, Omagh, and Cookstown as in congested districts, 6048.—Commission should not be limited to the West, 6049.

O'DOHERTY, Mr. J. E.—*continued.*

Turbary.

Necessity for preserving turbary, impossible for poor to live without it, 6056.—All turbary should belong to State and be husbanded like the forests in France, 6057.—No reason why State should not impose conditions on purchasers, 6057A-8. Maintenance of turbary, 6057A.—"As heretofore" meant, as before tenants were rack-rented, 6060.—It should be under control of trustees, and there should be general legislation to prevent people carrying away large quantities, 6061.

Purchase Terms.

Small holders should be assisted to purchase farms and given similar advantages to those in legally congested districts, after that the main thing was to let them alone, 6061-3.

State Aid restricting to Common Things.

Common things, turbary, grazing, road-making, etc., were subjects for Commission, and people should be educated to maintain them; education should be on the lines of gardener's education, 6064.

Drainage.

Main and surface drainage most important, mountains destroyed by not being surface-drained, sheep-drains very rare; main drains in valleys absolutely required, large tracts destroyed in flood time, 6064.—Grass infinitely better on surface-drained land, 6065.—Surface drains should be made at expense of joint owners, organised and assisted by Commission, people only wanted a chance which the landlords ought to have given them, 6066, 6069.—Drainage would be remunerative, witness would recommend nothing that did not pay, and better prices gained for land when sold, 6067, 6069.

Education needed.

Agricultural education necessary for people, 6070. —Agricultural Department had done nothing for education, 6072.—Theoretically, they ought to look after education, whilst Congested Districts Board looked after common things which people could not do themselves, but Agricultural Department had given wrong kind of instruction, 6073.

Migration as remedy for congestion, if farms going out of cultivation could be bought, people would come down and pay fair price, and relieve people above; extraordinary benefit derived from tenant-right system accounted for better state of things in Tyrone, 6073.—Tyrone people had a traditional education, 6074.—And fine natural parts and character, 6075.—Lough Ash School maintained by grant of Commissioner of General Education, in conjunction with other grants, 6078.—Ceased to exist twenty-five years ago, 6079.

MAGUIRE, Rev. J.

Drainage Work of Congested Districts Board.

Clonmany a typical congested district, 6085, 6089.—Situated on the Swilly, opposite Fannet, contained three electoral divisions, all congested, valuation per head nineteen shillings and some pence; Congested Districts Board had done a good deal making two large drains, 6089.—Known as Ballyliffen and Cross-

MAGUIRE, Rev. J.—*continued.*

connel drains; Board made grant for each drain; drains about 1½ miles long, breadth of district drained half a mile; farmers said they would have had to leave but for the drains, 6090.—Farmers made subsidiary drains, mostly open, because of marshy ground, 6091.—Committee made Ballyliffen drain, and Board agreed with them to keep main drain going, 6092-3.—Parish Priest a member of committee, 6093.

Turbary Road.

Road made for turbary, great convenience, enabling people to fetch turf with horse, 6094.—County Council took over road and maintained it, but had not had to expend much money, 6095.—And road would become less useful as turf was cut away, 6096.

Fishing Industry.

Board assisted people in getting boats; provided three boats for herring fishery on share system, men making money, £20 apiece first week, 6096.—Six men in crew, 6097.—A large-sized boat, a Zulu, 6098-9.—Boats tried to fish from Leenane, but had to come to Buncrana up the Lough; one shipper said he was too late for market, because it took too long coming from mouth of Lough to Buncrana, 6100.—He fished off Downing's; men were anxious to fish at Leenane or Dunaff if there was a pier, 6101.—Dunaff very exposed on one side, Leenane sheltered, 6102.—Fishermen could land anywhere between Tulla Bay and Leenane Head, three or four places where construction could be made for reasonable sum; nothing done by Board for fishermen, though they were enterprising men, and fifty went every year to Scotch fishing, which extended to Sunderland, 6103.—No instruction required in fishing, but witness did not know about management of large boat, 6104.—They went to Scotch fishing in Scotch boats, 6105.—Scotch fishing not contemporaneous with Irish fishing; spring fishing in Ireland almost ended in time for fishermen to go to Scotch fishing, 6106.—Men not unwilling to follow fish, but boats provided by Board were too small to take to Scotch fishing, 6106-9, 6126.—Men desired to exchange small boats for larger, 6110.—Owner of one boat had nearly paid off his indebtedness to Board, 6111.—Big boat cost about £300, 6112.—Fishermen should begin with small boat and move up to better class of boat, 6115.—Witness knew men in his parish who had twenty years' experience with Scotch boats, and Scotch skippers wrote telling them to come to Scotland, 6116.—Sixteen shares in Scotch boat, one man got £25, 6118.—Men in Scotch boats paid on share system exclusively, 6117, 6119.—Besides these three boats there were upwards of thirty boats with crews of nine men, 6120.—Witness did not know if inspectors had made an estimate for providing shelter for larger boats in winter, 6121.—Open boats fished at Port Van, south side of Dunaff; large boats off Downing's, 6122-3.—These boats put up at Leenane, Port Van, Tulla Bay, 6124.—Large boats remained at Buncrana for winter, 6125.—Not sufficient shelter at Leenane Bay, 6126.—Fishermen preferred Leenane Bay or Tulla Bay, 6128, 6131.—Advantage of Tulla Bay as being within one mile of railway, 6129-32.—Small boats sometimes fished in Lough Swilly, 6133.—Going as far as Donaree, 6135.—Principal fishing grounds off Malin Head and Fannet; fishing in open boats not so good the last two years, 6136.

Cattle Breeding.

Board for years improved breed of cattle; sent black Galloway bulls; two years ago ceased to look after district; five bulls then in three electoral divisions, 6137-8.—Great improvement in store cattle, 6141.—Agricultural Department had done nothing beyond placing one bull in district, 6139.—Other four stalled and sold, 6140.—Universal opinion that Congested Districts Board looked after things much better than Agricultural Department, 6142.—People themselves fattened and killed the four bulls, 6143.—Witness understood there was an arrangement to bring system to an end under Congested Districts Board, 6144-5.

Horse Breeding.

Agricultural Department sent hackney stallions into country, 6147-8.—People dissatisfied with produce of hackneys, 6149.—Hackneys returned to Dublin at close of season, 6150-1.—Inishowen horses rather larger than Donegal pony, 6152.—Comparatively few nominations for horses in Inishowen, 6153.—One horse in Carndonagh, another in Derry, 6154.—Most farmers on small holdings obliged to keep horse, some of them fifteen miles from turf, 6155-6.—Donkeys used for turf and seaweed, 6157.—In Inishowen turf carrying done with horses, 6158.—Donkey could not be used for ploughing, 6159.—Average holder, about 6 acres, gave much under £10 for horse, 6160-2.—Man usually kept only one horse, neighbours joined together for two horses for ploughing, 6163-71.

Turbary, Question of Trustees, &c.

Poor supply of turf in Clonmany district; some Dunaff people had to take turf ten or fifteen miles, 6173.—Great drag on small farmers; some means should be provided of bringing up fuel, 6174.—Free cutting of turf should be checked, 6175.—By putting turf on an estate in hands of trustees for benefit of purchasers of estate and to save waste, 6176.—Witness did not know of any district where this scheme had worked successfully, 6177-8.—Rights of outsiders in cutting bog should be provided for, 6180.—Better arrangement to put turbary in hands of trustees than to give a share to tenants and outsiders, 6181.—Smaller quantity of turf might be made to serve, 6183.—If turbary got into tenants' hands, outsiders would find them worse to deal with than landlord, 6184, 6210.—In some places landlord looked after turf as common to all; sometimes a man was limited to turf on his holding, 6185-7.—Outsiders who had no turf had the right of cutting turbary on another's estate, regulated by same rules as tenants, 6189-90.—Trustees should be appointed only in case of estate being sold, 6191.—Too many purchasers on common holding to give free turbary, 6192-3.—When an estate was sold no one was responsible for maintaining arrangements; if turbary were placed in hands of trustees, general interests of all would be served, 6194-5.—By trustees witness meant a committee of management elected by new purchasers, 6196-8.—Trustees should manage turbary for welfare of new purchasers, 6201a-2, 6207.—Who might elect some of their own number, 6204-6.—Trustees would not own turf, 6207.—Legal authority should be given to committee of management, 6209.—Waste of turf through cutting bog badly; amount of fuel obtained depended on the way the turf-banks were cut, 6211-20.—If bog were vested in hands of trustees they should have right of supervision and guard against waste, 6221-3.—Witness had no fear of friction arising, 6224.—In particular cases a man might be allowed to sell turf, 6226.—*E.g.*, where there was a large amount of turf on one estate and outside man had none, 6227-30, 6237.—Turf should not be exported, 6231, 6237.—It was a scarce commodity, 6232-4.—Sides of hills in Clonmany cut away to such an extent as to prevent possibility of herbage growing on them, 6234-5.—Committee of management should have considerable amount of discretion as to where and how turf should be cut, 6236.—Not enough turf in Inishowen for any to be sent to Buncrana, 6238-40.

Poultry Breeding.

Congested Districts Board had improved poultry industry; established station for distribution of eggs of pure-bred fowls, thereby improving laying qualities of hens, 6241.—Ceased to look after that industry now, 6241a.—And Agricultural Department had done nothing owing to a misunderstanding with County Council about appointment of natives as inspectors in Donegal, 6242-5.—Agricultural scheme in Donegal working to a certain extent in improvement of animals, and prize system for horses, but not in improvement of fowls, 6246, 6248.—Difficulty of preserving pure breeds after Board ceased working, 6247.—Good demand for thoroughbred birds; betterment effected by Board preserved to a considerable extent, 6248.

Land Purchase in Inishowen.

Three farms situated in Isle of Doagh sold under Ashbourne Act at twenty years' purchase; farms sold under Act of 1903 at 26¼ years' purchase, but rent of 1904 not asked for; negotiations going on for sale of three other estates; sale of one estate had been arranged, but, under conditions of selling, landlord would have to arrange with head landlord, Lord Shaftesbury, about bog, and it was feared sale would fall through, 6249.—Bog on this estate, 560 acres in extent, not in hands of selling landlord, but under Lord Shaftesbury's control; number of outsiders got turf on same estate, paying fees to Lord Shaftesbury's agent; if bog was sold with land to purchasing tenants they might exclude outsiders, or charge what they liked, 6251.—Bog should be vested in hands of trustees for benefit of purchasing tenants, 6251A.—Selling landlord was the middleman, 6252.—Holding estate under long lease subject to rent paid to Lord Shaftesbury, who asked too high a price for bog, making it impossible to sell to tenants, 6256-8.—In such a case trustees should satisfy demands of outsiders as long as there was sufficient turbary; after a time it should be reserved for men living on estate, 6259-60.—If estate were sold through Congested Districts Board they would arrange more satisfactorily, 6262.—Tenants had a right for cattle to graze on commonage and on bog; no rundale, etc., to remove or alter on this estate, 6263-5.—Two other estates with disputes between landlord and tenants, with result that tenants received no benefits from Land Act of 1881; about forty tenants evicted; paid large sums in costs, and were now in big arrears, 6265.—An evicted tenant who had been restored could not go into court without landlord's consent, 6266, 6272.—Two-thirds of tenants on this estate were future tenants, and when they were restored rent was raised, 6267-8.—Evictions took place in 1883, but trouble began in 1878, 6271-2.—Tenants could not bargain with landlord direct; he could press them to pay too much, owing to big arrears, 6272.—One landlord bought property in 1879 in Landed Estates Court; the other came into property by family arrangement, got a re-valuation of estate, and raised rents all round; then trouble began, 6273-4.—Estate in question in Clonmany, 6276.—No safety for tenants unless sale of estate was through Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 6277.—Board preferred, because holdings needed re-arrangement, 6278.—Mostly six-acre holdings, 6279.—If landlord and tenant were allowed to deal directly in these two estates, tenants could be induced to give any price to escape present conditions, 6280-1.

SHIRT INDUSTRY.

Poverty of Inishowen would be relieved if shirt industry could be improved; girls earning 3*s.* a week formerly earned 8*s.*, 6282.—Work done at home partly by hand and partly by machines, which were sold on instalment plan at prohibitive prices, 6284-6.—Girls not so strong as they were twenty years ago; frequently worked eighteen or twenty hours a day, 6287.—Shirt factories in Derry sent shirts partly made, and girls finished them, 6312-3.—Work done more cheaply in country than in city, 6315.

WEAVING INDUSTRY.

Weaving of homespuns done in parts of Donegal; cloth woven mostly for home use and sold one to another, 6289-90, 6302.—Lace industry might be restored if there was an instructor, 6292-3.—Decline of weaving not due to change of fashion, but poor people who used to wear tweeds and woollens made in cottages found machine-made articles from shops much cheaper; better-off people did wear home-made article, 6294-9.—No public market for home manufactured cloth; people spin the wool, get it woven, and used it for their families, but industry had declined, 6300-2.—Cloth could not be exported without improvement, 6303.—If industry were thriving, women would be employed carding and spinning, 6305.—Shirt-making industry to some extent killed weaving; girls better paid making shirts; with shirt industry falling off, weaving might be revived, 6306-7.

EFFECT OF OWNERSHIP.—PURCHASE UNDER CHURCH ACT.

Witness thought people might be trusted to improve houses if they bought their holdings; after Church Act was passed, glebe tenants purchased land at high price, and became most industrious and prosperous landholders in district; when farm of 250 acres was offered for sale, glebe tenants clubbed together and bought it in order to keep out stranger, 6319.—One man chosen as tenant, and all had equal grazing rights, 6320, 6322.—Price, eighteen years' purchase, very high, in one sense, but rents

had been fixed immediately before passage of Church Act, and had been run up to nearly double, 6321-2.—Land very bad, 6323.—Good many instalments nearly paid out, 6324.—Some glebe tenants still paying a little, 6326.—Instalments very improving as compared with rents, 6327-8.—Purchasers under Church Act had to pay one-third of capital out of their own pockets; reason why not all glebe tenants purchased, 6329.—Much improvement could be wrought by proper instruction; young men who had been to Scotland improved their own holdings, 6330.—And served as example to others, 6331-2.

SPRAYING.

Spraying potatoes, work done by Congested Districts Board, 6333.—Last year so good that potatoes did well even unsprayed; result, farmers thought spraying useless, 6333.—Spraying certainly beneficial; it prevented blight, 6334-8.—Two sprayings almost necessary, 6339.—Witness had had repeated experiments; where unsprayed part of field was affected, sprayed part immune, 6340-1.

DOHERTY, Rev. J.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTION.

Acquainted with Carndonagh district, 6342.—Electoral division in itself, 6343.—Glenagannon small electoral division, situated east of Carndonagh, between Carndonagh and Lough Foyle, 6344.—Population 711, 149 families; valuation, £1,276 19*s.*; valuation per head about £1 15*s.* 3*d.*, 6345, 6350.—Four townlands in division; in three townlands, Carrickayode, Carrareagh, and Tulnaree, there were nine large farms; these large farms brought valuation above the unit for scheduling as congested districts, whole division deprived of advantages that might be derived from operations of Board, 6345.—Glentogher and Carndonagh scheduled as congested, but not Glenagannon, which was poorest district in parish, but because of few big farmers was excluded from schedules and deprived of advantages from Parish Council scheme, etc.; it should be scheduled, 6346, 6351.—Average valuation under 30*s.*, if it were not for large farms, 6347.—Or if two dozen farmers were removed, 6348.—Commission had return of electoral divisions where farmers over £50 valuation brought valuation above 30*s.*; Inishowen given under return, witness was surprised that Glenagannon was not mentioned, 6349, and *note*.—Neighbourhood of large farmers no benefit to small ones, 6352.—Few labourers' cottages on farms, these labourers supplied all labour, machinery used and no outside labour wanted, 6353.—Definition of congested districts should be amended to include all farms under £8 or £10, leaving out large farms, valuation should be unit of congestion, 6356-7.—Holding valued at £8 or £9 not necessarily uneconomic, majority of Glenagannon farmers below that, £7, was the limit of valuation for prizes, which was a fair unit, 6366-8.—Not many large holdings in Glenagannon, more than half in area and population composed of small farms, only twenty-one holdings out of 119 over £15 valuation; these large holdings were in two only of the four townlands constituting electoral division, 6376-7.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

Two labourers' cottages erected by District Council in Glenagannon district, 6351-5, 6358.—In this particular place cottages owned by farmers were uninhabitable, and District Council's cottages made no addition to congestion, 6360-1.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Work of Parish Committees should be extended and more money given, 6362-3.

Two large congested districts in parish, inland industries specially needed in Carndonagh, 6365.

AGRICULTURAL WORK OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENT COMPARED.

Unanimous opinion of people that it would be desirable for Congested Districts Board to work live-stock scheme again; when Board had management they

DOHERTY, Rev. J.—*continued.*

kept man in district to look after live-stock and improvements of farms generally, who was an immense help to small farmers; when Congested Districts Board handed over that work to Department of Agriculture, man was removed; Department had done very little for Inishowen, occasionally lectures had been given, but theoretical instruction was useless, if agricultural knowledge was to be improved it must be by resident teacher, 6369-73.—Great deal might be done by practical instruction in central National school in parish, 6374-5.

Weaving and Shirt-making Industries.

Not desirable to encourage weaving industry, while shirt industry was fairly good, not enough labour for both; shirt industry had declined owing to foreign competition, and because fewer people wore white shirts, but had improved during last two years, good deal of underclothing and woollen shirts made as well as linen, 6378-82.

Turbary Arrangements.

System adopted for working turbary very satisfactory; tenants on small property in witness's parish sold under Ashbourne Act bought turbary as commonage, then assigned it to one tenant, appointed yearly, who paid sum agreed on for rent, tenants being entitled to cut turf for their own use free, assignee could make small profit of surplus, but there were regulations as to amount of turf he was allowed to sell to outsiders, etc., which would prevent him opening an export trade; if this plan were tried on other estates, witness saw no need for vesting turbary in trustees, 6384-98, 6402-6.—Memorandum procured for copy of Commission, 6399-400, and *note*, page 41.—If road made by Congested Districts Board were extended to this bog, turf would be available for outsiders in Clonmany and other congested districts, great difficulty now in getting turf out of bog, 6400.—Not a single new road made in district for three or four years, as County Council was limited in amount they could expend on roads, and congested Districts Board had made no grants for new roads, 6401.

Domestic Economy Classes.

Domestic economy class held in Carndonagh three years ago by Congested Districts Board, lasted six weeks, instructress appointed by County Council Agricultural Committee, much good done, twenty or thirty young women joined, cooking in house much improved, 6674.—Class had not been repeated, instructress had too many centres to return often, 6675.—Good would be increased if instruction were oftener, 6676.—Good had been maintained, 6677-8.—Witness's own cook had joined class and improved since, 6680-1.—Other instructress came from Belfast, 6682.—No domestic economy instruction in Carndonagh except that one class, 6681.—Instructress could not be introduced as part of school system, could be got by application to County Committee, 6683.—Reading, writing, and arithmetic only things possible to be taught in country schools, children left so young, 6684.—Girls who attended classes got high wages, few in district went into domestic service, they went to America, 6685.—There they went into service and classes were of use to them, twelve months class better than six weeks, 6685A.—Girls were grown up, 6686.—Such instruction never provided in National schools, sewing in Convent schools, no cookery, no provision for it; National Board once told managers to prepare accommodation, and they applied, but were told there was no money, 6687.

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KAVANAGH, Mr. JOHN.

New Roads—Restrictions imposed on District Councils by Local Government Act.

Mountain roads required in district, District Council's expenditure limited to sum based on expenditure of Grand Jury during its last three years, 6409-10, 6413-8, 6444-6.—Amount fixed by Local Government Act, 6411, 6414, 6445.—£5,025 at disposal of witness's district, greater portion of that required by County Surveyor for maintenance of existing roads, 6412, 6443.—District Council's expenditure entirely for roads, 6420, 6422.—Guardians looked after public health, they were a different body financially though the same men, 6421-5.—County Surveyor made an estimate at end of financial year, 6419.—Independently of Council, 6427.—Power of throwing out his presentments never exercised, 6428-30.—Surveyor only estimated for existing works, not new ones, District Council did that, but they could do nothing if Surveyor's estimate required all the money, 6429-31, 6441-3.—Margin left by Surveyor's estimate the only available fund, power of borrowing not exercised, 6432-3.—Grand Jury had had a free hand 6434.—Roads necessary, 6436-8.—District Council had no rating power to raise money, 6439, 6447.—County Council provided the money, 6439, 6443.—Amount allowed by Local Government Act left no margin for new works, 6450.—Grand Jury spent very little on new works during three years before Local Government Act, 6451.

Congested Districts Board might give Funds.

Way of getting over difficulty would be for Congested Districts Board to supply funds when District Council thought county suffering from want of road, and the county maintain the road afterwards, 6452.—Ratepayers would not object to contributing if they had power to spend, 6453.—It had happened that Board had offered a contribution and District Council could not supply balance, 6454.—Rural district's rates not very high, were higher before Local Government Act, 6455.—Would meet the case if District Council had power to raise rate in order to meet a contribution from Board, 6456.—County Surveyor's estimate had never been cut down or altered, 6457.

Fishing Industry.

Fishing industry required improvement, great deal of population and many small farmers depended on it, last few years it was scarcely worth following from Malin Head to Moville; line fishing in winter, salmon in summer.

Licence for Salmon Fishing.

Salmon-fishing done in open sea, men obliged to pay £3 licence as if they were allowed to fish in river, great hardship, 6461, 6477.—They were satisfied to pay licence in Lough, but outside fishermen objected, 6478-81.—They could fish outside the three-mile limit without licence, but had to pay if they brought the fish in, 6462-4.—They all fished outside the Lough, 6462, 6473.—A fishery company rented the fishing inside from the Irish Society, 6465.—Ten miles from Donegal to Derry side, 6466.—Fishing inside Lough Foyle had always been restricted, need not continue so, salmon-fishing very poor last few years, 6467.—Eighty to 100 boats engaged, 6468.—Open boats, 6469.—Last year 784 lbs. the best take and 395 lbs. the poorest in eight weeks, 6470.—Decline due to decrease of salmon, 6471.—Some men trawled inside Lough, plaice and flat-fish poor and scarce, 6472.—Licence permitted men to fish from Greencastle to Malin Head and from Greencastle to Downhill, 6474.—No restriction as to distance from the shore, 6475.—No stake nets on shore permitted, only drift nets, 6476.—Salmon caught five or six miles from Inishowen Head and along coast according to tide, 6483-4

Trawling, Harm done by.

Cod fished for in open boats at a good distance from land, fish scarce last few years, fishermen thought steam trawlers spoilt it, at present they trawled outside three-mile limit, should be kept ten miles out, protection of fishing would keep young men at home, 6485.—Fish beds beyond three-mile limit, a pity that International law making sea beyond three miles neutral ground should allow valuable beds to be disturbed, 6486-8.—Cod-fish frequented the beds, 6489.—Cod and ling fishing formerly very important, 6490.—No Irish steam trawlers in the north, 6491.—Both sailing and steam trawlers trawled, KAVANAGH, Mr. JOHN—*continued*.

steam trawler could work in all weathers, sailing trawler could never do as much damage, 6493-6.—Fishermen were line fishermen, 6497.—Trawlers never carried away their lines, lines never left derelict, 6498-9.—But trawlers got all the fish, 6500-1.—And injured spawning beds, 6502.—Beds of cod and flat-fish well known, 6503-4.—Experienced men thought they spawned on banks, not as they floated, 6505-6.

BETTER BOATS NEEDED.

Better boats and more harbours required, Moville and Greencastle piers could be improved, young men should be trained to use larger boats and improved methods, 6506, 6508.—Men did not go to Scotland from that side, 6507.—Larger boats useful for cod-fish, 6509.—In season from March to June, 6510.—Boat for six the right size, Board had sent one for cod-fishing as an experiment, 6511, 6513-4.—No harbour accommodation for her, and men got tired of working her, 6512.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Harbours must be improved first, men all round the peninsula should be instructed in use of large boats, 6515-6.—Some of the harbours required only a slight expenditure to fit them for big boats, 6517.—Recent harbour at Culdaff, none between that and Malin Head, 6518-21.—Malin Head would shelter one of these boats, 6524.—Fishermen lived along coast and in villages, they hauled boats on beach, boats twenty-four to twenty-six feet long, 6522-3, 6525-6.

CON-ACRE SYSTEM.

Much land in Inishowen let by auction every year for crop and grazing in con-acre, 6527.—Formerly owner employed labour to work land, 6527, 6529, 6531.—Same amount of labour necessary now, but no money circulated, and actual labourers who owned no land were out of work, farmer who took this tillage land worked it himself, 6530-9.—Small holder had enlarged his farm and was better off, 6540-1.—Very poor got no benefit, price of land sometimes £4 an acre, witness thought if people did not occupy land themselves it should be taken and given to those who had none, 6527, 6533.—People renting land were in the immediate neighbourhood, 6528.—People who took lettings were sometimes small holders, sometimes speculators without land, and sometimes fishermen, the competition raised the price above the value of the land, 6542-4, 6558-60.—Fishermen took land direct, no sub-letting, 6545.—They were obliged to take some, 6549.—Witness's proposal was to give the land to labourers and fishermen who had none, 6546-50, 6553.—Holdings might be enlarged, but not by this system, 6551.—There were only a few of the labouring class, 6552, 6554.—Greencastle was scheduled as congested, 6555.—Some of the people who took the land did so to make their holdings economic, 6557.—Con-acre system very general in Inishowen peninsula last few years, 6565.—Tenants nearly all judicial, 6566.—People who let on con-acre system generally those with a farm attached to their residence, they preferred letting the farm to working it themselves, the farmer pure and simple rarely let, 6567-74.—Landlord with judicial tenants could not interfere with land, 6576.—Tenant had right to let in con-acre, but did not generally, 6577-8.—Witness knew of a few cases, 6582-3.—People sometimes leased ground for stated time, and then let it in con-acre, 6579-82.—Man who let in con-acre did nothing for land, 6584-7.—Witness thought owner should be compelled to occupy himself, 6587.—Man who rented land for a season did as little for it as possible, 6588.—Got as much crop off as he could, 6589.—At end of five years it would not be good, and required a rest and manuring, 6590-1.—Land was let for particular crops in rotation, 6592-4.—Even then it deteriorated, as nearly all crops were raised by artificial manure, 6595.—Leaseholder did not look after his own interest and prevent deterioration, 6596-7.

District Council levied 3*s.* in pound on land, 5*s.* 1*d.* on house property, special charges for water, light, etc., in towns and villages, 6598.—Land described by witness was pretty near a village, 6599.

KAVANAGH, Mr. JOHN—*continued*.

ENLARGEMENT OF UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Object in congested districts was to raise holdings till they became economic, 6561.—Witness thought there would still be enough land to do that after the labourers and fishermen had been supplied, 6564.—Additions to holdings should be adjoining if possible, 6562-3.

MULHERN, MR. THOMAS.

SWILLY SHOULD BE DREDGED IN ORDER TO OPEN UP PORT OF LETTERKENNY.

Letterkenny would have a better market and be port of traffic for cattle and oats, as in former years, if River Swilly were dredged and pier accommodation provided, 6601.—Ships should be able to come up to The Thorn; pier never good; Grand Jury did not take it over, 6602.—Representations had been made and engineer sent down by Board of Agriculture, 6603.

RAILWAY EXTENSION AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

Light railway to Burtonport now paid £3 10*s.* per mile per week, 6604.—Should be extended from Letterkenny to Carrigart; would benefit country generally and enable fish from Downing's Bay to go fresh to market, 6605-7.—Letterkenny the junction for Derry-Burtonport Line; line being constructed from Strabane to Letterkenny; fish could go either by Greenore or any other route, 6608.—Railway from Letterkenny to Burtonport went round foot of bays, 6609-10.—Line at Creeslough sufficient for fish-trade; suggested line would tap part of country from Milford to Ramelton that would support a railway and be a spur, 6611-13.—Fine agricultural district and fishery the other side of Mulroy Bay; it was a congested district, 6613-4.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTION.

With present valuation of 30*s.*, townland was the best unit for congested districts, 6614-5, 6620, 6624.—Bad lands altogether; townland would never need dividing, 6621-3.—Electoral division would be better if valuation were raised to £3 or £4; 30*s.* was too low, 6616-19, 6626.

KELP INDUSTRY.

Kelp industry formerly paying; no competition amongst buyers, so price lower than it should be; no buyers this year; £1,200 and £1,500 worth with no market, 6627.—People did not keep up proper standand, and some asked too high price, 6627, 6633-4.—Industry within purview of Congested Districts Board, 6628-9.—Board might supervise to keep it up to good standard, and find out market, 6630.—Price had declined, 6632.—A substitute for kelp had been found, 6631.—Particular seaweed used made a difference, 6638.

LARKIN, MR. JOHN G.

OPENING UP OF LETTERKENNY, RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Slight shipment of grain from existing port at Letterkenny, 6642.—Greater facilities needed to bring market nearer congested districts, 6644.—Proposed extension of railway would touch The Thorn, 6646.—If railway companies made pier they might divert their own traffic, 6647.—Proposed railway would go through non-congested areas, but benefit congested ones, 6648-9.—Companies promoting Strabane-Letterkenny Line would probably continue to build to Carrigart, 6650-2.—Railway to Downing's Bay necessary to rail fresh fish, 6653.—Scheme had not been put before Government, 6654.—Had been informally discussed with companies, 6655-6.—Pier at Thorn at same time as railway to Rosapenna advocated, 6657.—With pier at The Thorn, cattle from north and west of Donegal would be shipped there; with cross-Channel service things could be got cheaper, and there would be outlet for produce of congested districts, 6658.—Congested districts produced butter and grain; they exported their grain and bought Indian meal, 6659-66.—Trade from The Thorn declined owing to expense of management and want of storage; cartage from Letterkenny cost 2*s.* 6*d.*, 6668.—No cartage needed if there were a railway, 6669.—Steamers could get up to The Thorn; River Swilly might need dredging a little; large steamers get up at high tide, 6670-1.

O'DOHERTY, Mr. PHILIP.

Small amount of Land purchased in Inishowen.

Occupiers in Inishowen had not had much benefit from Acts dealing with congestion, as no estates had been purchased either by Board or Estates Commissioners, 6689, 6692.—Parish Committees had done much good by putting houses in sanitary condition, 6690-1.—Witness's parish one of the most congested in Inishowen; only one townland had been purchased under Purchase Acts; occupiers thus debarred from greatest benefit that could be conferred by purchasing and improving farms, 6692.—When tenants purchased farm yielded more, 6693.—Nearly all judicial tenants in parish, 6694.—Witness a farmer, 6695.—Valuation £12, 6696.—There were holders round with £1 and 30*s.* valuation, 6697.—Some larger holders, 6698.—Little men felt lack of purchase most; they would have more heart for improvements on a purchased estate, 6699.

Price difficulty.

Estate in adjoining parish had been purchased under Ashbourne Act; was got cheaper than price now asked, and had best tract of bog in district attached; twenty years' purchase paid, 20¼ years now asked without bog, 6700.—Few holdings in parish valued at £10, 6701.—Bulk less than £4, 6702.—Tenants had not bought because price too high, 6703.—Parish between Buncrana and Malin Head, and Trawbreagh Bay and Dunaff Head, 6704.—They had asked landlord to sell; he wanted 26¼ years on second term rents, 6705-6.—Price under Ashbourne Act fixed on first term rents only, ten per cent. cut off on second term rents, 6707.—Board had been asked to interfere and fix price on Gilliland estate, of which witness was a tenant; landlord refused to allow third party to be introduced, 6708-14.—Tenants would prefer Board to take estate and improve it so that tenants could live better, 6713.—Absence of bog should also affect price; tenants had to go three and four miles and pay high price for it, 6714, 6719.

Arrears of Rent.

Little arrears of rent, tenants went to America and Scotland and sent rent from there, 6715-7.—Some very small holders in Scotland now, 6716.—Those near Dunaff fished, and complained of lack of means to carry on business, 6718.—Tenants afraid to get fair rents fixed in Court, on account of having to pay up arrears, 6729.

Turbary.

Bog formerly used cut away; it was now bought from tenants who had purchased, and could charge any price they liked, 6719-20.—Witness a judicial tenant, 6722.—There had been no turbary to claim at time of fixing rent, 6723.—Half-dozen tenants had a little, 6723.—Turbary not claimed as a right; it belonged to others, who might refuse to sell it; but price of estates should be lowered by Board on account of lack of turbary, 6724-5, 6727.—Clonmany was witness's district, 6726.—Turf cost tenants 10*s.* or £1 a year, 6727.—Landlord's refusal to sell was in 1903, 6728.

M'ARTHUR, Mr. JOSEPH.

Live Stock Improvement.

Stock improved by Congested Districts Board; changes in horses in twenty years; Clydesdales did well with Irish mares; they had passed away; thoroughbred and Irish draught horse better; hackney and Shire horse should be left out, 6731.—Witness had experience of Irish mares and approved of Irish draught horse, 6755-6.—Galloway breed could not be kept long enough, 6757.—Bulls sent by Board improved the breed of cattle; one-year-old now fetched as much as a two-year-old used to, 6731.—Shorthorns should be tried now instead of Angus, 6731, 6734, 6745.—Not much dairying in district of Londonderry No. 2, 6739.—Milk falling off in consequence of Angus bull, 6740.—That had not been represented to Board or Department, 6741.—Committee knew it; each district chose what they thought best, 6742, 6744.—Angus bulls sent by Board during last three years and before to congested districts, 6735-7.—Department's work as good as Board's, but black bulls and cows not suitable, 6732.—Witness kept large stock of cows, 6746.—And attended meetings of Agricultural Committee regularly, 6747.—Swine improved with large York and Irish sow; Yorks did not do so well when they went out, 6731.

M'ARTHUR, Mr. JOSEPH—*continued.*

Congestion in Londonderry No. 2 District.

Londonderry No. 2 should be scheduled as congested, portions of Fahan very poor, 6731, 6748-50, 6754.—It was five miles west of Londonderry, 6751.—Fahan touched the railway station, 6752.—Poor townlands up estuary on Lough Swilly Line; going away to the Foyle, 6753.

CRAIG, Mr. CHARLES.

Districts in Londonderry to be Scheduled.

Ten or twelve townlands in mountain districts very poor and should be scheduled, 6759-61.—"Congested" meant there were more people living on land than could be supported by it; assistance should be given to people on mountains; improvements made on farms; a little more land given for grazing, 6762-3.—Cattle could be improved by introducing new breed, not shorthorns, the Roscommon or cross-bred, 6764.

Roads needed, espscially to Turf Bogs.

Roads wanted to enable people to get into bogs and take turf to Derry to sell; District Council had no money; Congested Districts Board might assist or give grant, and let County or District Council give a portion towards road, 6765, 6772-3.—Witness lived in Fahan, 6765.—And got turf from mountain, 6766.—Big supply of turf there; would last six or seven generations, 6767, 6771.—Selling turf a principal way of making money, 6768.—Sold in Derry to farmers of Burt and Inch, 6769.—Island of Inch on two estates; turf formerly got from landlord's estate till it was all cut away, 6770.—Several townlands in mountain; over thirty families in one, 6775.—At least a mile of road needed, 6776.—With a road there would be more competition; turf would not be dearer, 6777.—People paid moss money to landlord, 6778.—Some were tenants on estate, 6779.—Witness thought they paid separately for turf, 6780-2.—Road needed in back part of inch, where fishermen were; no country road to Hawk's Nest; fishing not so good as formerly; witness had fished on Lough Swilly for twenty years, 6782.

Witness lived more towards centre of place; his holding's valuation was £13 10*s.* on land, £1 on houses, 6783.—He did not live on mountain, 6766, 6784.

WALKER, Very Rev. Monsignor.

Congestion in Lower Rosses.

Lower Rosses very congested, 6787.—Three electoral divisions and part of a fourth in parish—Annagry, Rutland, Aranmore, and part of Dungloe, 6788-9.—Burtonport in Rutland Electoral Division, 6790.—People all along coast could not live on produce of their small patches of land, either in Upper or Lower Rosses or Lettermacaward; Lower Rosses most congested part of Ireland, 6791.—Statistics for 1901: 6792, 6799.—Annagry contained 9,614a. 1r. 23p., valuation, £632 1*s.*; population, 3,090; valuation per head, 4*s.* 1*d.*, lowest in all Ireland, 6791-4.—Rutland contained 8,732a. 3r. 26p., valuation £1,030 7*s.*; population, 2,913; valuation per head, 7*s.* 1*d.*; Aranmore contained, with islands, 4,415a. 2r. 31p.; population, 1,396; valuation per head, 6*s.* 9*d.*; Cragheyboyle townland contained 1,607a. 3r. 0p., valuation £10; population 88; acreage of Meenmore, 1,548a 2r. 34p., valuation, £188 1*s.*; population, 273; Sheskinarone, 1,313a. 2r. 21p., valuation £58 8*s.*; population, 203; entire acreage of parish, 27,233a. 0r. 15p., valuation £2,390 14*s.* 6*d.*; total population, 7,963; valuation per head in parish, 6*s.*, 6794.

Number of One-roomed Houses.

Number of one-roomed houses: in Annagry 19, with one person living in each, 29 with 2, 14 with 3, 13 with 4, 7 with 5, 10 with 6, 12 with 7, 4 with 8, 3 with 9, 1 with 10, 1 with 11,

WALKER, Very Rev. Monsignor—*continued.*

6794-7.—Total of one-roomed dwelling-houses in Annagry, 113, 6798.—In Aranmore 9 with 1, 9 with 2, 8 with 3, 13 with 4, 5 with 5, 8 with 6, 10 with 7, 4 with 8, 3 with 9, 1 with 10, 2 with 11, 2 with 12, total 74; in Rutland 25 with 1, 39 with 2, 31 with 3, 46 with 4, 44 with 5, 48 with 6, 35 with 7, 25 with 8, 8 with 9, 8 with 10, 1 with 11, 2 with 12, total 322, 6794-8.—Congested Districts Board had greatly improved Aranmore; not many one-roomed houses there now, 6800-1.—509 one-roomed houses in Annagry, Rutland, and Aran, containing 2,310 people; average, 4½ to one room, 188 with 6, and 18 with 10 to 12; average valuation in case of one-roomed houses below 2*s.* per head, 6803, 6808.—Houses in district of better quality than land, 7289.—Land worth from 2*s.* 6*d.* rent up, 7293.—Money for houses came from Scotland, 7294.—And the Lagan, 7295.—Scotch farmers wrote when they wanted labour, 7295.—Houses mostly on sub-divided holdings, 7296.—One-roomed dwellings mostly away in the country; some near roads, 7292.—Rooms varied, some large, 7291.—As cultivation went on houses were added to, 7297-7A.—Number of one-roomed houses would decrease, 7298.

Parish Committee's Work.

Parish Committees had greatly improved matters; Aranmore transformed, 6803-5, 6810-17.—They would do nothing unless rooms were added, 6806.—People added rooms under Parish Committee scheme, 6807.—Committee working in district since 1902; first grant received in 1903, 6809.—People intelligent and apt to follow a lead, 6818.

Increase in Population and Valuation.

Increase in valuation since 1901 due to more houses being built, 6819-22.—Increase in population in district since 1901 above the average for Great Britain, 6823-30.—Population increased more in poor than in better districts, 6831-4.—Emigration practically ceased since industries were established by Board, 6835.—That accounted for increase of population, 6836.—Standard of comfort higher and life easier owing to industrial development, 6837-8.

Sub-Division of Holdings.

Sub-division had also increased with the increase of population, 6839-41.—It was against the law, but tolerated, 6844-7.

Tenure.

Tenants mostly non-judicial, 6848.—Were judicial in a way; some had got a reduction of 4*s.*; 15 years' lease had expired long ago, and not been renewed, but rate remained the same, 6849-51.

New Holdings on Mountains.

Increase of tendency to cultivate in mountain bogs, 6842-3, 6852.—People by sea more prosperous than in mountains, old people lived by sea and gave part of their mountain land to their sons and helped them until it was broken in; sons lived partly on the mountain and partly by the sea, or went to Scotland or the Lagan for part of the year, 6853-60.—Seaweed carried up to mountain for manure, 6859.

Migration Prospects.

Sons would migrate if offered good holdings; old people would not go, 6861-4, 6871-3.—They would go to places in the neighbourhood more easily than to a distance; were attached to family and friends, 6863-4.—If sons had new and better holdings they would probably relinquish their parents' holdings on their death, at any rate for a consideration, and if assured of permanency of new farms, 6865-70.—Ignorance of more distant places the reason of their unwillingness to go, 6874-6.—If they were in the habit of going to Westmeath for employment, they might take their families and settle there; some did settle at the Lagan, 6877.—Settling unmarried people in other parts not a solution of congestion, 6878-9.—Board's condition of giving new holding was that old holding should be given up, 6880.—Experiment of offering new holding to young in case old would not move never tried, 6881.—Witness only meant married people should migrate, 6882-3.—Proportion of young married people to old great, 6884.—Migration of the young would prevent sub-division, but must be accompanied by stiff policy of compulsion, 6885-7.

WALKER, Very Rev. Monsignor—*continued.*

Migratory Labour.

Many people went to earn wages as servants in Scotland, county Tyrone, and Derry, 6888-90.—Scotch migration diminishing; development of fishing kept labourers at home, 6891-2.—In migration districts people mostly away in June, and at home in April; April census fairly represented population, 6894-9.—They remained away from June till November, 6901.—They had experience of living away from home, but they were poorly housed, and glad to get back to their families, 6902-8.—Families would go too in case of permanent migration, but they were attached to home and friends, 6904-6.

Emigration.

In 1883 and 1884 landlord in Aranmore sent thirty families to Canada, these went to friends in Beaver Island, and kept writing to people at home, who also got encouragement from Father Nugent and others, with the result 1,500 went out, 6909-13.—If families had gone across the water they would probably go to other parts of Ireland, 6912.—Report of friends in district would help, 6914.—They would go to any place to get labour if Scotch demand diminished, 6915.

Reclamation of Land for Migration purposes.

Vacant land a practical difficulty with regard to migration; only land in vicinity tracts of moorland, mountain and bog; if bog at Cragheyboyle and outside Dungloe were reclaimed by Board it would be much in requisition, 6917, 6926.—It would be worth while to purchase bog and try, 6918.—Some already reclaimed; more might be done without great cost; An experiment might be made at Dungloe, 6919-20.—There was limestone in parts of witness's parish, 6921.—Drainage not so difficult there, 6922.—There was some seaweed and any amount of sand for manure, 6923-4.—Tenants did not put in much sand, Board's experiment would be an education, 6925.—Land grazed at present, 6928.—Gravel near surface of bog in some places; deep in others, 6929.—Board should acquire large tract of land; drain it and break it in; stripe it and put up houses and invite tenants to take up holdings at a fair valuation; surrendering their own, 6930-43.—Unlimited amount should not be spent by Board unless they got it back afterwards; assistance required in initial stages, 6944.—People would pay back a great deal when purchasing; Board might reasonably lose 8 per cent., 6945-8.—Board should acquire considerable amount of property in Dungloe as experiment, and let it to tenants in lots of 20 to 40 acres, 6949-52.—1,000 acres might be tried first, 6953.

Fishing Industry.

Board had done much for fishing; nearly £27,000 worth of fish sold last year, 6954-5.—Fishing commenced in 'nineties; private individuals tried to develop it and lost a lot of money; then the Board encouraged it by giving grants for boats, nets, piers, etc., 6954, 6957.—Formerly no market and boats were emptied into the sea; private gentlemen sent samples of fish to Mr. J. L. Sayers in London, 6957-8, 6961-3.—He opened market in London; built kippering and curing stations at Burtonport; supplied boats and nets; developed salmon, lobster, crab fishing, etc., as well; invested £2,000 on the island before he made much; good markets ever since, 6958.—Mostly sold at Burtonport; also at Gortinasate, where there was a fine pier with eleven feet of water at low tide; erected by Board, 6959-60.—Opening up of market in 1896, 6964.—Curers came to Burtonport and Gortinasate, 6965.—Good market and curing and kippering station at Burtonport and in Rutland; Mr. Sayers had one, and Board had built others, 6966-9.—People all along the coast had benefited by fishing, 6970-1.—Herrings caught off Aranmore, in the north and west bays, at Gortinasate, Innisbofin Island, Cloughaneely, Downings, Trienagh, and Dowras, 6972-3.—Catches taken to Burtonport, 6974.—Men in mountains had nothing to do with fishing, except carting and curing, 6976-7.—Practically no one outside two miles radius benefited by it, 6978-9.—Fishing population half parish; island and coast people all interested, 6981-3.

WALKER, Very Rev. Monsignor—*continued.*

Larger Boats and more Pier Accommodation required.

More piers and slips wanted; also large boats to be able to go to Scotland if fish failed round coast, 6984, 6997.—People were energetic and would go, 6985-7.—Scotch boats cost £100, 6988-9.—Boats large enough to follow fish cost £200 or £300, 6990.—Campbelltown boats mostly used by Scotch, 6991.—Landing places, piers and slips wanted; pier at Burtonport wanted steps; too small to accommodate amount of traffic on it, 6992, 6995.—Swinging baskets ashore on wire rope from deep water could be done; had never been tried, 6993-4.—Road being made to relieve congestion of pier not finished, 6992, 6998-9.—It came from the seashore behind the store, 7000.—Was begun a year and a half ago by Board of Works, 7001-4.—In connection with railway, 7003.—Local difficulties stopped work; road would be a great relief; 400 yawls in parish; 20 to 30 luggers, built by Board, 7005.—Development of a great industry necessarily slow, 7006.—Fishermen on this coast punctual with instalments, 7007.

Carpet Factories.

Number of girls went to the Lagan; dangerous in many ways, moral and otherwise, to break up families so young by hiring them out; Mr. Wyndham had used his influence to start factories, and Board got Mr. Morton to open two carpet factories in eastern part of parish; Board helped to build and Mr. Morton started factories; they could accommodate 400 girls; they had at present 100 and 120 respectively, 7008.—There were plenty of girls, in fact enough for another factory, but not enough orders, 7009-10, 7016-8.—Wages small at first; 3*s.* 6*d.* to begin with, afterwards 5*s.* or 6*s.*; some could earn 9*s.*, 7010, 7012.—£2,500 paid yearly in wages, 7010.—At first on a fixed scale, then by the piece, 7011.—Factories paying concerns on commercial lines, not subsidised by Board, 7013-5.—Another factory wanted; suitable house towards Dungloe; owner had not made up his mind about selling it, 7018.—Water power not necessary, 7019.—It had been suggested to send experts to England and Scotland and inquire cause of falling-off of market; orders fluctuated; carpet factory had only fifty girls yesterday, 7022-3, 7035.—Assistance of Board on commercial lines might do some good, 7024.—Original intention was to use Donegal wool for carpets, and conduct whole process in the country; but nothing had been done, 7030-1.—There was a woollen factory in Gweedore, 7025.—Not much wool in this parish; wool sent to Gweedore, 7026.—Difficulty of market for carpets would disappear when their excellence was known, 7034.—Demand chiefly from America, 7036.

Knitting.

Knitting centre wanted; hand-knitting poorly paid; 1½*d.* for pair of socks, 7019, 7020.—Machinery in some parts of the country, 7044.—Instructor sometimes sent by Board to teach use of machines, and gave them out to girls, 7045-6.—Virtue of Donegal socks was that they were hand-knitted, 7047, 7049-50.—Demand had diminished so knitting had diminished, 7052-3.—Donegal machine-knitted socks no better than any others, 7048.—Women knitted still for themselves and families; they did not buy socks and stockings, 7054-6.

Spinning Factory needed.

Tufts used in carpet factories imported; might be supplied at home if there were spinning factories; as might "Queen's Yarn," 7019.—No raw materials here; spinning factory would be very useful, 7021, 7024, 7037.—Would give much employment, and there was wool in Gweedore and other districts, 7025, 7027, 7037-9, 7040.—If there were spinning factories, the whole process of carding, spinning, weaving, and dyeing carpets could be done here, 7041-2.

Domestic Economy Classes.

Domestic economy classes established by Board were very useful; teachers went round and improved girls for service and their homes by teaching laundry and cooking, etc., 7058.—Classes were maintained and did much good, 7059.—They were four months in Burtonport; afterwards in Aranmore, Annagry, and Kincaslagh, 7060.—They improved the girls' manner; gave them taste to keep homes nicer and better; helped them at service, 7061, 7064.—Board ceased work and nobody was left to carry it on, 7065.—Number of teachers at Board's disposal limited, 7066.—Witness's parish had had four centres; that was very good treatment, 7067-8.—Effect of classes permanent; girls who had attended assisted the rest of the family, 7069-71, 7075-7.—They did not teach their sisters much, 7078.—Subjects taught were laundry and cooking, and the superintendent studied what was best for locality and taught how to cook potatoes and fish, to scrub floors, etc., 7072-4.—A permanent class would be better, 7079-80, 7084.—Class should last at least four months, 7081.—Other people besides those attending were affected; but they never became so efficient, 7082-3.—If instructors returned and did work in other centres it would answer; though not so well as permanent instructors, 7085-6.—Two years since Board's teachers held classes in parish, 7087-8.—No one had been to parish from Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department; there had been a teacher in neighbouring parish, 7089-91.—Agricultural Department sent out teachers; there was one in Dungloe, 7092.—Domestic service was not taught in National schools because Board made no provision for it; it ought to be part of the curriculum, 7093-100.

WALKER, Very Rev. Monsignor—*continued.*

Net-making Industry.

Net-making should be taught; nets now got from abroad, 7101.—No use starting net factory unless the nets could be supplied at same price as that paid for those from abroad, 7102-5.

Cooperage.

Cooperage could be enlarged with advantage; 30 or 40 people could be employed; at present only five apprentices and two or three journeymen, 7107, 7114-5, 7121.—Barrels imported although cooperage had been established ten years, 7107-8.—Few barrels in cooperage; those all bought up at beginning of fishing, 7109-10.—Men got timber where they could; Congested Districts Board supplied a few men and ought to supply more; men anxious to make barrels at home and could not get enough timber, 7111.—Barrels sold to curers, 7112.—Cooperage paid its way; many applications from young fellows wishing to get in had to be refused, 7109, 7113.—Better for cooperage to remain in Board's hands rather than in those of a private person; even if it were enlarged so as to make a profit, 7116-8.—Business should not be carried on simply to suit the desires of a population; at the same time if cooperage could be enlarged there were plenty of young men who could be employed in it, 7119-20.—Cooperage working now; store of barrels exhausted; all sent to Killybegs, 7122-3.—In Scotland curer made barrels; in Ireland curer brought barrels with him; but there was always a scarcity, 7125-6.—Barrels could not be produced under 4*s.* 6*d.*, 7127.

Purchase of Aranmore and Inniskeeragh by Board.

Aranmore and Inniskeeragh Islands had benefited much from Board; bought in 1901 in a very confused state; landlord was bankrupt, and tenants did not know who was the right receiver for rent, 7128, 7141, 7168.—Very recently tenants paid 4 per cent., 7128, 7133.—Now they paid 3¼, 7134.—The houses were wretched and island very bad; all changed now; houses in Aranmore fine; two-thirds slated and zinc-covered; cattle in byres instead of in the houses; drains made on land; twelve miles of road made leading to bogs and mountain; fences made to divide mountain from arable land and prevent cattle falling over cliffs, 7128, 7169, 7187.—Land bought before price was inflated; 14 years' purchase paid in Aranmore; four or five years more would be paid now; Irwin estate sold at same time at 15 years' purchase with addition of one or two years for arrears; sold direct to tenants, who were well satisfied, 7128-30, 7137-9.—Deasley estate offered at same time, but sale not effected, and now 20 years' purchase would have to be paid; that was not safe for people to pay, 7130.—Deasley estate also to be sold direct from landlord, 7131.—Whole of Aranmore was mountain or bog, 7140.—Some holdings on Aranmore were enlarged by Board, 7199.—The land used was that remaining in landlord's hands after emigra-

WALKER, VERY REV. MONSIGNOR—*continued.*

tion of thirty families to Canada, 7200.—No economic holdings in Aranmore; people could not live without fishing, 7201-2.—Seven licensed houses in Aranmore, 7203-4, 7207.—They were there before the purchase, 7209.—Board had no power to deal with licences, which were easily got, 7205-6.—Aranmore a petty sessions district, 7210.—Sessions held regularly, 7211.—Licences granted by magistrates who sat there, 7212.—Could not be increased so long as temporary law operated, but could when that came to an end, 7213-4.—Improvements carried out by Board in Aranmore without loss, £6,083 spent; estate bought for £8,000, sold to tenants in 1905; original rent £591, reduced by £230; houses and sanitary surroundings improved; spring wells made, £25 spent by Parish Committee on spring wells; Mr. Doran had met objections most satisfactorily; island an everlasting credit to Board, 7215.

MINERALS.

Expert should be sent to report on minerals along coast, 7143, 7152, 7167.—There should be a mining expert in Board's employment, 7153-4.—There was granite at Rosguill, marble in Doe, Muckish sand also in Doe, various mines in Cloughaneely, silver mines at one time opened, 7144-5.—Streak of gold in Cashelnagorr, flag quarry in Cloughaneely; people there very poor, 7145-6.—Cloughaneely in Dunfanaghy Union, 7147.—Board should make a grant to start these industries and interest the people round, and then give it up, not subsidise permanently, 7148-51.—They could be started by private enterprise, but it was too poor a district, 7155-6.—There were plenty of people elsewhere ready to start companies, but matter must be brought to their notice in some way; a report from a mining expert might do that, 7156-8.—There was a geographical survey of Irish experts; Board might invite them to do it, 7159-60.

GRANITE QUARRIES.

Quarries of beautiful granite in district, might be developed to help people in case of failure of fishing; company had been started once by a private gentleman; men had been found able and intelligent; fifty or sixty men had been employed at wages of about 14*s.*, 7160.—Company failed, because funds ran out; they had purchased cranes, made a railway line, and got steamer to bring granite across lake; then their money ran out, 7161-2.—Railway closed now, 7163.—At first they had to bring granite down to Burtonport by cart, 7164-5.—Congested Districts Board should subsidise the industry to give it a start, 7166.

COMMONAGE GRAZING.

Mountain held in common grazing and for turf, 7170.—Number of cattle regulated by amount paid; all tenants paid the same; they bought the mountain at the same time as the rest, 7171-3.—Stint system not used; putting sheep on mainland forbidden, formerly a great abuse, 7174-6.—All tenants had equal rights to mountain, 7176.—Disputes as to one man keeping more than his share formerly settled by Board's representatives, 7177-8.—There were no disputes now and no means of settling them except the law, 7179-81.—A committee settled in Rutland; one had been suggested for Aranmore, 7181.—System of common grazing better than striping; mountain not worth fencing, 7182-6.

PARISH COMMITTEE WORK.

Separate houses for cows was due to Parish Committee; Board had built in some cases, but not generally, 7187-9.—Aranmore had its own Parish Committee and a separate House Committee to see after improvements; the latter did not do much, 7190-2.—Parish Committee spent £400, 7192.—Local contributions amounting to £20 given to Parish Committee when it started, 7193-4.—Parish Committee had done a lot on mainland as well, though funds were too small in bad places, 7195.—There was the same disposition to build separate cow-houses, 7195.—Scheme worked equally well amongst tenants who had bought and those who had not, 7196-8.—Of the Donegal and Mayo systems of Parish Committees, witness preferred the one of prizes and assistance, 7240-2.—Value of improvements made in witness's parish by those who got grants seven and a-half times amount of grant; value of all improvements

WALKER, VERY REV. MONSIGNOR—*continued.*

twenty-five times amount of grant; 111 applicants, only 39 could be helped; grant first year £36, second and third years £75; improvements valued £1,875, 7242.

LADY DUDLEY'S NURSES.

Lady Dudley's nurses had been helped by Board, 7215.—They alleviated suffering and had a humanising influence on ignorant people, 7216.—They were from the best hospitals and managed by committee in Dublin, 7217-8.—Formerly they had no doctor at all in winter, and many died; now a nurse lived in Aranmore and one in Annagry, 7218-20.—Land in Aranmore better than in Rosses, all rock in Rosses, people could only live on it two months, 7221.—Commissioners couldn't see much of Aranmore improvements in two hours, 7221A.

Board used to supply bulls, asses, rams, etc., to improve stock; no advantage got from Agricultural and Technical Board; witness did not take any interest in the latter; there were fewer animals now, and he had heard complaints; it might be the committee's fault; they did not do much in that way, 7222-39.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Eighty acres at Lackenagh and eighty acres on island of Inniscoo of grazing land in hands of landlord, which could be bought and added to small holdings in district, 7242-5.—Estates had been rented for years by a Mr. Keown, his heir failed and land went back to landlord, 7245.—Mr. Keown was a merchant, and tenants deposited money with him at 5 per cent.; when his heirs failed the men lost their money, they could not recover from landlord; a good thing if land could be divided among people of Eighter and Burtonport, 7246-8.

Four public houses in Annagry, 7249-50.

EDUCATION IN THE ROSSES.

Repugnance to breaking up families the cause of congestion, 7251.—As education advanced that cause declined, 7252.—Children were hired out so young they could not be educated, 7253-8.—45 per cent. of population of Annagry were illiterate, 7256.—Ignorance and illiteracy not synonymous; people were intelligent and bilingual, 7282-8.—Though they couldn't read and write English, 7298-9.—They learnt an astonishing amount in Scotland and elsewhere, 7303.—In the classes they wrote both Irish and English now, 7300.—Children went very young to the Lagan and other places, hired out from six and seven, and only sent to school in winter, 7261-2.—Some were hired for herding at four and got £1 a year, 7262-3.—They went to friends or relations in the district, 7266-7, 7273, 7278.—And were fed, 7279.—Educational authorities did not interfere, 7280.—If Compulsory Act were in force it could not touch the thing as if it occurred in England, 7281.—Children sent to the Lagan from nine or ten years, average age 16, 7268-70, 7272.—The younger ones went as herds, 7273.—They went to the big farmers, the older sisters there took the little ones to earn money, 7276-7.—Factories did not take children under thirteen or fourteen years, 7265, 7274.

Tenants would like to purchase through Congested Districts Board; they were so pleased with Aranmore, they would like to follow the same course, 7301-2.

O'DONNELL, MR. J. F.

Congested Districts Board had done a great deal towards improvement of Rosses District; opened roads; encouraged improvement of holdings and offices; purchased Aranmore and brought peace and contentment to the islanders.

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING INDUSTRY.

Encouragement of fishing industry the greatest benefit; private individuals had tried to establish herring fishery and failed twice, in 1889 and 1890; Father Walker and Mr. Hammond made success sure; Father Walker purchased nets and boats and distributed salmon nets as well; he spent £500 of his own and sold store for cooperage for £200 instead of its value, £1,000; Board took up the matter and

O'DONNELL, Mr. J. F.—*continued.*

made it a success, 7305.—Improvement in fish market; in 1895 herrings sold for 4*s.* a cran; in 1896 Duke of Abercorn saw the boats full of fish lying without market and telegraphed to Mr. J. L. Sayer, who sent a representative and expended £3,000 on curing stations and kippering houses, he then formed Donegal Fishing Company, which had nets working this year value £2,000, boats, £5,000; stock, £3,000; it paid £900 for lobsters alone; the total it paid in 2½ years was £27,360, 7305, 7360.—Crown brand would be a benefit, 7305.—Local buyers could then compete with Scotch firms whose brands were well known, fishermen would reap the benefit in prices, as buyers would work for smaller profit if on a level with Scotch and English firms; at present transit rates prohibitive; Norwegians and Danes could send to London cheaper, 7306.

PIERS AND SLIPS NEEDED.

Larger boats, life-saving appliances and facilities for landing fish needed; Islands of Innishfree, Innishkerragh, Innishaal, Rutland, Inniscoo, Eighter and Aranmore sent a large fleet out and had no boat slips; two piers and a slip on Aranmore would save much hardship; mainland from Dunfanaghy to Falcorrib wanted attention; landing places and slips wanted at Magheraroarty, Magheragallon, Innisboffin, Innishitter and Innishmame wanted safe landing places and slips; Burtonport harbour needed dredging and pier extending, 7305.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

Industries needed in case of failure of fishing; kelp-making had declined; 2*s.* a day made by it in good weather; in bad times Scotch harvest depended on for rent, etc., that a thing of the past since introduction of machinery, 7305.

GRANITE.

Granite quarries would give much employment if developed; material first rate, 7305.—There was a railway and shipping facilities, 7317-8.

PEAT FUEL.

Abundant material for making peat fuel, 7305.—It would benefit the people and there was enough to last a considerable time for domestic purposes as well, 7307-10.—Bogs were dotted all over with lakes and rivers, 7311.—Everyone had not turbary facilities, 7312.—Some had to go five or six miles and buy turf and had the additional expenses of carting; it made a great difference in their circumstances, 7313-5.

RECLAMATION OF MOORLAND.

Reclamation of moorland important; it should be taken up by Board; if drained, limed and tilled it gave good crops; existing plots too small, large proportion rock, average rent 30*s.*; thousands of acres of unreclaimed moor within nine miles of Burtonport; there were limestone quarries in various centres, 7305.—Small portions grazed at present sour, dangerous grazing, 7319-20.—Grazing of 1,600 acres of it worth £8, 7321.—It was eight or nine miles away, 7324.—Reclamation would not create shortage of grazing, 7322.—Country not stock raising, too much granite, 7322.—Each house had a cow or two, 7323.—Moorland would be poor grazing, would want to be tilled and drained, no substance in grass, 7325.—Gravel sub-soil not deep in places, a lot of peat in others, 7326.—A few sheep on it, they did not do well, 7327-8.—There was not enough wool to supply the woollen and carpet factories, 7329-31.—Limestone quarries in each town, 7386.—Lime burnt with turf and sent to Burtonport, 7387-8.—Limestone in centre of bogs, but not near the population, there was a great demand, but it had to be carried a great distance, 7389-92.—Lime 9*d.* or 10*d.* a barrel at kiln, 1*s.* in Burtonport, 7393.—Little used for potato gardens, only for building and limewashing, 7394.—Barrel weighed 5 to 10 stones, 7395-12.—Carried in an ordinary cart, 7396.

TRANSIT FACILITIES.

Transit improved in last twenty years; provisions formerly carted from Derry at £2 10*s.* a ton; steamer started in 1887 by Mr. Hammond reduced rate to 10*s.*; later a regular sea service, now a railway, 7306.

O'DONNELL, MR. J. F.—*continued.*

COOPERAGE.

Some young men had learned barrel-making at Congested Districts Board's cooperage; had built themselves a shed and bought implements and Board had promised to supply staves; supply only kept them employed three months, and yet there are plenty of unused staves at the cooperage, 7306, 7337, 7350-1.—Cooperage could be made to pay; 15,000 barrels used at Burtonport, only 7,000 or 8,000 turned out there and many of those sent to Killybegs and Downings; coopers had to go to Scotland, etc., to get employment, 7332.—Cooperage worked by Board, 7333.—Should be worked at a profit, 4*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* paid for barrels, 3*s.* 10*d.* paid for Scotch barrels, 7334-5.—4*s.* 4*d.* barrels made on the spot bought for convenience, 7336.—If local coopers made barrels it would be in their favour to fix price, 7337.—Men idle for want of staves, they could not import them without money, 7338-41.—Scotch or Norwegian timber used, imported direct from Norway, 7344-5.—Steamers would come direct to Burtonport if there were means to purchase, 7346.—Advance of money wanted, men honest and would repay, 7348-9.—Private cooperage would pay if fishing continued, 7352-3.—If fishing failed barrels could be exported to Scotland, 7354-7.—No great outlay needed, £30 would be enough, 7358-9.—Thirty men or more could be employed, 7361.—Barrels should all be made in Ireland or where fish were fished, 7362-3, 7376-7.—Fishing hampered by present system; transit uncertain; barrels did not always arrive in time by rail, 7364-70.—Railway broke down sometimes, 7369.—There might always be shortage of barrels unless local supply was up to demand, 7370.—As much labour as possible should be employed in district, 7371—Board's cooperage should be made three times the size, 7372.—A reserve should be kept, 7373.—Only one-eighth of barrels used were made here, 7375.—Coopers would be willing to work for lower wages in order to compete with foreign supply and reduce cost of barrels, 7380-4.—Men could live cheaper at home than going to Scotland for work, 7380, 7382.—Buyers would support home industry; at present they paid 4*s.* 4*d.* to Board, 7378-9.—Preference would be given to local manufacture if price were the same, 7385.—Locally manufactured articles must be sold at same price as imported articles, 7384.

POMEROY, Mr. JOHN A.

CONGESTION IN THE ROSSES.

1,500 tenancies in rental of the Rosses at average rent of £1 2*s.* 6*d.* a tenant; did not represent present number of tenants; Rosses very congested and required immediate attention; other parts of Lord Conyngham's estates congested and needed attention, but were not so pressing or so difficult to deal with, 7398-404.—No large grazing farms in Rosses; migration or industries only method of dealing with congestion, 7405.—Eighty acres referred to by Monsignor Walker had been let for years as grazing to a permanent tenant, 7538.

MIGRATION PROSPECTS.

Neither young nor old people would move except to good pasture farms, 7408.—They were very devoted to their own homes, 7411.—They did not emigrate much, 7409.—They migrated to Scotland for a few months in the year, 7410.—Worth trying to migrate six or eight families together, 7413.—It would be difficult, but might be managed; large value would have to be given for existing holdings, and new holdings must be better land and have houses put on them; expense would be great, 7414-8.—Enlargement of holdings by migration a good thing, but too expensive; money better expended starting industries, 7476.

PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIES.

Industries might be started by Board, private people would then take them up, as was done with the fishing, which was started by Father B. Walker and taken on by Board till it proved a success when others took it up; a good commercial man would take up the cooperage if it were shown that Congested Districts Board worked it without loss; reason for starting industries was low cost of living, which would mean low cost

POMEROY, Mr. JOHN A.—*continued.*

of labour; cost of coal not more in Burtonport than in London, though it would be prohibitive for industries connected with iron, 7418.—Small industries could be started, 7489.

Free Houses.

Rents of holdings judicial; nothing charged for houses, as tenants had built them themselves, 7419-22.—Law in Ireland did not prohibit holding being supplied without house, 7423.

Free Fuel.

Turbary practically free, entered very slightly into computation of rent, 7424-7.—Cost of conveying sometimes serious, 7424.—Tenants with tracts of bog sometimes charged exorbitantly for trespass; they had no right to, 7428-9.

Employment.

2*s*. and 2*s*. 6*d*. a day charged for labour, 7430.—Not much employment, price high because people were away in Scotland earning, 7431.—2*s*. a day got in fishing season for carting, curing, etc., 7432.

Reclamation of Moorland.

Migration to mountains would only perpetuate congestion; reclaimed bog or mountain land liable to potato disease; too far to take seaweed for manure; good reclamation expensive; insufficient reclamation yielded bad crop, 7433, 7437.—Reclamation by family on outskirts of farm good; dangerous to plant a man down in district to be reclaimed, 7434.—Mountain crops suffered more from frost and blight, 7435.—If men were taken from seaside they must be given self-supporting holdings, 7436.—If Congested Districts Board bought land holdings could be enlarged by adding mountain grazing to be reclaimed by tenants, 7438-9.—Very little regular grazing in district; one farm of 60 or 70 acres at Crohy in hands of tenant with a judicial rent, 7440-2.

Price of Tenant-right.

Tenant-right could be bought for forty years' purchase of rent, 7443, 7458.—Landlord's interest 25 years, total 50 or 60 years' purchase, 7445.—Large farm did not bring as many years' purchase as small, but was more difficult to acquire; man would say he had the option of dividing it, 7446.—Price of small holdings' tenant-right high, because few came into market, 7448-9.—Rent of mountain land very small; if it were reclaimed by a tenant the tenant-right would sell for a large number of years' purchase, not as much as forty years, 7459-64.

Sub-division.

A judicial tenant often sold a piece of his farm he had no right to, but it was the custom, and feeling in country was so strong landlord could not prevent the sub-division, 7449-54.—If Government bought land they would have to enforce law very firmly at first, but such action was necessary, 7455-7.—Mountain holdings larger than those by the sea, not so much sub-division there, 7473-4.—People by sea had other ways of making a living, so did not hesitate to subdivide, not the same opportunities in mountains, 7475, 7477-8. Record of sub-division could not be given accurately, 7480.

People better off on Seaboard than Inland.

Holdings along seaboard probably not formed by reclamation; tenants must have come there, because the land was already grass land and potatoes were easily grown without trouble of reclaiming; there was in addition seaweed for manure, and fishing, 7465-6.—Reclamation more difficult where bog was deep, 7467.—People on seaboard better off than those inland who were dependent solely on agriculture, 7468.—Inland people had turf nearer, but only part of Rosses had difficulty with turbary, 7469.

Sale of Turf.

Not much sale of turf in Rosses, on parts of estate a large sale for export, 7470-1.

POMEROY, Mr. JOHN A.—*continued.*

Granite.

Granite quarry badly managed at first; a new lease had been granted and it would start under better auspices and probably be a commercial success, 7481-2.—40 or 50 men employed in it before, 7483.

Soapstone.

Soapstone in district would give employment if developed; used for French chalk, 7484.—It was close to the sea, 7485.

Peat Products.

Peat-compressing industry could be started; was a success in Sweden and Norway; should be possible in Ireland, although it had been attempted without success, 7486-8. Ammonia and other products could be got from peat, 7489.

Sheep Drains.

If mountains were sheep-drained more sheep could be kept and woollen mills started; sheep-draining tried with great success in Tyrone, 7489.—Congested Districts Board should do it in places and show the way, others would then take it up, 7492.—Difficulty of keeping open the drains where cattle were kept not serious, 7490-1.—Plenty of time to open them in winter, 7493.—Witness had never seen cattle on a mountain with surface drains for sheep, 7494.—Advantage to exclude cattle, 7495.—Tenants would be induced to keep sheep instead of cattle, they were more paying, 7495-6.—Mountain grazing mostly common; tenants would all have to agree not to keep cattle, 7497-8.—Some places had been fenced by Board, 7498.—Woollen industry might be started with advantage, 7500.

Fishing Industry.

Improvement needed in landing-places for fishermen; accommodation insufficient for shaking nets, 7500, 7502.—Board would be justified in spending money on piers and boat slips, 7501-2.

Agricultural Work of Board and Department.

Congested Districts Board had managed improvement of stock admirably; Board had a good name, which was everything in Ireland; no reason to complain of way Department of Agriculture carried on business; witness had not particularly noticed, 7503-8.

Open Fowl and Egg Markets needed.

Markets should be established at Burtonport; no means of disposing of fowls, etc., 7508, 7519.—At present they were taken to shops to reduce debt, a bad way of doing business; real value never obtained, 7509-10.—System not so prevalent as formerly, more ready cash since development of fishery, 7511-2.—Much competition between merchants along coast, 7513.—No local fowl buyers going round, 7514.—Fowls sold to shopkeepers, and in summer to hotels and visitors, 7515.—Geese merchants in Glenties, 7516.—Fowls improved in last few years, a larger industry now, 7517-8.—Proposed market would be for fish as well, and other commodities if there were any, 7520.—No butter, 7521.—No creameries in district, 7522.

500 families would have to be migrated from Rosses to make appreciable difference, 7523.

Young Stock and Grass Lands.

Dry stock bought for graziers, 7524.—Age of selling too young, three-quarters of a year old, 7525.—Kept longer in Glenties, 7530.—Sold young from necessity and sometimes from habit; people anxious to get money; profit in stock if kept longer, not in this district, but in Glenties and Mountcharles; not so many kept on mountains as formerly, 7526-7, 7534.—Young stock taken by buyers to fairs and sent to Glasgow, 7528-9, 7532.—Breaking up of grass lands in other parts of Ireland would not affect this district or Glenties, 7533, 7535.—Fewer cattle now on mountains, because people were so anxious to get money they did not keep their cattle, 7536.—There were not more sheep, 7537.—There might be more sheep and therefore less cattle in Donegal, but explanation not satisfactory, 7538.

SPARGO, Mr. EDMUND.

Lease of Granite Quarries.

Witness had read of a monolith of granite on Aranmore in Professor Hull's book on ornamental stone; had visited place, and leased the land on the mainland; was unable to obtain lease of Aranmore; he was not limited to Conyngham property, 7594-5.—Lease was on exceptionally favourable terms for sixty years, 7545, 7602.—No royalties first year; 2*d.* a ton afterwards; rent £20 a year for ten years, rising gradually to £250 at end of thirty years, 7602-4; no sum paid down, 7603.—Liberal lease granted, with view of improving property, 7606.—He did not float company himself; he spent £800, and submitted it to preliminary tests; exhibited examples of granite at International Exhibition, London, for which he got diploma, 7541.—He got lease in 1888, 7544.—Disposed of it in 1892 to Colonel Russell, of York, who intended to work it privately; Colonel Russell purchased first two-thirds of lease and then the whole; he died before he could do anything, 7547, 7556-8, 7570.—While witness had quarry he tried to get Mr. Suthurst, a barrister, of London, to float a company to work it, and Mr. Freeman, of Cornwall quarries, came to look at it, 7549-50A, 7552.—Witness had known Mr. Suthurst on Norwegian matters, 7550A.—Negotiations failed, as price could not be agreed on, 7552, 7555.—Mr. Suthurst had not heard of estate before, 7553-4.—On Colonel Russell's death lease was sold to Mr. Bradburn, of Liverpool, in 1895 or 1896, 7559-60, 7571-2.—It was floated as a company for £50,000, of which vendor got £26,000, leaving £24,000 to spend, 7559-63.—They spent £20,000—£8,000 on machinery, 7559.—They worked it three or four years, 7565, 7573.—They sold some very fine cargoes of stone; no lack of demand, but there was no means of transit; £20,000 or £30,000 more capital wanted; one company could not work estate effectively; fifty quarries could be established 7565, 7567.—Area seventy square miles; as much granite as in the whole of Scotland, 7566.—Principal quarry opened under Dungloe Station; failed because there was no means of transit; they had a steamer across lake, but a causeway and tramway would have been cheaper; eventually they built a pier; by that time capital was gone; thirty-two shareholders, mostly Liverpool people, 7568.—A local shareholder, Mr. Sweeney, lost £1,000, 7569.

Donegal and Aberdeen Granite.

Aberdeen people ready to buy any amount of red granite to manufacture monuments and sell it as Aberdeen; it was almost exactly like Peterhead granite, 7574-8.—Unfortunately a salmon granite quarry was opened, and there was plenty of that on island of Mull; that was the cheap granite, 7574-5.—Not cheaper to take granite to Aberdeen from Peterhead than from Ireland; Peterhead stone £6 per ton, 7581.—Peterhead supply very confined, 7583.—Aberdeen people would get Rosses stone cheaper than the Peterhead, and it would look the same when polished, 7584.—Demand from Aberdeen enough to encourage industry; original intention was to compete against Aberdeen; Press had thought Donegal quarries would be serious competitors, 7585.—Witness thought cargoes had gone to Garston, 7586.—Market important element of success, 7588.—Witness had had nothing to do with management of quarry company, 7588.—He was not familiar with commercial details; there were people alive who were; the manager, Mr. M'Bean, was probably now at one of the Newry quarries, 7590-3.

Present position of Industry.

Bradburn lease had not been transferred; Mrs. Ernest Hart had purchased original company's interest out, 7596.—From Donegal Granite Company, Limited; they had accepted shares in new company, 7597.—Present company contemplated capital of £250,000, of which £55,000 were underwritten, 7598.—Original company had not yet liquidated; they must before they could transfer, 7599.—No receiver was put in, 7600.—They had not failed on account of quality of stone, 7601.—Local workers were most satisfactory, 7608.

SPARGO, Mr. EDMUND—*continued.*

Shipping Difficulties.

Pier built by company had been finished, but big ships could only reach it through the Sound, which was eleven feet deep at high water, 7609, 7612-4.—Irish Board of Works had since built a pier in centre of coast line; enable ships of 2,000 tons burden to approach, 7609-11.—Failure of company only attributable to lack of capital, 7615.—Hopes entertained that it would still go on, 7616.—Present promoters all Irish, except Mrs. Ernest Hart, Mr. Segrue, the principal promoter, and he was much interested in Irish improvements; witness had no interest in company now, 7617.

GAVIGAN, Rev. J.

Statistics of Parish of Mevagh.

Downing's fishery in witnesss's parish of Mevagh, 7620.—It was in Milford Union, 7621.—And contained four electoral divisions, 7622.—No sales had taken place in district, 7623.—Congestion would be partially relieved if tenants owned land, as they would be more inclined to make the most of it; even the hope of possession encouraged them to make improvements, 7624.—All the tenants on very small holdings; population of Rossguill at 1901 census was 1,182; valuation, £804 9*s.* 6*d.*; 15*s.* per head, 7625-8.—Carrigart Electoral Division.—Valuation, £1,096 17*s.* 0*d.*; population, 1,336, 249 families; Glen Division—Valuation, £679 12*s.* 0*d.*; population, 740, 157 families; Crawford Division—Valuation, £1,096 10*s.* 0*d.*; population, 1,298, 247 families, 7628.—In Rosguill, 154 holdings not exceeding £4; thirty-four above £4; four £10 valuation, 7629.—People on very small plots, 7630.

Fishing Industry.

Disastrous if fishing and means of livelihood in Scotland and England all failed; tenants could not then pay annuities in case of purchase, as they could not live by land; such a thing unlikely; if men were fishermen they must follow the fish wherever they were, 7631-3.—People had not at present means of pursuing fish, but they were getting on, and would have in future, 7634-6.—If one thing failed another would open, 7637.

Agricultural Work of Board and Department.

Work of Congested Districts Board transferred in spring of 1904 to Agricultural Department, with disastrous results; Board had resident who advised farmers as to seed and manures, etc.; had a depot of farming implements let out at a nominal hire of 6*d.* a day; when witness applied for the use of these in 1904 Board replied they had now nothing to do with agricultural work; Department of Agriculture was dealing with it; application was sent on to Department, and no reply received for five days; witness then wired to Department; the only reply was that implements were to be sold next week; they never replied to inquiries as to when and how they were to be sold at all; witness heard accidentally that implements were being sold, and sent two men to purchase, with view of putting them in charge of Parish Committee; when men arrived all the good ones were sold to well-to-do farmers, and only worthless things left; witness then wrote to Department, who replied that they would not send any more implements or give aid to the Parish Committee to get them; confidence in Department shaken, 7638-9, 7643.—Witness knew of Committee inquiring into working of Department, 7640.—Had not been examined before it, 7641.—He would like to see the Board working again, 7642.—Department might have wished to spare expense, 7644.—People would be willing to pay enough to cover cost of supervision of implements, 7645.—Rollers most commonly used; 1*s.* a day charged for long distances, 7647.—User provided house and man, and returned implement, 7648.—Drill-harrows, grubbers, wheel hoes, and spraying machines also used, 7649-50.—Board's official withdrawn in 1904; no one sent by Department to inquire, as far as witness knew; a man might have been on a bicycle, but that was useless, 7662-7.

GAVIGAN, Rev. J.—*continued.*

Spraying.

Spraying continued in district; was beneficial, 7651-2.—Excellent results on potatoes, both tuber and plant, if done properly and in time, 7653-4.—It acted as manure and strengthened plant to resist blight; would not cure blight, 7655-8, 7661.—Spraying begun early through action of Board, 7658.—People too poor to get machines, and had difficulty in getting materials; no real benefit without machines, 7659.—Larger tenants had their own, 7660.

Fishing Industry.

Development of fishing had relieved congestion; twelve years ago 300 migratory labourers from witness's district in one electoral division; now hardly any; in witness's parish twenty-five boats employing 150 men had been given by Board; these employed 140 boys and girls in curing, etc., and about thirty cartowners, coopers, etc.; in Carrigard division people were poor and still went in large numbers to Scotland; further development of fishing at Downing's would be a help. Piers required for that.

Piers required.

Pier wanted at Ballywhurriskey, in Fanad; people went from there to fish in new big boats at Downing's, 7668.—It was a poor district, not in same opening as Downing's, and centre of a fishing ground, 7669-70.—Small shipment of granite there for which people had built a pier, 7671.—Shelter and landing stage for boats required, 7672, 7683.—People could then fish their own waters, or when going to Downing's keep their boats at home, and go to and fro in them; at present they walked over land and kept the boats at Downing's, 7673-4, 7680, 7696-7.—There might also be a small curing station, 7675-6.—At present they could not go to sea if there was any stir in water; they had boats, but no way of bringing them in, 7678-9.—Twenty-five miles to Downing's, 7687.—People went to Downing's for herrings, but other fish was caught, 7685-6, 7695.—Pier wanted also at Portnablaugh, in Dunfanaghy, 7689.—Downing's pier needed extension, as all people who fished herrings went there, 7689, 7777-9.—Small piers in creeks adjoining Downing's not wanted during herring fishing, as men would then remain there and keep their boats there, but they were wanted for cod, ling, salmon, etc., at other seasons, 7690-4, 7702-3, 7707, 7714-5, 7732.—There was lobster fishing as well, 7700.—Fishing could not support people without the herrings, 7701.—No safe anchorage at present, 7704-5.—Boats hauled on to beach, 7706, 7713.—Fish might be sent fresh to market or might be cured; salmon and lobster not cured, 7709.—Cod might be sent fresh; must be iced to go a long distance, 7710-1.—Board had formerly established curing stations along coast, 7712.—Not much market in neighbourhood of proposed small piers; fish could be sent by rail, 7716-8.—They would also be used for local consumption, 7717.—Landing of herrings took place at Downing's, 7719.—Object of pier was to prevent necessity for hauling up boats, 7720.—Departure pier would be a landing pier, 7721.—Possibility of acquiring larger boats chief argument in favour of piers, 7722-3.—Ballywhirrishy not sheltered; people could often fish if they had pier, 7724-6, 7743.—Small boat used for salmon, 7727.—A row boat called a yawl, 7728-9.—Not too big to be hauled up, 7730.—Pier required for luggers and yawls; they could not be launched in a rough sea without, 7733, 7737-41, 7744.—Shelter pier wanted if money was available, if not a landing stage, 7734.—Yawls could ride at anchor in fine weather, 7745.—They would have to be pulled up in winter, 7746.—Pier would prevent trouble of dragging them up, 7747.—Ballywhirrisky had deck boats for herring fishing, 7748-51.—Herring fishing might sometimes be at other places besides Downing's, and it would be more convenient for men to be able to come home in boats, and get aboard again at home, instead of going over to Downing's to fetch boats, 7753-6.—They would use boats after herring season, 7752.—So long as centre of herring fishing was at Downing's, headquarters should be there, 7758.—Ballywhirrisky sometimes called Portmalee, 7757.—Rosses coasts yielded most herrings, not Downing's Bay, 7759-61.—Centre of that Burtonport, 7762.—Shelter pier not wanted for large fleet, 7764.—Experiments with small piers had been made in other parts and been superseded by development of events, 7765-7.—Large sums should be spent on piers in centres like Burtonport and Downing's, 7768.—Nothing like the same amount on small places, 7769.—North of Ireland coasts deeply indented with good shelter creeks, 7772-3.—More exposed where the fishing was outside, not much safe anchorage except Downing's till you came to Lough Swilly, 7775-6.—Better to spend money on large piers in centres than on small ones, 7777.—Coast was not touched by railway, 7778.

Larger Boats required.

Larger and more boats needed, that would relieve congestion in Carrigart, 7779.—Ordinary herring boats 20-ton, that should be the smallest used, 7781-3.—Bigger boats expensive, 7784.—Fishermen could afford them; they must go away from Donegal, if necessary, like the Scotch, 7785-7.—Men were willing when able, a number did go to Scotland, 7788.—Board had made no attempt to provide larger boats as far as witness knew, 7789-90.—Men were good enough seamen to work larger boats, 7791-3.—Fishermen were continually applying to witness to get larger boats for them, 7794.—Witness had made many representations to Board, 7795.—Only an odd boat had been sent, 7796-7.—He had not represented that men would go to Scotland if they had the boats; some of the boats good-sized, many small and old, 7798.—Not many people willing to man a large boat and go away, would be more in the future, 7799.—They had accumulated a little capital, and there were enough to man one boat in witness's locality, 7800-1.—Cost of boat at least £700 or £800, 7802.—Seven or eight men would join together, 7803.—Witness did not actually know of so many, but was sure they would be willing to contribute towards cost and take boat on share system, 7804-5.—Witness would like to see experienced fishermen trying their fortunes with large boats wherever fish were found, 7806.—Small boats would be given to Carrigart people, and help to relieve the congestion there, 7807-8.—Board wise to move slowly, but boats might be given out more rapidly, 7809-12.—Witness's policy a process of development, and would require time and caution, 7813-5.

Migration Prospects.

People would migrate if offered good inducements; witness had never talked to them about it, but they were sensible and reasonable, and would go if not removed too far, although they were attached to their homes, 7816-19.

Sub-division not prevalent.

People in witness's parish opposed to sub-division, 7822.

Valuation as test of Congestion.

Rateable value could not be taken as an established standard of congestion alone, was only an incident; an industry such as fishing relieved congestion, 7823-5.

Cooperage Industry could be developed.

Cooperage at Downing's encouraged local labour, a score of coopers employed; they were allowed by Congested Districts Board to assist curers in curing season; advantage to have more apprentices; work otherwise done in Scotland; many curers had their own cooperages and brought over barrels, but barrels always wanted at Downing's, 7826-7.—Steamers that brought stores brought barrels, 7828.—Supply never equal to demand; more employment could be given, 7829-30.—Barrels made in slack time in winter, 7831.—Apprentices worked the whole year round, partly at curing, 7832.—Board should still carry on cooperage; coopers in district all apprentices; it could not stand by itself, 7833.—No loss if Board embarked on cooperage on a large scale, 7834.—Competition would not be unfair, when industry was properly fixed private enterprise might take it over, that point not reached yet, cooperage three years in existence, 7835-7.—More would not be paid for Irish than Scotch barrels, 7838.—Witness had heard Board sold them as cheaply as the Scotch ones, 7840.—Board had to pay freight on staves, curer had to pay on empties, 7841.

GAVIGAN, Rev. J.—*continued.*

BOAT-BUILDING AND REPAIRING YARD NEEDED.

Boat-building yard at Downing's a necessity, boats sometimes got damaged and lay idle till a carpenter came from a distance to repair it, 7842.—Building as well as repairing yard useful to give employment; boats could be built as well there as elsewhere, 7843-4.

REFRESHMENT-ROOM NEEDED AT DOWNING'S BAY.

Provision of refreshment room at Downing's would have good results, 7845-7.—Board had provided a small room when fishing was first started, which was inadequate now; broth as well as tea and bread and butter might be provided, 7848.—No difficulty anticipated in getting Board to do it, 7850.

SHARE SYSTEM OF PAYMENT FOR BOATS—AMENDMENT NEEDED.

Share system of payment for boats unpopular; formerly three-ninths retained by Board, and that was all right, now four-ninths were retained, and the men thought it too much for a small catch; Board thought it better that the instalments should be paid off sooner, but men could not afford it, 7851. —Four-ninths system adopted in all new boats, 7852-3.—Another cause of complaint was that when a man died who had nearly paid off his share of the debt on a boat his family lost all interest, his successor paid no acknowledgment of his predecessor's rights; a case had occurred, and the Board had refused to recognise any rights, 7854-6.—The man had been appointed first without any arrangement with anyone else, selection of successor was not referred to family, 7857-8.—Board ought to see that successor recouped the representatives of the dead man, 7859.—Part of the earnings could be retained until the vested interest of the dead man was paid off, 7860.—Would meet case if man bought the share, paying money to the family, 7861.—Board should do justice as well as look after their own security, 7862. —A man should be heard by Board before dismissed on complaints from rest of the crew, 7863.—A man dismissed forfeited his share in the same way as though he died; witness thought his successor should be liable for his share, 7866-7.—When boat was wanted six men applied to Board, whose inspector considered the men, and if they were suitable they got the boat, 7864.—Board elected successors to man who died, 7865.

DIET IN PARISH.

Daily diet of people bread and tea, sometimes no milk in tea, less frequently butter; dinner, potatoes and milk, sometimes fish, little coarse American bacon in winter, 7868-9.—Great change in dietary in last twenty or thirty years, 7870.—Stronger people under old system, less tea used, and oaten bread eaten, 7871.—People better off through action of Congested Districts Board and the fishing, they lived better, 7872-3.—People who lived better more active and energetic, 7874.—Those coming long distances in to fairs had only had tea and bread, 7875.—Coffee and tea and bread easily got in the towns as long as witness could remember, 7876-8.

ROAD-MAKING QUESTION.

Board had done much good to people of Mevagh by making roads, Rosapenna Hotel had done a lot for the country in way of market for fowls, etc., thirty years ago no road to hotel, now the peninsula was connected with rest of parish, 7879.—Board should continue to give assistance towards roads, 7880, 7885.—County should maintain them when made, 7886.—Rosapenna Hotel built with great difficulty without road, 7881-2.—Rosapenna to Carndonagh road was the one made by County Council with assistance of Board, 7883-4.—There was a place on the peninsula where a man brought a cart to a house that was in preparation, when put together he could never take it out of the townland, 7884.—District Council had not enough funds to meet demands of district, necessary to have aid from some Board, 7887.—Where there was a large section of people needing an expensive road, Board should contribute towards making, but county should maintain it, 7888-9.

GAVIGAN, Rev. J.—*continued.*

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Parish Committees very successful, in 1905 completed works estimated at £562 17*s.* in witness's parish, £1,259 in neighbouring parish; larger grants might be made and part devoted towards prizes for reclamation of land and fencing and draining, 7890.—Attendance at Parish Committee meetings not large, but regular, friendly relations between all creeds and classes, 7894.—Committee included clergymen of all denominations, local landlord and agent, district and county councillors, magistrates and doctors, 7895-6.—District councillors attended best, 7897.—In witness's parish about seven attended, himself the chairman, Presbyterian clergyman the secretary, about four district councillors, the landlord's agent about once in three times, and the Roman Catholic curate, 7898-908.—The doctor was old and could not attend, 7901.—The rector did not attend, 7909.—However large a Committee, work always done by a few, these seven were working men, and worked harmoniously, 7910-11. —No directly elected members, 7912.

CONSTITUTION OF BOARD.

Work of Congested Districts Board more effective and obtained good-will of people more by Board composed of men of all parties than by Government Department, 7891-3.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

Board had promoted other industries besides herring fishery, weaving, lace-making, and embroidery classes were started, 7912.—Sixty girls on the rolls, average attendance thirty, twenty at embroidery, 7913.—All were fairly occupied, 7914.

M'FADDEN, Very Rev. Canon.

CONGESTION IN DONEGAL.

Unions of Dunfanaghy and Glenties acutely congested, Donegal poorest county in Ireland except Mayo, 7916, 8012.—Having regard to mountain area in Donegal, it must be a great deal poorer, 7916.—The valuation conveyed that arable land was better in Donegal than Mayo, 8011.—Average valuation in Mayo, 4*s.* 8*d.*; Donegal, 5*s.* 9*d.*; Galway, 5*s.* 11*d.*; Sligo, 9*s.* 4*d.*; Roscommon, 10*s.* 2*d.*; by congestion was meant a place either absolutely or in its present state of development incapable of maintaining its population, by the land and other aids and appurtenances, 7916-8.—Average area of land in Donegal could support a family without other resources, 7919. —Average area in Rosses insufficient without fishing or other help, valuation only £1 12*s.*, 7920.—Ten or twelve acres of arable with grazing enough to support a family with the fishing in the Rosses, the Rosses were specially favoured by fishing and other industries which inland people had not got, 7921, 7928.

ADVANTAGES OF FISHING PRACTICALLY CONFINED TO SEABOARD POPULATION.

Benefit of in-shore fishing did not reach far inland, except in the way of carting fish, 7921.—Severer congestion and more acute distress in mountain districts than along seaboard, if crop failed there was nothing to fall back on, migratory labour good but precarious, children were sent to hire, there were no other resources; in-shore fishing lasted three months, deep sea fishing valuable to people on seaboard, they had kelp industry as well, and could get wrack for manuring and reclamation, 7923.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR RECLAMATION, AND ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Witness's parish of Inniskeel had an area of 143 miles, 7,921 acres 2 roods, it was in Union of Glenties, valuation in Union £22,313 18*s.*, £6,840 1*s.* for buildings, £15,473 17*s.* for land, average per head on land alone, 9*s.* 3*d.*, including buildings, 15*s.* 5*d.*; average valuation of a holding, £2 10*s.*; all the land in parish in hands of occupiers, no field for reclamation, areas in Gweedore suitable, Board could reclaim a portion of moor and add it to holdings or transfer the people on to it;

the same on Mr. Olphert's property; Captain Hill had 1,130 acres 2 roods 1 perch of reclaimable moor in his own hands in fee, tenants had grazing rights under judicial rents on 8,000 acres of it, but no right of occupation otherwise, more convenient for Board to deal with those; when Board was making road to Gweedore tenants gave up land for it for nothing, landlords squeezed the last cent. out of Board for it; there was land available for reclamation in Dunlewy-Far, in Glassagh, in Mennacuing, and in Arduns, 7923.

Migration to reclaimed Lands.

Either holders or their sons could be put on reclaimed lands, or whole families if they would go, 7924.—Witness thought they would move if they benefited by it, 7925-7, 7952.—Reclaimed farms better than worn-out holdings, reclamation took four or five years, 7929.—New farm would not only have to be better land, but sufficiently good to compensate for loss of fishing, etc., if moving people from sea up to mountains, 7930, 7955.—Reclamation land good enough to support family, 150 new cuts in Gweedore had been reclaimed and families lived on them; witness knew a man who cut bog to build his house and reclaimed land round house gradually, and it looked more fertile than old land, 7931.

Each locality should be improved before Migration was attempted.

Each locality should be developed to its greatest extent before people were migrated, 7932, 7951.

Cost of Reclamation and Migration.

Expenditure should not be considered, 7933.—Mr. Jesse Collings agreed with witness that if Government could help the people to save themselves they should not regard expense, 7934.—Witness would not give Government an interest on all the expenditure, reclaimed land should be let on average rent of locality, irrespective of expenditure, 7936-7, 7953.—Loss incurred by Board should not be too closely limited, they should be allowed 25 per cent., otherwise they could not deal with congestion, 7939-41, 7964, 7998, 8002.—Question as to whether land were worth reclaiming must be considered, and useless expenditure not be incurred, if land were good it was worth any expense, and occupier could give a reasonable return, 7942-4.

Reclamation difficulties.

It would be difficult to make tenants give up grazing rights, all would have to agree where there was a joint interest, loss of grazing of large tract would be loss of income to district, only small tract should be tried at first, 7945-50.—Rent of reclaimed land should not be fixed by amount expended on reclamation, but on what it would be let at in locality in its good condition, 7956.

Treatment of Tenant-right under Migration Schemes.

Tenant would have to be paid for tenant-right of his existing holding, 7957-8, 7960, 7964.—One of the inducements to migrate would be the money he would thus have in his pocket, 7959, 7978.—Grazing rights of tenants or land to be reclaimed must be purchased, but witness thought only a small tract should be taken at first, 7961-4.—Tenant whose holding was enlarged would give something for vacant place, 7965.—Rent of reclaimed holdings could be arranged mutually between Board and tenants, 7966-8.—Land Commission agent might judge if it were fair, 7968.—Unwise to plant a man where he could not thrive, that factor must be considered in taking people from sea to mountains, 7971-2.—Tenant would know what instalments he had to pay before going to new farm, 7973.—Tenant-purchaser preferable, 7974-5.—Getting a better farm might be sufficient inducement to migrate, and full purchase-money for tenant-right not be required, 7979-80.—Purchase of new farm by instalments was for landlord's right not tenant's, that was regarded as a grievance, 7982.—Formerly landlord required an "input" for tenant-right of tenant going into a new cut, 7983.—If there were a farm reclaimed by a farmer the purchaser would pay something for tenant-right, many people would buy, 7984.—But in the case of mountain land, the landlord's interest was so small it could hardly be counted, so that annuities paid by tenants would really be for the value of the improvements, it would militate against migration if they had to pay anything in addition, 7985-6.—If migrant were paid for holding he relinquished, incoming tenant must pay corresponding amount, 7987.—He would pay it to Board, 7988.—Principle underlying was to make it as convenient as possible for people to avail themselves of improvements for relief of congestion, 7989.—If a man were given a much better farm he ought to make a sacrifice of old homestead to some extent, 7990-1.—Congested Districts Board would buy landlord's interest in estate, and transmit to purchaser, it was small, 7992-5.—If a man were migrated to grass land, a good price must be paid for it, 7996.—Amount expended on reclamation of bog would correspond with the large sum paid for good land, and be recouped by Board in the instalments, 7997-8, 8001.—Landlord's interest in place referred to by witness was 2½*d.* per acre, 7998-8000.—It was mountain land of prairie value, 8001.—People in congested districts were in such dire need that Government should permit a large expenditure to bring them to economic condition, 8003.—Land reclamation should be value for a definite proportion of money expended, 8004.—Migrant would probably put the holding he was vacating in public market and sell to neighbour, if there were a purchaser he would get a high price, forty or fifty years, a returned American would give anything for house and ground to settle on, 8005-9.

Rateable value as test of Congestion.

Rateable value an actual test of congestion on the land, 8013.—2½*d.* was the value on which rate was struck on estate mentioned, 8014.—It was commonage for grazing, partly flat moors, partly lofty mountain, 8015-6.—The profit made by grazing would be the market value, 8017-8.—A man had offered eighty acres of mountain for 10*s.*, nobody took it for sometime, finally a man took it and kept it one year, it was too poor, 8019-20.—Parts of mountain gave diseases to cattle, not suited for grazing, 8021.—All moor land worth in Donegal from 1½*d.* to 2½*d.* an acre, 8022.—A "smoke" was an independent family dwelling, not necessarily a distinct house, 8024-5.

Sub-division.

Sub-division the secret of tremendous congestion in Gweedore and other parts; when witness was regulating land difficulty he insisted that every sub-division should be recognised as a tenancy direct, that added 300 tenancies to roll, 8025.—That was in 1887, witness's parish was unable to avail itself of Courts till 1884, first batch dealt with eighty-two cases, average reduction 38 per cent., 8026.—Sub-division still going on, landlord consented to it, and had always done so as it added to his rental, he was really responsible, and he had the legal right to prevent it, there would have been no difficulty in enforcing the law, at the beginning, 8028-38.—Evictions had never taken place on account of sub-division, only six weeks ago a landlord had instituted legal proceedings to recover arrears on a holding sub-divided amongst three, argument was made to start them as future tenants, and they signed agreements as to rents, and promissory notes for arrears, 8039.

Mortgaging.

A good deal of mortgaging of part of holding, not of tenant-right, part of holding given to moneylender for use by him as interest on money, 8040.—That was recognised as legal security, 8041.—It was mortgaging the interest in the holding, 8042.—If tenant-right were put up later on it would be subject to mortgage, 8043.

Compulsory Powers.

Congestion largely due to dual ownership, compulsory sale of estates, as they now were, advocated, 8043-4.—Present conditions of landlordism pressing for rents were ruining the country, 8045.—This question bore on congestion, congestion meant impossibility of existence without extraneous help, 8047.—Great advantage derived from Board owning estates; it

M‘FADDEN, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

could be seen at Meenaclady and Cashelmager, etc., 8048.—Occupiers would be more induced to improve holdings if they owned them, 8049.—General question of land purchase outside purview of Commission, except that the question of ownership affected congestion, 8078-9.—If there were tenants on an estate adjoining grass lands compulsory purchase should be exercised towards tenants and owner, 8081-3.—Board ought to have power of compulsorily acquiring "slum" estates, 8084.

Domestic Economy Classes.

Congested Districts Board had done a great deal, they caused a road to be made from Cloughaneely to Manse, spanned Gweebarra with iron bridge, did a great deal in the way of roads and bridges in Glenties parish, and supplied domestic economy classes, two centres in witness's parish for four months, domestic economy teacher there a whole year and of great benefit to girls, twenty-five dollars a month got in America by girl who could cook, more than by one who could not, benefits visible in parish, people could do fried and mashed potatoes, scrambled eggs, etc., when parish priest held "stations" they took breakfast in people's homes, and an instructed girl was generally got in to cook, 8050.

Knitting.

Knitting-machines also introduced by Board, and good deal made by knitting, machines superseding hand-work, 8051.

Parish Committees.

Parish Committees amongst the best departures of the Board, they began in Donegal in 1903, first year witness's parish got £36, second year £72, last year, £75, they worked under prize scheme, value of work done in 1904, £500, in 1905, £800, improvement visible, 8051.

Agricultural Work of Board and Department.

Since Department took over agricultural work their existence was not felt, they removed the Board's representative, who was exceedingly useful in directing agricultural operations; there had been cattle and stock and poultry improvement schemes, etc., fencing was useful, and had been helped by the Board; nothing had been heard of Department, witness had sent a telegram to Lifford with regard to bulls, and had no reply, 8051-2.—Substitution of Government Department to do work instead of a Board composed of all classes and politics to be deplored, 8053.

Drainage needed.

Everything that was consumed in parish was imported; more tillage and drainage required; factories would not flourish in rural district unless population was very dense; cottages industries the best, cottage dairies would be useful; drainage very necessary for Glenties, especially for a valley called "Big Glen"; if Board continued Parish Committees and increased their grants cottage dairies could be coped with; deep sea fishing should be attended to, 8054.

Kelp-making.

Kelp manufactured along coast, no factory, kelp burnt on coast and sent to chemical works at Falkirk and Bowling on the Clyde, burning could be continued and chemical factory might be established, to manufacture the iodine, etc., 8054-9.—Same demand usually prevailed, not quite so good this year, 8060.—Chemical works dealt only with kelp, 8061.—Factory had been attempted at Meenaclady, but failed through want of support, 8062.—Price of kelp fluctuated from £3 to £4 a ton, it would pay well at £4, 8063-5.—Price depended on quality, 8065.—Seaweed used in district was "laagh," the one that produced the best quality, the bottom of the sea was planted with it, it got detached and washed ashore, 8066-7.—It was cut at neap tides, more for manuring than kelp, 8068.—Kelp industry valuable and capable of development, 8069.—Bye-products valuable as topdressing manure, 8070.—Choice of quality for gathering kelp should be left to the people, 8071.—It would be well to establish a branch firm on the west coast, 8072.—People interested at present were monopolists, witness would like to break monopoly, but did not know how, 8074-5.—The syndicate sent their agents to buy kelp on coast, they worked in sections, and were not allowed to overlap, witness once tried to break monopoly at considerable loss, 8076-7.

Granite Industry.

Granite industry would be a great source of help to labour in district from Gweedore to Gweebarra, 8085.—Would probably be a good market or the new company would not have been formed, 8086.

MONTGOMERY, Mr. WILLIAM.

Reclamation of Slob Lands at Head of Swilly.

Grass lands on either side of Lough Swilly; quantity of arable land near Manorcunningham covered by the tide could be reclaimed by Congested Districts Board for small expense of £500 and utilised for holdings, 8088-90, 8094-5.—Some doblands near Letterkenny had been reclaimed at great expense, but paid well, 8091-4.—The lands on west of Lough Swilly were held by owners who would sell, 8096.—All tenanted except one farm, 8097.

Size of Holdings.

Less than ten acres, even of good land, useless; two farmers with ten acres each adjoining could each keep a horse and borrow from each other when they needed a second, 8098-9.—More than one horse required for more than ten acres, 8100.

Agricultural Instruction.

Occupiers should be taught farming by resident instructors, 8101-2.

Improvement of Cattle—System of Premium Bulls.

Present class of cattle deteriorating; bulls pretty fair, but cows too small, 8103-4, 8119-20.—Cross of shorthorn and Ayrshire good, Ayrshire hardy, 8104.—Heifers should be imported, 8121-2.—Some polled Angus bulls introduced by Board, not much used latterly, 8105.—District not scheduled, 8106.—Department sent bulls outside scheduled area; Department should buy bulls; £40 too much; bull sold when fattened for £20; only 1*s.* charged for services to first twenty cows, 8107, 8114.—Department should provide cost of bull, 8108.—Premium should cover cost of maintenance, 8110, 8118.—It would encourage people to buy; no bulls in district now; not worth the money and hard to get; breed would be improved if Department provided bulls and heifers, 8111, 8124.—Bull had to be approved by inspector, 8112.—Department gave grant of £10 towards bull, 8115.—It was left largely to the people to go to Scotland and choose bulls, which had to be passed by inspector, 8123.

Spraying should be made Compulsory.

Potato crop worse this year than for forty years; spraying should be compulsory, 8124.—Very important; it should be done two or three times, in dry weather; no use in wet, 8125-6.—Not as much spraying in the Lagan as there might be; room for improvement there, 8127.—Land in Lagan not land in same sense as at Burtonport, 8128.

Everyone living on a farm should do some work on it, such as draining, manuring, and liming, 8129.

IRVINE, Colonel HENRY.

Position of Witness.

Lord George Hill died in 1867; estate now belonged to his son, Capt. Hill; witness had managed it for last fourteen years, 8132-4.

Sub-division.

Sub-division and sub-letting the curse of the country and cause of sub-division; sub-division had not been winked at or encouraged by landlords; in 1858 a notice had been served on tenants prohibiting it and threatening punishment, 8134-5, 8171.—Impossible to stop it; witness had done his best, 8136.—Ejectment the only remedy, and that hopeless and useless, 8137, 8183.—It had been done in Gweedore; impossible where farms were not properly divi-

IRVINE, Colonel HENRY—*continued.*

ded, 8138.—Sub-division not so serious there as where people lived by land alone, but would be a problem in future and disastrous if fishing failed, 8177-8.—People so fond of the land they preferred dividing it up in order that the sons and their families live at home regardless of the future consequences, 8179-80.—Only case of purchased estate witness knew of was one near Donegal; no sub-division there, 8182.—Mortgages on land were made by word of mouth; could not be legally enforced, 8355-7.—It was not ordinary sub-division either, 8358.—No difficulty in obtaining decree against sub-division, only in enforcing it, on account of public opinion in favour of sub-division, 8359-61.—Transference of ownershp to tenant would not stop it, 8362-3.—Attempts to enforce decrees against it would cause grave disturbances, 8364-5.—Sub-division partly caused by land being given instead of interest on loan, 8139, 8141.—That occurred before 1881, 8140.—Tenant then a yearly tenant, 8140A.—No other security, but land required for loan, 8142. Pledging done between occupiers, more thrifty advanced to less prosperous, 8143-4.—If loan were repaid the field was returned, 8145.—Holdings of Gweedore in patches, and not fenced, 8146.—Usual method of sub-division was man giving to son a part of farm, 8147.—A second house was afterwards built, 8147-8, 8150.—Landlord had no knowledge of it until house was built, 8150.—Rent had not been put on sub-divisions on witness's estate, 8151-2.—After Plan of Campaign in 1887 sub-tenants were taken as tenants and rents apportioned and reduced 6*s.* in the £; 200 rent payers added, but rent not thereby increased, 8153-7.—There had been some increases of rent on estate; in 1838 rental was £500 a year, now £760, 8158.—Some 150 or 200 new holdings had been established, 8158.

New Holdings of Reclaimed Land.

New holdings averaged ten acres; given free for seven years; after that 10*s.* rent, reduced now to 7*s.*, 8159.—No premium charged on this estate, 8160.—Increase of acreage under tillage, 8161.—Boundaries not extended; they were called new cuts, 8162.—Improvements not charged; grants of money given in many cases by Lord George Hill, 8163.—Rents did not go up through reclamation, 8164.—Greater part of increased rent accounted for by new cuts, 8167-8.—600 and 700 tenancies in Gweedore in 1838, 8169.—Now 930, 8170.—Gweedore not an agricultural estate; people lived chiefly by fishing, migratory labour, etc., 8172-6.

Evictions.

During Lord George Hill's lifetime only two evictions, and tenants were reinstated after three months; witness did not know if there were even any at time of Plan of Campaign, as settlements were then arrived at, 8184-5.

Migratory labour relied on for support before fishing was started, 8187.—Purchase of estate by Board had been mooted; no objection if they could divide it and get people to agree, 8188-9.

Land available for Reclamation.

Land attached to hotel not all required for hotel purposes; large area alluded to by Canon M'Fadden irreclaimable mountain; piece at foot of mountain could be reclaimed, and some near Bloody Foreland, 8190-1.—Estate had been in Court of Chancery at one time, and witness was appointed receiver, 8192.

Fishing Industry.

Number of people benefited from fishing; not all the male population, but some from almost every family went to sea in herring season, 8186, 8193-4, 8202-3.—A few mountain tenants lived by agriculture, 8194.—People up the mountain slopes next the sea went fishing, 8195-8, 8200.—They had a share in the boats, 8199.—Large number of boats along coast and islands, 8201.—Burtonport chief landing place; large quantities also landed at Magheragallon, where Board established curing station and pier; latter going to pieces now; useless at low water even for small boats; it had done a good deal of service, 8204-5.—Fewer people went to England since fishing started; boats given by Board on share system; one family paid off shares and then re-sold to Board and purchased a large boat; they cleared £800 last season, 8207-8.—Success due to energy and enterprise; others with same qualities could do the same, 8209-13.—Herrings had formerly been driven away by people having nets down all day, 8272.—At Dunfanaghy nets not allowed to be put down till gun-fire, 8273.—Gweedore men as much fishermen as Rosses people, 8274.—Deep sea fisheries a panacea for all ills; Congested Districts Board should attend chiefly to that in this district, 8282-3.

IRVINE, Colonel HENRY—*continued.*

Spraying.

Potato crop suffered this year for want of spraying, 8214.—Disinclination to spray; it was not done properly, 8215.—They thought it going against nature, 8216.—Some years it was unnecessary, 8217.—Cost small, 8218-9.—Machines were the difficulty, 8220.—Agricultural Department had no experimental plots in neighbourhood, 8221.—Guardians used to let out spraying machines; not taken advantage of, 8222.—Good to encourage; spraying done properly in dry weather, 8223.—There might be farmers' clubs; Parish Committee might keep machines for hire, 8224.

Granite.

A great deal of excellent granite in district; if worked by private enterprise it would provide labour; not a matter for Board, 8225-6.—They might give a grant and send an expert to report; then private enterprise might step in, 8227-9.—Landlord could not be asked to contribute towards cost of prospecting in Gweedore, but at Burtonport, where there was a railway it would have more chance of success, 8230-1, 8233.

Lead Mines.

Lead mines at Keeldrum might be worked again with success; company had failed some years ago, but there was now a railway, 8233-6.

Marble.

Dunlewy marble on Mrs. Lingard-Monk's estate, 8232.—Excellent quality, suitable for common sculpture and some blocks for statuary, 8236-7.

Kelp-making.

Kelp industry considerable; price varied from £4 to £3; 172 tons exported last year, 8237.—Other ways now discovered of making iodine; kelp could be dispensed with; it was precarious in present state of science; price still got for it, 8238-41.

Migration Prospects.

Migration out of bounds of practical politics, 8241.—People rooted to place where they were born, 8242.—Had not been tried under favourable conditions, but people refused to move on to the new cuts; expense entailed by Board for reclamation enormous and hopeless, 8243.—Land could be made remunerative if expense were not spared, 8244-5.—But people would not go, 8247-8.—Girls and boys went to the Lagan before they were old enough to go to Scotland, 8249.—They might migrate to farms down there under exceptional circumstances, 8250-1.—Tenants tried to reclaim their bogs, but never asked for farm elsewhere, 8252-3.—Migration would never succeed on a large scale, 8254.

Lord George Hill's Improvements.

Lord George Hill spent entire income of estate and more on improvements for first fourteen years after purchase, 8254-5.—He gave premiums for improvements in houses, fences, etc.; result was the comfortable way people could live, 6255.—No trouble with tenants till Plan of Campaign, 8256.—Land did not support people; before Lord G. Hill came there were no roads and no shops nearer than Dunfanaghy, 8257.—Increase of rent did not cover enormous expenditure, 8258.—In 1863 rental £500; all spent on labouring estate, and more, 8259-60.—Portion of mountain attached to six townlands put under Scotch shepherds; plenty of grazing left for tenants, 8261-2.—Corn mill and stores at Bunbeg also erected, to which steamer came regularly from Derry, 8263.—Estate in rundale when Lord George bought; he divided it and mapped it, 8264-6.—Men should labour their own land; they knew nothing about it till Lord George sent a man to instruct; he also sent two men to teach fishing; he did the work the Board did afterwards, 8267-8, 8275.—A great deal needed to recoup expenditure; he got no benefit himself, 8269-71.—Hotel had given a lot of labour, and was a commercial success, 8276.—Since Act of 1881 landlord could not evict tenants at his own will, or carry out such improvements as Lord George Hill, 8277-82, 8284.—Gweedore estate wanted improving in the way of fencing holdings and getting rid of sub-division, 8285.—Lord George died in 1867, 8286.—Successor could maintain his work till 1881, when the power was taken from him, 8287-8.—Tilled land had been reclaimed by tenants, 8289.—£200 a year not much interest on Lord George's outlay; an old account showed expenditure of £4,460 9*s.* 10*d.*, 8290-1, 8294.—Hotel managed separately, with no rent; not included in income of £760, 8292.—£4,460 expenditure was on such things as Bunbeg store, priest's house, schoolhouse, road, pound, etc., 8296.—Schoolhouse built for education, not intended to increase rent, 8297-8.

Salmon Fishing.

Preservation of salmon in river dependent on landlords and river owners; increase of drift nets and boats for the sea fishing enormous and had decreased salmon in river; visitors did not come to hotel if there were no salmon in river, and it was a loss to the whole countryside; sea salmon fishing dependent on river; it could not be stopped, but length of nets might be limited if Congested Districts Board became owners of the country, 8298-302, 8305.—Fishing authorities had some powers, but had not been applied to, 8302-3.—Increase in net takings in recent years; as they increased river takings were less, 8306-7.—Preservation was to men's interest, 8305.

Improvement of Live Stock.

Polled Angus bulls introduced under the Board did a lot of good; tenants diffident about advantages at first; when they saw the price the cattle got they took more advantage; that fell off; people used the half-bred bulls they reared themselves with disastrous results, 8308-9.—Rams also wanted, present ones a bad class, 8309.—Under the Board bulls were sold at a profit, 8310.—Conditions were more generous than under Department, 8311.—Department had made no move at all; one bull in neighbourhood had been got from Board, 8312.—There would be improvement if bulls of proper class were provided; no need to provide cows, 8313.—Should be a check on keeping inferior animals, 8314.—It could be done without friction, people becoming more sensible, 8315-6.—Carelessness in selection largely due to ignorance; a resident agricultural instructor would be a good thing and better than itinerant inspector, 8317-20.—Result of better bulls visible, better prices got, 8321.—One man could look after the congested district of a whole county, 8322-3.

Price of Tenant-right.

Price obtained for tenant-right from 432 years' purchase to 50; average since 1887 was 158¾, before that 65, 8325.—People so well off they gave any price for land, 8326, 8334.—37 pieces up for auction in fourteen years, 8327.—Valuation of reclaimed tracts very small before improvement, 8328.—Reclamation of an acre cost a fair sum, 8329.—There large number of years' purchase to be expected, 8330.—One estate on list handed in by witness was sold for 432 years' purchase, 8330.—It was bought by son of tenant on another part of estate, 8331.—Desire of people to have a home helped to inflate prices, 8335.—Local tenants and their sons gave these high prices, 8336.—Limited supply and enormous demand accounted for price; it was not given for the labour put into it or for the house, 8337-41.

Turbary.

Tenants had free turf, 8343.—There was plenty on Gweedore estate, 8344.—Penny paid for privilege of cutting bog on landlord's estate; that would soon be cut out, 8345.—Tenants who had turf charged 10*s.* a dirk to neighbours who had none, 8346-7.—Price of turf on holding included in rent, but made very little difference, 8349-1.—Penny charged by landlord to prevent tenants appropriating land when turf was cut out, 8352-4.

Condition of people in Gweedore.

One holding of four acres sold by Rev. Mr. M'Fadden for 145 years' purchase, 8366.—No poverty in Gweedore; people paid any price for land, 8367-9.—Congestion did not mean poverty, 8370.—People depended on fishing and migratory labour chiefly; if that failed, condition would be more serious, 8371-2.

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HARKIN, Mr. MICHAEL.

Portnablaugh Pier—Improvement needed.

Portnablaugh pier and Doe Castle boatslip needed improvement, 8374.—Portnablaugh pier erected 1849 at cost of £1,715, but never completed, almost dry at low tide, 300 feet long, in 1901 £400 subscribed by Board and others for improvement of approach, removing rocks, etc., contractor lost £100 over work, breakwater constructed and washed away the next winter, rocks now needed to be blown away and break water to be constructed of heavy stones, which were plentiful, could be done for £700; Portnablaugh real fishing ground for herring, etc., Downings too far away; improvement of pier, establishment of curing station, etc., by Congested Districts Board would stop emigration and improve financial condition of people, Portnablaugh two and a half miles from railway station, Downings ten, railway principally made for fishing, and taken to Dunfanaghy through influence of Lord Leitrim and Monsignor Gallagher, not because it was the real centre of fishing, buyers complained that Portnablaugh was not better developed, they would go there in preference to Downings if it were; no money had been spent at Doe except £250 for a road not properly made, no industry for girls except a lace class, 8375-6, 8408.

Family budgets.

Budget of a man with family of ten:—Four acres arable land, rent, £2 16*s.* 6*d*; one acre of potatoes grown, value, £4; one rood turnips, £1; two acres three roods oats, value, £10 15*s.*; £2 10*s.* made off stock, total, £18 5*s.*; expenses for bare necessities, 14*s.* 8*d.* a week, or £38 2*s.* 8*d.* a year; boots and clothes, £14; total, £52 2*s.* 8*d.*, and with rent, £54 19*s.* 2*d.*; balance of £36 14*s.* 2*d.* between produce of farm and expenses to come from the State or elsewhere, 8377-8.—This man lived near Creeslough, 8379.—Part of balance earned in Scotland, part sent by daughter from America, for the rest he was in debt to shopkeeper, 8380-3.—The man could be employed in fisheries if they were developed, 8384.—Doe Castle one and a half miles from sea, Portnablaugh four miles, 8385.

Migration prospects.

Such a man would be willing to migrate to any part of Ireland if offered a farm on which he could subsist, if a few went first and showed the way, others who had not been willing would be anxious to follow, when they saw they were successful, they would even go as far as Canada, though Ireland would be preferred, 8386-96.—Witness only spoke of his own parish of Doe, 8388.—The man spoken of represented three-fourths of parish; he would know how to farm, as he was accustomed to different sorts of crops, and had a cow and pig, of late years no profit from poultry, 8397-401.—Produce of farm not given to pay debt to shopkeeper, he was paid occasionally when they had a little money from selling a pig, etc., it was taken out again soon for Indian meal, diet very poor, 8402-5.

HARKIN, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Witness the son of a shopkeeper and small hotel-keeper, who farmed a little, he had much experience, and did not exaggerate, 8406-8.

Best Centre for Fishery, Question of.

Fishing not developed at Portnablaugh in spite of pier, because it was in wrong place, 8410, 8412, 8416. —If there were a pier of refuge and a pier for landing fish it was the natural place for fishing, 8411.—Downings Bay the centre of fishing owing to influence of Lord Leitrim and Monsignor Gallagher, no other reason, 8413-4.—Not so well protected as Portnablaugh, 8415.—If local people had been consulted, Portnablaugh pier would have been better placed, 8417.—Expenditure counted for no good except work at the time, and prevented any subsequent expenditure, 8418-20.—It was a relief work in famine time, 8421.—Seven miles by sea from Portnablaugh to Downings, 8422.—Boat slip at Doe Castle more beneficial to witness's parish than pier, would bring inland population in touch with fishing, was three miles by water from Downings, one mile from Creeslough station, would save carting fish twelve miles, 8422-3. —Portnablaugh Harbour would be a refuge for Tory fishermen, 8424.

Purchase of Ards Estate.

If Ards estate were sold it should be through Congested Districts Board, so that the land available for migration might be used, 8424.

Tillage should be made Compulsory.

Compulsory tillage clause in Land Act needed, grazing employed so few men; putting people on grass lands would necessitate a certain amount of tillage for their wants and do away with some of the evils of grazing; for the general good a man should be compelled to till part of farm, 8424-30.—Men living on sea shore left untilled land that could be tilled with greater profit, 8431.

Local Industries, Development of.

Local factories might be started; good water powers and woollen and carpet factories could be established, 8432-3.—Wool got in neighbourhood fit for tweed cloths, 8434-5.—Suggestion for compulsory tillage did not apply to mountain lands that would be used for sheep grazing; moorland should be reserved for fuel, peat bog being run out in many places, 8436.—English and Scotch sheep bred on mountains, 8437.—Wool of Scotch sheep not so well adapted for finer cloths; different type of sheep at Dunfanaghy, 8438.—Lot of black-faced sheep on mountain near Muckish, which would supply carpet factory, 8439-41.—Hand-loom weaving should be taught; witness had never seen the instructor; he had once seen an itinerant instructor on a bicycle, which was the first he knew of working of Department, 8441-2.—Company for factories could be floated by people of the neighbourhood, large farmers, business people, etc.; if they joined together, if shares were small, risk would not be great, and there might be profit, 8443-5.—Expert advice wanted first, 8446.—Never woollen mills in district except homespuns, a cottage industry that died out; one man in parish who could weave; most people got clothes from shops, 8447.—Flax formerly grown when it paid, and clothes made at home, 8448-9.

Fruit growing and Bee-keeping.

More fruit could be grown in district; there should be instruction by Department and demonstrations and organisations of markets; a jam factory could be started, 8452-4.—Congested Districts Board started bee-keeping; it would pay on a larger scale, 8454A-5.

Department had practically done nothing in Donegal; one Board enough, and that should be Congested Districts Board, 8455.

Granite and Marble Quarries.

Granite quarries at Barne's Gap could be worked with advantage; good granite specially suited for granite setts for paving; Mr. Butler had negotiated for lease of quarries, but it fell through, 8455-7.—Quarries in Fanad as well, 8456.—Soapstone, plumbago, and other minerals also, 8457.—Muckish sand and marble quarries on Burtonport Extension Railway; Muckish sand excellent for glass; marble beautiful colours and fine grain; bluish-grey limestone in places along road to Dunfanaghy; marble within 100 yards of railway; water power for glass factory at waterfall on river flowing out of Lough-na-Boll; a siding on railway at Lough Aher would serve glass factory; marble quarries and Roshin slate quarries; method employed at slate quarries primitive; no machinery; houses roofed with slate from quarries; they would pay well for proper working, 8457.

Road and Bridge needed.

Brocas road should be continued to Glenviegh and Dunlewy roads; bridge needed over River Feymore; £50 appropriated for it by District Council; £50 needed from Board; Board had not been written to, 8457-8.

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M'CLAFFERTY, Mr. HUGH.

Compulsory Powers for Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers to deal with whole of congested districts, and applying to tenants as well as landlords, 8460, 8471-5.

Price of Land.

Since Act of 1903 prices of land had gone up; thirteen years ago part of an estate was sold to tenants at fifteen years purchase; remaining tenants were purchasing now and agreed to pay 19½ years, 8461.—In future farmers would not be able to pay annuities; store cattle would go down fifty per cent. in price if cattle were admitted from Canada and Argentine, 8462.—There should be inspection in all cases to settle fair price; Land Commission had no power to inspect an estate bought within the zones, 8463-4.—Board could not purchase at higher price than eighteen years' purchase, as it would then come within the zones; if tenants bought within zones Board could not buy at all, 8464-5.—Board ought to be able to apply compulsion if landlords wanted higher prices than they could pay, 8466.—There should be a State inspector to settle price, and compulsion should be applied on that price, 8467-70.

Board had done little for Inland Districts.

Very little done by Board inland; in witness's district only one bit of road, 8476.—Churchill a very poor district, 8477.—Rivers Lenan and Lurgy required deepening, 8478-9.

Parish Committee Work.

Parish Committee of Termon and Gartan had effected a great deal of farm drainage; not much use without main drains, 8480-1.—Work of Committee approved; should be extended to include poorer people or case of two families on one holding, 8482-3.

Scheduling should be by Townlands.

Scheduling should be done by townlands; thirty shillings valuation test would then be fair in ordinary circumstances, 8484-6.

Landlord and Tenant.

Large tracts of land in witness's district where prosperous tenants lived formerly; grazed for some time; now almost gone out of use; land deteriorated, 8487-8.—That was on Mrs. Adair's estate and on Mrs. Johnson's, 8488.—Mr. Hewiston, Mrs. Johnson's predecessor, was willing to negotiate with Board, but it was not done, 8489.—Evictions took place in 1861, 8490.—Tenants had mountains for cattle and sheep and were prosperous, 8491.—Deer park made by Mrs. Adair ten years ago, 8490.—Place had been bought by Mr. Adair, in order to revenge himself on tenants, who had once hunted him off the mountain while shooting there by invitation, 8495.

District largest sheep-rearing one in Donegal; any quantity of water power for factories, 8493.

M'CLAFFERTY, Mr. HUGH—*continued.*

Restrictions on Road-making.

Large tracts of bog with no road; District Council could not spend much on roads; Board should make them, 8494.—Council could obtain authority to spend more on roads by application to Local Government, but an application had once been refused, 8494-5.—Application had not been made in this case, because Council thought district so poor; Board ought to assist; if Board gave a grant Council would apply for increased powers, 8496-7.—Turf had to be carried to road, 8498.

O'DONNELL, Mr. JAMES.

Fishing Industry.

Development of herring and open-sea salmon fishing had shown people how much more profitable the fishing was than the land; drawback was its intermittancy; men had to go to Scotland in search of employment during idle spells; some followed Scotch herring fishing; mackerel shoals passed shore at times when herrings were not there, and were never caught; Board should start mackerel fishing; too expensive for men to do themselves, 8501.—Witness had never spoken to Mr. Green about it, 8510.

Quality of Donegal Herrings.

Donegal herrings fetched highest prices in foreign market on account of their good quality, in spite of having no Government brand; curers anxious to have brand; fishermen on coast expert and athletic, fishing carried on for 150 years till depression and lack of means put a stop to it; drowning of twenty-seven men in two nights in 1839 and 1840 set back industry, which only rallied in 1892; mackerel more remunerative than herring fishing, 8501.

Granite Quarries.

Inexhausible granite quarries next in importance, quality of Rosses granite unsurpassed, facilities for transport existed now, and a company had been formed for working quarry, expense too heavy for private enterprise, Government subsidy should be given at first, if Board assisted it would be a guarantee of business success, 8501.

Increasing Population in Rosses.

Population of Rosses greater now than ever before, one of the new rural districts in Ireland in which last Census showed increase, witness's parish was Lower Templecrone, called Kincasslagh, it was a result of the fishing which kept people at home, 8501, 8502-7.—Before the fishing people emigrated in crowds, now very few, girls kept at home by curing, carpet-making, etc., if fishing failed people must emigrate, 8501.

Piers.

Much done in the way of piers, Gortnasate pier of great benefit when completed, removal of rocks from the bottom would improve it, inside boat harbour should be deepened to admit yawls at low tide, breakwater and boat-slip needed at Falcorrib, extension of pier at Leabgarrow a crying need, accommodation for fishermen on Island of Aran more unsuitable, 8501.

Transit Facilities.

Trade between Annagry and Keadue handicapped for want of railway station at convenient centre like Meenbanid, most felt in connection with herring, salmon, lobster, and crab fisheries, as the fish deteriorated if delayed in transit, had to go at present over a road covered at high tide, distance from Meenbanid to Kincasslagh three miles, and no interruption to traffic, station could be erected at Meenbanid for a few hundred pounds, 8501.—Improvement in road from new pier to Kincasslagh desirable, grade in one place one in four, 8501.

DOHERTY, Mr. DANIEL.

Roads in the Rosses defective and antiquated.

Old roads in Rosses constructed before vehicular traffic, and suitable only for horses without carts, narrow and steep in part and badly laid, fish formerly carried on pack horses, later on truckle carts, roads unsuited for present needs, improvement essential to prosperity of district, 8511.

Roads made by Board.

Only good roads were those made by Congested Districts Board, those needed cutting and filling in places, they had done good by opening mountain tracts and providing access to fuel, there were mountain tracts still almost waste and unprofitable which would be valuable for new settlers, etc., if opened up by roads; Keadue strand road dangerous on winter nights, it was the one the herrings came over, others as bad, 8511-2.

Need for Technological School.

Establishment of technical schools would raise status of people in district, they were extraordinarily apt and clever, and quickly picked up new trades, skill at fishing, barrel-making, engine-driving, etc., wondered at; girls also quick and tasteful in carpet-making, crocheting, etc., a pity such capable people should be compelled to make their living by unskilled labour for lack of teaching in trades, allied trades connected with fishing could be carried out with a little care and help, need for cooperage in suitable centre such as Gortnasate, only 7,000 barrels made yearly at Burtonport, many more used, and had to be imported; with the large supply of cheap labour at Rosses, people ought to be able to compete with any market, and not only supply their own needs, but export, 8512.—Boat-building, net-making, rope-making, might also be done in district, and would add to prosperity, large sums sent out yearly for these things, money shoud be kept in country and employment given to keep people at home, 8512.

Fishing Industry.

Development of fishing industry at suggestion of Rev. B. Walker, a lasting benefit conferred by Board, effect observable in improved social condition and aspect of the people, new houses, improved diet, better dress, etc.; room for more improvement, steam luggers might be started now, they would be successful, preferable for Board to do it than private enterprise, 8512.—"Crown" brand desired by curers, fish good, but obtained lower price for want of brand, 8512, 8514.—There were two principal centres, if inspector examined a few barrels it would not be much trouble, curers would avail themselves of it the same as in Scotland, 8513-5.—It would pay for the additional trouble to curer; Downings Bay herrings no better than Burtonport, but had a name, so got better price, 8516.—One inspector could do a big district, he must be a good curer and have a good salary, curers would send notice when they were going to ship, 8517.—Brand would enhance value of fish, 8518.—Curers prepared to give it a trial, 8519.—Witness a curer, he had fished the first few years, 8520.

DOOGAN, Mr. MICHAEL.

Landlord's action on Gweedore Estate.

Landlord of Gweedore estate did not give land free of rent for seven years, rent was raised after improvements from 10*s.* to £1, no houses built for tenants, houses, such as gamekeepers, etc., built, and rent received for them; sub-division had been allowed, witness bought of portion of sub-divided holding in 1899, its valuation was 5*s.*, witness paid £30 for it, and it had a rental of £1, 8522, 8552.—He bought for the liberty, there was moorland behind it, 8553-5.—Within last three years two farms sub-divided in Dunlewy, last year one in Magheralosh, rent 30*s.*, valuation, 28*s.*, it was arable with rocks, 8522-4.—Another time witness bought sub-divided land between the place he lived and the one he bought before, he gave £40 for fifteen to twenty acres, rent £1 5*s.*, he gave more than land was worth, to consolidate his holding, 8557-8.—He sold a farm near sea-shore for £70, it had house worth £40 or £50, rent 15*s.*, 8560-5.

DOOGAN, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Road Improvement.

Places in district without roads, good would be done by making roads there, no money spent on these congested districts for years, 8526.

Boat-slip at Magheragallon four miles from witness's house, made years ago at a cost of £200, it needed repair, 8526-7.

Sub-division and Apportionment of Rent.

When land was sub-divided formerly and new houses put up rent was increased, that was before Act of 1881, since then Land Commission had reduced rents, 8528-31.

Condition of Gweedore.

Peolpe in district not comfortably off, they had to emigrate every year to gain means of subsistence, 8533.—In large district like Gweedore only sixty to 100 out of 1,000 families had fishing, plenty of people had no means of fishing, 8534.—Indirect advantages from fishing in such work as curing, Irish girls were learning, some girls still imported for it, 8535-6.—Gweedore had improved in some respects in last twenty years, more money from people emigrating, 8537.—They emigrated twenty years ago, but labour was not so good then, 8538-9.—Not much improvement, no more money than fifteen years ago, 8540-1.—Rate 4*s.* in the £ on land, 6*s.* 8*d.* on buildings, 8542.—People found it difficult to pay, and got no return in roads, District Council could not spend more on roads without sanction from Local Government Board, and they would probably not give sanction if applied to, taxes so high people could not pay if they did sanction expenditure, 8543-4.—Not much outdoor relief in district, 8544A.—Rates pressed heavily on poorer classes, before Local Government Act landlord paid poor rates under £4 valuation, now tenants had to pay their share, and rates were higher, 8545-6, 8566.—Reduction was made on rents to compensate at time of change, but tenants did not always get it, 8567-8.

Migration Prospects.

People would migrate to a reasonable distance if farms were offered them, 8525, 8547-8, 8580-1.—Desire for more land in some cases, there were mountain tracts that could be occupied, 8576-8.—Necessity for going to other parts of Ireland would depend on how reclaimed land turned out, 8579.—Better land in other counties, 8580.—Witness would not migrate himself, he had other ways of living beside land, 8582, 8584.—Willingness to migrate would depend on conditions of land offered, etc., 8583.

Rental of Gweedore estate £1,600 a year, reduced by Land Commission to £720, 8549-51.—Sometimes easier for people by sea to pay rates than people inland, and *vice versâ*, 8569-70.

Cure for Congestion.

More labour facilities the cure for congestion, cottage factories, local industries, making of new roads, and boat-slips on coast and islands, 8572-3.—There would still be as many people, 8574.

SWEENEY, Mr. JOHN.

Granite Quarries.

Witness a shareholder in former company working granite quarries, he tried to encourage people to come and start granite industry, 8586-7.—He had not been aware that £26,000 was given to vendor of property till after he invested, although it was in prospectus, 8589-90.—It was a ridiculous sum; was paid in cash; remainder of company's capital of £50,000 spent on development, but it was not enough to make it a success, 8591-5.—District vast, 70 square miles; landlord's terms moderate, 8595.—Quality of stone splendid, 8596.—Nine cargoes were sold, 8597, 8601.—Aberdeen the great granite market; estimate of freight and probable price to be fetched given on prospectus, 8598-9.

Causes of failure.

Company spent too much on development; great expense in getting from surface to proper rock; was now in good order for going ahead; granite could be run on pier with little cost, 8602.—Surprising that eminent men who reported on quarries and not suggested it as an enterprise to any company, 8603-5.—Stone without flaw, 8606.

Prospscts of New Company.

Prospectus of company was incorrect in that it took no account of expense of clearing outside surface, 8607-8.—Industry would succeed if started again; very necessary in case of failure of fishing; Scotch labour market nearly a thing of the past, and people would have nothing to fall back on, 8609.—Great demand for granite in Aberdeen; it was imported from Norway, and might as easily go from Ireland, 8610.

Freight Rates.

Freight from Burtonport to Liverpool, Garston, or English ports, 4*s.* a ton; would be 2*s.* from Kincasslagh, where large vessels could get in, as they required smaller freights, 8611.—Granite would be sent to Garston and Aberdeen direct, 8612.—New company intended to put down polishing and saw mills and crushing machinery to complete the work and take orders direct for monumental work, 8614.—Freight of cargoes that were exported 4*s.*; vessels had brought no cargo, 8615, 8619-21.—Would be halved since the new pier was built, 8616.—Quarry about to be opened overhung new pier, 8617.—Would be better to get orders direct than send to Aberdeen; granite more easily got than at Peterhead quarries and labour cheaper, 8618.—Granite plentiful all over Scotland, but as it was imported from Norway there was evidently not enough to supply Aberdeen market, 8622-4.

New Company should get Expert Opinion and Bonus from Board.

Company's efforts should be recognised by Congested Districts Board; an independent expert opinion should be given and a bonus granted on the number of men employed, 8625-9, 8638-9, 8642-3, 8647-9.—There was a precedent for Board encouraging industries; it should be done, not on results of work, but on number of men employed, 8630-5, 8640-1.—Board would have no control over number employed, 8636.—Expert's opinion wanted to give confidence in a company that had failed before, 8642-3, 8649.—Nobody in district with capital or knowledge enough to float a company, 8644-6.—Expert must be a man unconnected with any granite concern, 8648.—New company ready to go on; nominal capital, £175,000; £55,000 underwritten already; prospectus not out; promoter an Irishman, 8650-3.

Fishing Industry.

Brand on herring barrels wanted to put local curers on equality with large Scotch curers, 8654.

Boat-building.

Boat-building could be developed, and would be self-supporting, 8655.—Fishing boats got from Portrush and Moville at great risk; work could be done as easily at Burtonport; only one boat-builder in district, 8656.—Large yawls referred to, not luggers; these were used for salmon fishing, 8657-8.—Luggers could be built later; room for one boat-builder at present and a lot of apprentices; boats could then be made cheaper, 8659.—Present builder could, but anxious to keep trade in his own hands and only took one apprentice; very important to train young men to something; nothing but cooperage at present, 8661.—There were formerly builders of small boats, but they were old, and the younger men had not taken it up; they preferred fishing, 8662-3.—An odd boat built occasionally, 8664.

Cooperage.

All barrels should be made at cooperage that were used at Burtonport, 8665.—More apprentices should be taken into cooperage and men encouraged by getting timber from Board, 8666.—It would be better for Board to get rid of the cooperage if someone could be got to take it up; no one in neighbourhood with enough capital; Board had done it up to now, and it was self-supporting; it could be done by a small company, 8667-71.—No objection to Board becoming coopers on a large scale and competing against private people; they could only cater for Ireland, 8672-6.

SWEENEY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

—Industry was young; people had not enough capital to buy staves by the cargo from Norway, and there were no timber merchants; young men were willing to work, 8677-82.—The Scotch coopers who imported cargoes were curers with capital, 8685-6.

Parish Committees.

Parish Committees very good; more money required; £200 instead of £75; then dairies, etc., could be built; houses had improved wonderfully, 8687.—Cattle formerly kept in houses; that was rare now, 8689-91.—The same applied to Aranmore, 8692.—Dairies much required; milk kept at present in houses, 8693.

Spraying.

People sprayed very little; they could be induced to do more by prizes; better to encourage people than compel them; if potato-spraying were considered a necessity it should be insisted on, 8694-700.

Absentee's Land should be acquired for People.

Eighty acres of land on Sir N. Gosselin's farm in landlord's hands; if that were to be bought, Iniscoo, Roshin, and Clogher should not be given to private individuals; people had no land for cattle; an abuse to give land to men living in London, 8701.—It should not be cut into holdings, but given to people as an outlet for cattle, either in plots or commonage, 8702-5; they would not sub-divide that, 8706.

Danger of Sub-division.

Sub-division should not be allowed; if Board bought land and re-sold to tenants it would be impossible, as they did not allow it so long as instalments were being paid, 8707.—A tenant in Aranmore tried to sub-divide, and Board took steps to eject him; proceedings were not yet over, 8708-11.—It had been stopped where Board had supervision, 8712.—On Marquis of Conyngham's estate it was allowed, 8713.—That was not sold, 8714.—Less tendency to sub-divide after 68½ years of paying annuities, as they would have seen the advantages of keeping farms intact, 8715-7.—Tendency to sub-divide existed more on seaboard; they were anxious to remain near sea and keep sons at home to fish, 8718-20.—Impossible to stop it there without a remedy, 8721.—Building land for houses would not overcome tendency, 8722.—If Board took a tract of land about three miles from shore and made a road into it, and gave a farm of 40 acres, 10 arable, 30 grazing, well drained and with a house, etc., and helped man to stock it, being repaid by instalments for outlay, the younger sons would go to such farms and sub-division would be stopped; Board would not be at a loss, 8723-6, 8729.—The man could go to his friends on the seaboard in the fishing season, 8730.

Migration.

Sub-division could be cured by migration to places in the locality; some would migrate and some not, younger people would, 8728, 8730.

O'DONNELL, Mr. MANUS.

Townlands in Kilmacrenan that should be Scheduled.

In parish of Termon five townlands in non-congested electoral division of Kilmacrenan; these townlands should be scheduled; Knocknabollan, population in 1891 55, valuation £59 5*s.*; Drumbrick, population 62, valuation £52 15*s.*; Clonkillymore, population 67, valuation £41 15*s.*; Clonkillybeg, population 28, valuation £28; Letterfad, population 29, valuation £60 5*s.*; people would like Congested Districts Board's powers extended to have townlands of £1 10*s.* per head valuation scheduled and the townland the unit of congestion, 8732.

Parish Committee Scheme.

Good work done under Parish Improvement Scheme; holdings showed evidence of improvement; produce in some cases doubled, 8732, 8736.—Value of land also increased, but rateable value remained the same, 8737-9.

Industrial Development the Remedy for Emigration and Migratory Labour.

Numbers emigrated every year for want of an industry; even children hired out; rent, taxes, and bills paid principally by these; following works were wanted for improvement of condition of people, either some or all: widening and deepening of River Lurgy to drain country; opening granite quarries at Barne's Gap; factories, lace-making, etc.; such works would be self-supporting and keep people at home, 8732.

Migration.

People would migrate; witness would not go, as he was a national teacher as well as farmer, 8733-5.

GALLAGHER, Mr. PATRICK.

Position of Witness.

Witness lived by farm; he had thirty-six acres, between arable and mountain land; rateable value £2 13*s.* on land, 7*s.* on house; total £3, 8741.—He had family of one, 8742.—Difficult to live on that amount of land, 8743.

Migration Prospects.

Witness would migrate to any part of Ireland if offered a farm he could live on, so would other farmers in district, and not ask anything for tenant-right of present holdings; no use in striping mountain land, it would never make arable, 8744-8.—Tenants would put new farms into condition for occupation, 8749.—Thirty acres required for farmer to live comfortably, 8750.—No improvement lately in people's condition, 8752-3.—A lot of shop debts, more than there used to be, 8754-5.

Truck System.

Complaints about truck system; farmers' daughters and wives went 124 miles to buy £2 worth of cloth, and paid for it by knitting at 1*s.* 6*d.* a fortnight's work; there was an idea that Board gave out knitting machines; as a fact dealers gave them out; they were willing to pay cash, but paid it in a grocer's shop; people did not like leaving shop without buying goods; they could get cash for their tickets if they demanded it; system should be stopped, 8756-62.

Criticism of Board.

Nothing done by Board in Upper Rosses except a road made; a loan of £50 to Agricultural Bank and the Parish Committee, 8762.—Idea in district that applications from farmers were not considered by Congested Districts Board unless backed by influential people, 8789.—Agricultural Society asked for grant or loan to erect store for agricultural implements; labour offered free; cost of store £17 5*s.* 3*d.* and £28 9*s.* 5*d.* for roofing; both were refused, 8790.—The formation of the Agricultural Society not under work of Board, but great benefit to farmers to have threshing machines supplied, etc.; they did not cost much, but there was no place to store them, 8791, 8797-8.—Agricultural Societies formed by Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, which was outside Board, 8792-3.—Agricultural Department and Board of Works both applied to and would not grant loan, 8794-6.

Bushes teeming with blackberries; with some assistance blackberry business would do a good deal for people, 8798.—Parish Committee could not do these things; it did not grant loans, only premiums on improvements; no objection to their doing it if they had funds, 8799-801.

Agricultural Banks.

Agricultural Bank still working, doing immense good, 8763-4.—Money used for buying stock, etc., 8765.—3 per cent. paid to Board for loan, 4 per cent. for deposits, 6¼ charged, 8766-7.—Two solvent securities given and project for which money was required examined into, 8768-70.—Capital £150, not enough, 8771, 8775.—Balance between that and the £50 made up by local deposits, 8772.—No bad debts, all capital out, 8773-4.—£50 the limit of loans, £10 highest given, 8776-8.—Cheque on bank given; no loans longer than twelve months; very little exten-

GALLAGHER, Mr. PATRICK—*continued*.

sion granted, 8779-80.—Banks would not give loans at all, 8781.—Loans only given for things of a profitable character, 8782.—Such a bank might help the coopers; a loan of £250 would enable them to import a cargo of staves, 8783.—Board might as easily give loan for coopers as for fishing boats; investment more profitable, 8784-8.

Fishing Industry—Landing Facilities needed.

No pier in Upper Rosses; nearly all fish landed at Burtonport caught there; few fishermen, because boats had to be all hauled up; applications had been made for piers at Falcorrib and Maghery, but nothing done, 8801.—Witness was 1½ miles from sea, 8802.—He would participate in advantages of fishing; none at present; one crew could not haul up a yawl, 8803.—Winch had not been tried, a landing place would be needed as well, 8804, 8810-11.—Breakwater of the pier wanted to shelter boats; no need then for hauling, 8805-7.—Boats could be anchored to pier and fish landed, 8808.—Crewy Head the fishing ground, 8809.—Memorial had been sent from Maghery; reply received was that cost of pier was too great; witness had no knowledge of an engineer having been down, 8811.

Turbary—Roads needed.

Turbary in sufficient quantities, but too far from road; price had gone up; roads badly needed to cart turf and sea manure; if there were more roads there would be more carts instead of pack animals, 8812-4.

Migratory Labour.

Witness had been eight years in Scotland and then returned, 8816.—Could do better in Scotland, where he was a miner, than in Upper Rosses, 8817.—He was seventeen years old when he first went to work for his father, 8818.—A farmer with no one to migrate very badly off, 8819.

Sub-division.

Landlord in Upper Rosses encouraged subdivision; before Act of 1881 £1 extra charged for each smoke; landlord got arrears paid as price of sub-division, 8819.—Had not stopped since 1881, but no additions to rent; arrears still cleared, 8820-1.—Less inclination to sub-divide if tenant bought; public opinion against it now, 8822.

BRADY, Miss.

Improvement in Houses in Annagry.

People poor, houses insanitary, 8824, 8845-6.—They tried to improve them, 8825.—Houses improved by Parish Committee Scheme, 8826.—Larger windows, cattle kept in byres, though some still kept them in houses, 8828-9.—Witness remonstrated, and the people replied they would try and improve, but they were poor, 8830-1.—No sub-division, 8832-3.—People had plenty of turf on their own land, 8834.—They took witness's advice and tried to improve their condition, 8835-6, 8850.—Local usage interfered at first, but people were becoming convinced, 8851-3.

Diet.

Feeding poor, 8837.—Much tea drunk and potatoes eaten, 8839.—Tea injurious because it was stewed; they refused advice about that, 8840-1.

Health of District.

Witness often called professionally; no epidemic, but a lot of tuberculosis, due to insanitary houses, 8842-6.—Outdoor life was healthy, 8845-6.—Good school in Annagry now; formerly bad, 8847-8.—Three miles between schools, 8849.—They followed instructions with regard to nursing, 8850.—Infant mortality not high, 8854.—Tea sometimes given to children a little over a year, 8855.

M'GARVEY, Mr. JOHN.

Position of Witness.

Witness had seventeen acres, rough and smooth; valuation £3 15*s.*; he lived entirely by the land, 8856-8.—It was not mountain; could all be reclaimed if he had the means, 8859-60.—It was in a congested district, where people were all poor, 8861-2.—More could be got off land if tilled rightly.

M'GARVEY, Mr. JOHN—*continued*.

Parish Committee.

Parish Committee had improved dwellings, 8862-3.

Drainage needed.

People better off now in way of draining, liming, and reclaiming; more money wanted for main drains, 8863.—People intelligent; could be taught to labour land; money should be spent in teaching; if land were drained people would do fencing; land was subject to water, and little could be done till river was sunk, 8864-6.

Condition of Live Stock.

Two milch cows, two yearlings, two calves kept by witness, 8867.—No bull in district from Congested Districts Board or Agricultural Department; a man in locality had one; better one could be got from Department, 8868-72.—Breed improved during last few years, owing to breeding and feeding, 8873-4.—Locality could not feed high-class cattle unless it were improved so as to raise turnips, etc.; pasture not good enough, 8875.—Assistance wanted to enable more land to be broken up, 8876.—More could be got by raising turnips and hay than by grazing; better class of cattle could be fed, 8877-8.

Migration Prospects.

Young people would migrate anywhere if they got places; old people would not, 8879-81.—No fishing or industries in district, migratory labour only means of earning money, 8882.—Lord Leitrim the landlord, 8883.—Witness would migrate if he could, 8884.—People would buy land, but it was Trinity College land, and could not be sold at fair price, 8885.

People depending solely on Land worst off.

Land in Termon better than in mountain districts of Burtonport, but people handicapped for want of industries and other means of living and making money; people living by land only worse off than those with other resources, 8886-90.

HARKEN, Mr. JOHN.

Demand for Labour uncertain.

Holding of witness, 2 acres 10 perches, not enough to support himself and wife, family away, and sent rent, he got outside employment himself, but it was not regular, 8891-8.

Grazing Land.

Farm not far away could be bought by Congested Districts Board for enlarging holdings, it was a grazing farm, and could be used for grazing, 8899-901.—Some could be broken into and reclaimed, 8902.—Witness had no sheep, 8903.—There was a mountain, and tenants had a piece of grazing off it by Land Commission, country not bad for sheep, but tenants unable to keep them, 8904-5.

Turbary.

No turf on witness's holding, Land Commission had got turf from landlord for tenants for fifteen years, that was running out, 1*s.* 6*d.* paid for it to bailiff, and 3*s.* 6*d.* added to rent, landlord had a reserve bog on other side of river for which he would charge 10*s.* a derk, 8906-11, 8914-16.—Bog given in 1900, 8911.—Witness would go to another place if he got one, 8912.—A derk was three men's work for one day, one man cut and the others helped, 8917-8, 8922, 8936-8.—The other two were paid 2*s.* a day, or else labour was given in exchange, 8927-9, 8939-41.—Two derks necessary for year's fuel, one lasted seven or eight months in winter, 8923-6, 8946.—The rest of the tenants cut the bog the same as those who had been in Court, 8919.—Agent was selling portion of bog reserved by Commission to strange tenants, 8914.—There many men obliged to cut on reserve and pay 10*s.*, 8920.—Some lived near witness and some in next town, 8922.—Outside labour not required in bog use at present, 8931.—Derk taken from reserve bog could be cut any time during year, 8933-4.—Derk not marked out, 8935.—Some of the tenants sold their turf for 10*s.* a derk, they had not bogs of their own, they sold off landlord's bog, 8942-5.

M'BRIDE, Mr. PATRICK.

Holding of Witness.

Farm belonging to witness was ten acres of arable with no grazing, valuation £6 15*s*., £6 10*s*. on land, 5*s*. on houses, judicial rent £5 3*s*., second term, 8947. —Landlord, Hugh Cochrane, 8948.

Condition of Carrigart and Glen.

Two hundred and seventy families in Carrigart Electoral Division, population 1,500, average rent £3, part of Lord Leitrim's estate in division, deducting that, average rent £2, division was one-third of parish of Rossguill, people lived partly off land, supplemented by men going to Scotland, girls going as servants, and little home industries, such as lace, introduced by Congested Districts Board, Carrigart and Glen got no benefit from fishery, Glen suffered for want of home employment, fine granite quarries near Glen would give employment if developed, they were four miles from Mulroy pier or Creeslough railway station, 8948.

Plantation Belt needed.

District would be benefited by shelter plantation outside farms between them and sandhills, land too poor to cultivate, good enough for trees, it should be done by the State, would benefit cattle and be an asset to State in future, 8948, 8981.—Land now occupied would have to be compulsorily taken, 8982-4. —Twenty to thirty yards wide would suffice, 8948.

Drainage needed.

Free grant should be given to deepen burn running through thirty or forty farms, loan extending over ten to twenty years, repayable by families benefited by drain would be good, 100 acres of prime land flooded and rendered useless for tillage, 8948, 8985-6. —Work should be supervised by Board's Inspector, good if people earned money by working at it, if main drain were made, people would make sub-drains themselves, 8949.—Proposed drain half a mile long, 8950.—People would maintain it, but could not undertake extensive operation of making it, 8951.

Live Stock, Improvement of—Department had not helped.

Board did a lot of good in improving breeds of cattle and sheep, no benefit from Department's schemes, they could not give premiums for bulls unless they were prize animals passed by their inspectors, costing £30, that was a pure shorthorn, very good for crossing, but offspring too soft for very poor mountainous district, good cross-bred animals costing £15 would serve purpose, premium of £10 on that would induce farmers to keep bull, £15 given under present system not enough, as farmer only realised £15 or £16 on animal, and it did not pay to feed him, 8951.—Polled angus dear, too, no better than shorthorn, 8952-5.

Spraying.

Improved method of tillage did a lot of good, a pity it stopped; Board's instructor stayed in a place and had depôt for implements hired at 6*d*. a day; introduction of spraying greatest boon, 8955.—They sprayed late this year, good if Board kept instructor in place who kept spraying material and gave out machines, good effect if a few did successful spraying, 8956.—Witness in favour of compulsion, but it would not be necessary, spraying not introduced in neighbouring parish, with result that crop failed, people conservative, and needed inducement to adopt spraying, 8957-9.—Spraying increased value of potato crop by £5 an acre, 8959-60.—Blight infectious, 8961.

Method of approaching Board.

Easy to approach Board, done through parish priest, 8963-6.—Experimental plots and instruction by Board would be good, 8966, 8973-4.

Turbary.

No turbary on Mr. Cochrane's estate, some on adjoining land, good if Cochrane's and adjoining estates were bought by Board and turbary given to tenants, 8966-7.

M'BRIDE, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Flax Growing.

Free grants of good seed and kainit to top-dress should be given by Board to induce people to again grow flax, twenty-five years ago small farmers grew it, and it paid well, gone down in price, but it would still pay, 8967.—It had to be washed in bog-holes, law in Ireland against washing in rivers, which was better for flax, 8968-72.—Farmers would need instruction how to grow it, 8972.—Parish Committee in district improved houses, had not funds to assist planting, 8975-8.—Most holdings had little waste plots that people could cultivate if they had encouragement, 8974, 8979-80.

Better tillage land in Carrigart than Burtonport district, 8987.

Loans for House-building.

Worst districts should be attended to first, but something should be done everywhere, very poor people not reached by Parish Committees, loans up to £50 for improvement of dwellings might be given by Board, Board only gave loans in congested districts, 8988-9.—Witness had applied for a loan for £50, Board referred him to Board of Works, they could advance no sum over three times valuation of holding, law should be altered to abolish restrictions on Board of Works, 8989-91.—Witness lived entirely by land, 8992-3.

Grants should be given to make roads in congested districts, 8993.

McCONNELL, Mr. JOHN.

Drainage needed near Lough Veigh.

Land of twenty-two families flooded for want of main drains, Lough Veigh wanted clearing where Lennan issued from it, Congested Districts Board had not been written to on subject, 8994-8.

Bog Roads needed.

Bog road needed, District Council had not enough funds, help needed from Congested Districts Board, 8998-9.—Witness's farm nine acres, 9000.

Galloway Bulls best suited to District.

Galloway bulls best suited to district, only shorthorns at present, witness had experience of Galloway, his neighbours agreed with him, no representations had been made to Department, 9001-5.

McBRIDE, Mr. JOHN.

Interference with Fishing Rights in Sheephaven Bay.

Fishing rights in Sheephaven Bay held by people for generations, stopped by Lord Leitrim this season by water bailiffs, farmers too poor to go into Court, rights should be given back, 9006-9.

GALLAGHER, Mr. JOHN.

Land of farm along shore, a mixture of sand with moss and clay, 9012.—Mostly tilled, a little grazing, 9013, 9015.—Farm not self-supporting, yearly money made up by going to Scotland, 9016.

Less money to be made in Scotland than formerly.

Times in Scotland not so good as formerly, no piece-wark obtainable, 9017, 9019.—£15 earned for summer and harvest, 9018.

Migration Prospects.

Witness not inclined to migrate from place where he had spent his lifetime, 9021, 9026.—Neighbours also not inclined to migrate, 9027-8.—Witness generally went to district round Edinburgh, 9029.—Gweedore district very congested, development of fishing industry suggested, 9029, 9031.—Witness did not fish himself, 9030.

GALLAGHER, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Small Factories should be opened.

Some industry would enable people to live at home, there was a small woollen factory, London lady had started a factory, but could not get land by the river, water had to be carried nearly half a mile, good thing if Congested Districts Board could bring influence to bear on landlords and start industry by river, 9031.

Turbary.

Bog in neighbourhood had run dry, roads to mountains needed, 9031.—People with no bog privilege bought turf by the derk, 9033-5.—Price of derk, 10*s.*, 9036-9.

O'DONNELL, Mr. A.

Work of Witness.

Witness repaired roads under contract for County Council as well as farming, 9041.—People from witness's county had gained nothing from Congested Districts Board, 9042.

Roads needed.

Road required from Doughery to Crolly, a distance of seven miles, three miles of road as far as Gweedore already made; markets and fairs going backwards for lack of competition, men from same district would not compete, jobbers did not come from the South for want of a road, 9042, 9043-5.—A monthly fair at Meenaleck, 9042.—Present road from Crolly Bridge to Doughery Bridge sixteen miles, projected road seven, 9044-5.—Road-making had stopped for lack of funds, good valley land where road would go, houses could be built along road, present houses two or three miles from public road, 9046.—County had made road, 9047.—Road not a relief road, had been made before 1880, so had the relief roads, 9048.—Road finished as far as Gweedore and Kilmacrennan, could not go outside that, mountain was left there, 9049.—Witness had no experience of contract price for road, £10,000 spent on Gweebara Bridge, one-third of that would make this down to Lake Annure and open up country, 9050.

Migration Prospects.

Young men would go voluntarily and take farms if they got them, witness had seen it proved, 9051-8.—Witness was too old to go, 9053.—Young men would be better off than in slums of Scotland or England, 9055.—Older ones wouldn't go, 9057.—Young men would go if it were an improvement, 9058.

GALLAGHER, Mr. T.

Fishing Industry.

Witness had land on island and mainland, 9060.—Lived half the year on island and half on mainland, 9061.—Had two houses, 9062.—Island very stormy in winter, witness then went to mainland, would help poor classes in herring fishery to have boat-slip and boats, they would not then have to go to Scotland and England, 9063.—More boat-slips would bring more boats, roads also wanted, and a factory would help, 9064.—Luggers got from Congested Districts Board, loans for yawls if required, 9065.—People liked to start with yawls, 9066.—Luggers came afterwards, 9067.—Luggers a big business to start with; when witness started boat to mainland for himself and country people, they blasted rocks to make landing pace; help from Board to enlarge place would be useful, 9068-9.—Three years since they started, no herrings sold there; people had built another place, very inconvenient for witness's district, place wanted on other side of river, 9070.—No boat-slips in Meenacladdy, boat-slips would help majority, 9071.—Carrick was placed where boat-slip was wanted, 9072.—Witness and boy went sea-fishing, lobsters and crabs, then salmon-fishing and herring season in winter, just kept themselves going, 9073.—Some might save if they had a good season, 9074.—Some had better luck than witness, 9075.—Ground a good lobster ground, 9076.—Five shillings a dozen for lobsters paid by Mr. Guthrie, crabs sixpence a dozen, 9077.

DOHERTY, Mr. P.

Fishing Industry.

Witness depended a good bit on fishing, holding was seven or eight acres, 9080, 9131.—Valuation 18*s.*, 9080.—Witness could not get a living off land, 9081-2. He had no family, only one little girl, 9083.—He fished or got employment in neighbourhood when boat not available, 9084.—He used any boat in neighbourhood; went to Innisfree last year, handicapped there for want of pier, Innisfree few miles away, 9085.—Witness had friends there with boat, but could not land in safety; was at Trienagh first, but found landing difficult, Trienagh five or six miles from Dungloe; Trienagh had an inlet and bar, for some years fish were inside bar, people went to extremes to prepare for them, 9086, 9091, 9092-3.—Fish came outside bar after five or six years, 9086, 9094.—Very dangerous outside bar in rough weather, no safe landing place, people had stopped fishing and boats were useless, 9086-7, 9092-3.

Piers needed.

Boats would be kept at Falcorrib if there were a pier, 9088.—Not at Trienagh Bay, 9089. Pier required at Falcorrib during herring season, 9090, 9099.—Pier at Trienagh would encourage fishing, 9092-3.—Kippering and curing station had been set up there, pier at Falcorrib would bring market, 9095.—Nine or ten miles from Falcorrib to Burtonport, 9096.—Landing at Falcorrib preferred to Burtonport on account of distance, 9097.—Employment for people necessary if they were to remain, 9098, 9130.—Witness had never fished outside Ireland, 9100.—He would keep a boat of his own if there were a safe landing place, 9102.—Some people in neighbourhood had boats, 9103.—They had fitted a natural bed to keep them at their own expense, Board had spent £30 on it, 9104, 9126.—No sufficient landing place made, 9105.—Breakwater required, 9107.—Engineering estimate, £2,500, 9107A, 9117, 9123.—Would not take long to land fish worth that with a fair market, 9108.—Boat-slip like one between O'Donnell's Hotel, Burtonport and railway station with winch to haul boats in would be useful, 9109.—Reef of rocks running out to natural bed, breakwater on top of reef required to protect boats coming in and slip to haul boats up on, 9109-12.—Board's grant of £30 was spent on blasting boulders at entrance, 9113.—Did some good, but not enough, 9114.—Larger grants had been applied for, 9115.—£1,000 granted, some mystery about it, 9116.—Not enough for engineer's estimate, 9117, 9123.—No more heard of grant, cause of delay not known, possibly because grant was insufficient, 9118-21.—Witness thought £1,000 would do much, 9122, 9125-6.—Board's grant of £30 given about eight years before, 9127.—Local people had started making bed for boats and charged harbour dues to help make a pier, Board had given grant after representations from influential people, 9128.—Local dues dropped after grant was made, 9129.

Migration Prospects.

Witness and any of his neighbours would migrate at once provided they got a better farm and arrangements were favourable, 9132-4.—Nothing would be asked for tenant-right of present farm, 9135-6.

ORR, Rev. S. H.

Pier wanted at Crohy Head.

Rectory at Maghery, 9138.—Four miles beyond Dungloe, on coast, 9139.—Witness had been there four years, 9140.—Maghery people wanted slip at Crohy Head, four miles from Falcorrib, 9141, 9146.—Witness had repeatedly written to Board; petition sent the previous year, and witness had interviewed Chief Secretary; he was not in opposition to Falcorrib people; Congested Districts Board not likely to give two piers; witness had suggested both sites being examined, and pier given to place with best site; Crohy Head more suitable for expenditure of £2,000 or £3,000; either place feasible for expenditure of £1,000 or £1,500; Crohy Head more central and suitable if breakwater were to be erected, more protected; boat slips required at both places; at pre-

ORR, Rev. S. H.—*continued.*

sent they went to all the little places; with pier they could leave boats there and walk home, 9141.—Herrings caught between Crohy and Dunmore Head, south of Gweebara Bay; mackerel between Arranmore and Port Noo or Trawenagh Bay, 9142.

Big Centre at Burtonport better than several small Markets.

Fish should only be landed at Burtonport, railways were there, 9143, 9147.—Few buyers at Falcorrib, Guthrie's the only curing station, and he had one at Burtonport, and would prefer fish landed there, 9143.—If Burtonport were the centre competition would almost double the price to be got for fish at Falcorrib, 9144.—Piers only feasible, breakwater too expensive for Board, having regard to what they had done at Kincasslagh; Burtonport the fishing centre from Port Noo to Kincasslagh, 9145.—Only protected slips wanted, 9146.—Yawls used for herring, salmon, lobster, and longshore fishing, 9148.—Falcorrib herring fishers landed fish at Burtonport, 9149.—Disadvantageous to have curing stations and buyers at all small places, 9150.—Facilities for launching and pulling up boats required; witness would keep a boat himself if there were a place to keep it, 9151.—Crohy Head four miles from Trawenagh Bay, 9152.—Trawenagh Bay close to Falcorrib, 9153.—Slip at Falcorrib would help Trawenagh people, 9154.—Trawenagh people not all fishermen; Maghery people fished in all weathers, 9155.—Railway intended to be centre for collection of fish, 9156.—Fishing industry reason for making Burtonport the terminus, 9157.—Landing fish in creeks round would hinder original plan, 9158.—No other way of delivering fish except by boat, 9159.—One or two curing stations in outlying places, 9160.—No competition unless buyers went from Burtonport, 9161.—Steamers might be used, but price of carriage would be taken from price of fish, 9162-3.

District unable to support its Population.

District very thickly populated, 9164-5.—Only a small proportion could live by fishing even if industry were much developed, 9166.—Land worthless; witness would not take it for nothing, 9167.—Fishing population Roman Catholics; witness advised his own people who lived inland to get anywhere out of the country, 9168.

Migration Prospects.

Migration the only radical cure for congestion, 9169.—Young people would go, not the old, 9170-1.—People would not migrate if they were comfortable, 9217-8.—Extra stake in the country would prevent migration, 9218.

Sub-Division.

Sub-division caused by giving young people house and field; would stop if better farms were provided for the young elsewhere; people were beginning to see the evil effect of it, 9172-3.

Land Purchase and Re-settlement needed.

Congested Districts Board must buy out estates to provide land for combining and enlarging holdings; instance where Board might act, 9174.

History of Maghery Townland.

Maghery townland was Church property bought by Church Commissioners and re-sold to tenants; Board might take it over and experiment, 9174, 9179.—There were thirty holdings, 9175.—Peopled now, 9176.—Land typical of district, a rundale farm, 9177, 9195.—On the seaboard, 9178.—Board would buy land from Church Commissioners, 9180.—Experiments had been made by tenants; a tenant of Marquis of Conyngham made about ten "cuts" of mountain land at back of his farm, sold them to tenants adjoining at £30 a cut, 9181, 9199, 9202-3, 9209.—These were industrious and getting on nicely, 9181, 9201, 9216.—In addition to £30 they paid 10*s.* per annum for "cuts," 9181, 9204.—Witness could not understand Marquis of Conyngham's position, 9182, 9214-5.—Church Commissioners would not bother about improving estate, 9183.—Tenant who had made "cuts" was not on Church Commissioners' land, 9184.—Maghery Church lands sold by Commissioners to merchant, 9185.—Merchant doubled rent; after an interval he sold again to Commissioners, who resold to tenants, who were

ORR, Rev. S. H.—*continued.*

now paying Church Commissioners, 9186.—Tenants in position of owners, subject to annuity for certain period, 9187.—Property stereotyped as rundale unless interests of Commissioners were bought, 9188-90.—Period of purchase had thirty-nine years to run, 9191.—Commissioners had only wanted to get rid of land at decent price; merchants had wanted to make a good thing out of it, 9192.—So many mediums of purchase of land a disadvantage; simpler if all purchases could be carried out on one plan by one body; different bodies came into existence one after the other, 9193.—People were improving themselves, 9194.—Congested Districts Board would re-stripe holdings and improve property, 9196.—Property would remain in complicated condition till some body set it right, 9197.—"Cuts" made by Marquis of Conyngham's tenant were about ten acres right up face of mountain, 9200.—Tenant had gone to Court and got reduction of rent on property, 9205.—About a year before, 9206.—Landlord had permitted tenant to make profit out of "cuts"; position inexplicable; witness had made many inquiries as to truth of matter, 9207-10.—Matter introduced as illustration that extension of farms was profitable; new cuts were behind old farms, 9211-2.—Tenants of "cuts" not under Land Court as judicial tenants, 9213.—Rent had been reduced for tenant of 300 acres as if he were tenant of the whole, 9214.—Position very peculiar, 9215.—Plenty of enterprise in district if it could be developed, 9216.

Enlargement of Holdings—Land available.

Addition to existing holdings more beneficial than migration if land were to be got; reclaiming mountains was throwing away money, 9219, 9271.—The 300 acres were in Crowhy, 9220.—110 acres of Rectory land available for sale if wanted by Board, 9220-1, 9230.—Witness could not sell, but it could be sold by his advice; 60 acres good arable land, 34 "bent"; would not sell unless price offered would bring in similar income to what land made now when let, 9222.—Thirty tenants on townland, 9223.—110 acres a good deal to divide amongst thirty, 9224.—Men would consider themselves fair farmers with four acres of good Rectory land, 9225.—Fair value would be given in instalments, 9226.—Land far better than the £30 mountain cuts; certain mountain cuts valued at 1½*d.* and 2*d.* an acre; Rectory land could be let in conacre for £2 to £3 an acre, 9227.—Consent of incumbent, Select Vestry of the Church, and Bishop required for sale; land had been offered for sale, 9228.—At Maghery £2 or £3 an acre got for letting by conacre, 9229.—Tenant had destroyed land; Church land would be sold if price could be got; witness would advocate sale to tenants if he thought it a benefit to country, 9230.—Board had not been communicated with; witness not anxious to sell while he was there; no parishioners there, all three or four miles away; he liked to be in centre of his work; sale advocated in view of future of Church and people, 9231.—All land in same position had been sold, 9232.

Live Stock Trade.

Cattle sold young, because owners could not keep them in the winter, 9233.—No green crops grown that would feed cows, 9234.—Animals sold as yearlings, fed on hay, and a little drink, 9235.—Should be fed on roots and hay, 9236.—Hay a plentiful crop; not sufficient for young cattle, 9237.—Two-year-olds might be kept out on grass, not yearlings, 9238.—No cattle could be kept out in winter, 9239.—Dealers bought cattle and shipped them to England and Scotland, 9240.—Yearlings not shipped straight away; one-and-a-half year olds shipped, 9241-2.—Beef not put on till two years old, 9243.—Frames were growing; animal could not be sold in that condition, 9244.—Period between formation of frame and beginning to fatten, 9245.—Country not milk country; class of bull to be introduced a Polled Angus, more expensive, but realised more and more in demand, 9245-7.—Soil unsuitable for shorthorns, 9247.

Department and County Council doing nothing.

Agricultural Department did nothing for improvement of stock; witness knew of no bull between Maghery and Burtonport, 9248.—County Council were doing nothing, 9249.—Meetings held so far away representatives did not attend, 9250.

ORR, Rev. S. H.—*continued.*

Parish Committee Work.

Witness was chairman of Parish Committee in Dungloe, owing to Monsignor Gallagher's illness, 9251.—Committee worked well, but had not enough money; £70 for Lettermacward, and nearly 150 applicants; most needy selected, and third or fourth contributed to expenditure on improvements, 9253.—No prizes given, 9254.—Money given according to results, 9255.—System encouraged people to start works and expend more money, 9256.—£4 the limit, 9257.—Applicants selected and help given to twenty or thirty, 9258.—Committee knew more of people's wants than County Council, 9259.—Congested Districts Board would get information through Parish Committee or parish priest, 9260.—Committee could help in making roads if they had more money, 9261.—People in witness's district most laborious in road-making, 9262.—They would undertake the making if given the money, 9263, 9265-6.—They made bog roads, not main roads, 9264.—Money wanted to improve houses, 9265.—People did not lie out of grant for more than six months, 9267.—Could be paid by shorter instalments if Committee had the money, 9268.

Development Proposed.

Work of Committees capable of considerable development, 9269.—Local needs better dealt with by them than Rural or County Council, 9270-1.—Constitution of Parish Committee satisfactory; if powers were enlarged, election might have to be resorted to, 9289-92.

Mountains Very Little Use for Grazing—Fences Needed.

Mountains only fit for game unless planted, 9271.—Very little use for grazing, 9272.—No entrance and herd necessary, 9273.—Mountains common grazing, 9274, 9277-8.—Not used on account of herding difficulty, 9274.—Fencing would pay; it was a fine country for sheep, 9275.—Witness had fenced his land for £36, borrowed from Church Body; would not cost more in same circumstances to fence a mountain, 9276.—Common tenants of mountains were judicial tenants of Lord Conyngham, 9279.—Question of landlord fencing mountain; owing to feeling in country about Government landlord's interest in his property nil, 9280-1.—Landlord could let game part of land without tenants claiming compensation, 9282.—Game would be there if land were grazed, but destroyed if holdings were made, 9283.—Grazing facilities were there, but useless for lack of fences, 9284.—Farmer of ten or twelve acres could not employ shepherd, 9285.—Absence of sheep in district was striking, 9288.

Domestic Economy Classes.

Co-operation of witness had not been asked in regard to cookery and lace-making; system adopted for teaching cookery not beneficial; machinery of American stove, etc., entirely different from peat turf fire of the people, though people learnt something, 9293-5.—Laundry and cooking best learnt by a woman going to service, 9296; no repugnance to domestic service; girls went to the Lagan, and it was a God send and improvement to the girls, 9297-8.—No girl should be sent away till fourteen or fifteen, 9299, 9301.—Cookery could not be taught in schools except in large centres; could be done in large centres, such as Dungloe, by drafting all seniors into large centre and having infant schools, 9300.—No use to have instructress going round to schools; children left at twelve and could not learn before that, 9301.—Elements of chemistry of cooking taught in schools; more than that impossible; children only attended school three or four months a year, 9302.

Development of Industries.

Witness did not believe in charity help to industries; start might be given, but unless firm carried it on it would fail, 9303.

Knitting Machines and Truck System.

Knitting machines provided by Congested Districts Board were paid for into the bank; machines hired out by shops, paid for by the week to the shop, and never became property of knitters, 9303-4.—Witness knew one or two girls who had paid instalments to Board and now owned machines, 9305.—Explanation of tickets cashed in shop; system started by Mr. Sweeney, of Dungloe; knitting was left at Depot adjoining shop, and ticket for value given; ticket was then presented in shop and paid for in money or goods; many made 8*s.* or 10*s.* a week that way, 9306-8.—Industry carried on technically within the law, 9310.

Kelp Burning.

Seaweed burnt for kelp; £300 made in three months by thirty families in previous year, present year only £100; road to strand disputed as right of way through Rectory land; seaweed originally meant for glebe tenants; now country carts took it away before Maghery people were up, 9310.—Witness had offered to close road, but people of Maghery refused to bear expense, 9311.—Road only cart road, 9312-3.—Japanese were underselling Irish in iodine made by chemical process, 9314-5.—Soap stone quarry, machinery, and mill obsolete, 9316.

Soapstone.

Soapstone used for lubricating large wheels, like French clay, 9317.

Tourist Development.

Extension of road from Falmore to Trawenagh Bay great assistance in development as tourist country; tourist development in infancy; Congested Districts Board might make road and hand over to County Council for up-keep, 9318.—Road only four miles, complete, 9319-20.—Improvement of Maghery to Falmore-road necessary, 9321.

BRENNAN, Mr. KENNY J.

Landing Place for Fish Needed—No Help from Congested Districts Board.

Absence of landing place, twenty-five or thirty miles of coast, practically all fish landed at Burtonport caught in witness's parish, Congested Districts Board neglect to do anything to further fishing industry in spite of repeated applications, Bank Committee at general meeting called on Board to do something; shoals of fish seen off coast eight years before, people made landing place themselves and got boats with assistance of a merchant, Mr. J. Boyle, they fished for two or three seasons, witness fished for three seasons, landing most dangerous 9323-4.—Board had blasted away a few rocks and assisted to make road to landing place, a few hundred yards long, 9324.

Agricultural Bank in Dungloe.

Bank's money very limited, loans only made for agricultural purposes, 9324.—Could be made for industrial purpose, such as starting a cooperage or boat-building yard if funds were available, 9326-8, 9335.—Barrels and boats could go away by sea, Board paid no attention to applications for assistance, 9328.—Bank's capital £200, 9329.—Capital could be increased if people got more confidence, bank only two years in existence, 9330.—Confidence of people would increase, 9331.—Four per cent. interest given, capital could not be risked on industrial enterprise unless success were certain, 9332.—Four per cent. given to encourage people, 6¼ charged on loans of £1 for a month, 9333.—Margin required for working expenses, 9334.—Something could be done with margin when capital increased, 9335.—Branch of Northern Bank in parish 9336.—Northern Bank did not lend to farmers on their own security, 9337, 9339.—Loans made to farmers to pay bills at shops, shopkeepers going security, 9338, 9340, 9343.—Bank's profit was 7½ per cent. discount, 9341-2.—No carpet factories in Upper Rosses parish, two in Lower Rosses, people thought this unfair, 9344-5, 9349.—Part of witness's county as poor as Annagry, beside Dungloe, Diamond, Derrydruel, and all Maghery electoral district, 9346-8.—Plenty of room for development of Agricul-

BRENNAN, Mr. KENNY J.—*continued.*

tural Bank with bigger capital, 9350.—Agricultural Co-operative Society, which supplied implements quite apart from bank, both started under Agricultural Organisation Society, 9351, 9364.—The two cooperated, 9352.—Loans given principally to buy stock, cattle, sheep, pigs, or horse, 9353-5.—On repayment of loan a man often applied for another, 9356.—Foals bought and kept about two years and then sold, 9357.—No bad debts in bank, 9358, 9362.—Six or seven Agricultural Banks in county, 9359.—All doing well, 9360.—Loans often refused, 9361.—Confidence in bank growing, money always spent for purpose it was given for, 9363.—Bank was under Organisation Society, 9365.—A voluntary society and private concern, 9366-7.

Live Stock Improvement—Board Had Done Better than Department.

Cattle and sheep in district deteriorating since Congested Districts Board transferred business to Agricultural Department, bulls obtained from Board on better terms than from Department, Department's prices prohibitive, farmers had to go fifty or sixty miles to select animals, and so refused to borrow money for purchase, 9367.—Board had attended to people's wants better than Department in other places, though not in witness's district, 9368.

Parish Committees.

Board established Parish Committees, 9369.—Witness had seen no improvement since establishment, 9372.—Committee appointed by County Council to act with Agricultural Department in regard to management of animals, 9373.

Friction Between Department and County Council.

Friction between County Council and Agricultural Department, 9374-5.—Department had not sent agricultural instructor when applied for on account of friction, 9375.—County Committee of County Council supposed to be composed of representatives of various districts, witness did not know whether there was one from his district, anyway he was not very active, 9376-9.

Poultry.

Attempt made to establish fowl market in Dungloe, quality of fowls unsatisfactory, Department would not help to improve quality, 9379.

Hackney Sires a Failure.

Farmers dissatisfied with sire horse sent by the Board, hackney no use with inferior mares of district, had been tried nine years and failed, thoroughbred or Irish hunter required, applications to Department ignored, 9379-80, 9384-6.—Commttee of Inquiry into working of Agricultural Department, had not been in Donegal, 9381-3.

Migratory Labour Less Profitable.—Emigration Increasing.

Young men did not earn so much in Scotland as formerly, owing to increased use of machinery, result was the most able-bodied went to America; something must be done at Falcorrib and Maghery to keep them at home and make district self-supporting, 9386.

WARD, Mr. JOHN.

Holding of Witness.

Size of witness's holding two and a half acres of inferior land, 9390.—Valuation of land 11*s*., of house 9*s*., 9391.—Witness had other sources of livelihood beside farm, 9392.

Occupations of Family.

Two sons went to Scotland for four months, 9393, 9398-9.—One son apprenticed at a cooperage at home, at present at curing station at Killybegs for three weeks, 9393-6, 9400.—Five daughters under sixteen kept at school, not hired out or sent to the Lagan, 9397.

WARD, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Migration Prospects.

Wtiness thought migration not so unpopular as was supposed, would migrate himself with family of nine under favourable circumstances, 9402-4, 9412, 9425.—Only drawback might be no convenient school, 9403.—Would go if he were forty years older, 9405.—Others would go if they had evidence of the inducement, 9406.—Placard about available land would bring inquirers, seeing land themselves more conclusive, 9407-9.—Size left to Board to determine, middling area would appear big after small holdings in witness's district, 9410.—Sending sons to Scotland precarious, migration preferred, 9411.—Would go to any part of Ireland, 9412.—People would require to see land offered by Congested Districts Board, 9413.—Would take their word as to houses, etc., to be built, 9414-6.

Emigration of 1883-4.

Witness was in the country in 1883 and 1884, 9417.—Remembered emigration schemes to Beaver Island, Canada, 9418.—Not many willing to go, 9419.—Families that went scattered over cities and towns, etc., 9420.—Scarcely any had gone to Canada since, 9421.—They went to United States, 9422.—Emigration a proof families under hardships were willing to move, 9423.—Greater readiness to move elsewhere in Ireland, 9424.—Witness preferred migration to emigration, 9425.—Land left would extend holdings of remaining tenants, one of the best factors in solving question of congestion, 9426, 9428.—Big industries would also help to solve problem, 9427.

Turbary.

Turbary had become very costly, price thirty-five years before, 1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. for trespass for right to a "dirk," 9429.—Paid to tenant owning bog, landlord did not get trespass, only claimed certain rights to bog, 9430-1.—Witness now went four and a half miles instead of a quarter of a mile to bog, and paid 10*s*. for "trespass" of a "dirk," formerly two "dirks" considered necessary for a family, they now tried to make one do, 9431-2.—There was usual cost of cutting, winnowing, and stacking, cartage cost £2 to £2 10*s*., scarcity of turf an important question, remedy suggested, Congested Districts Board to buy up bog land and do the most equitable thing with it they could, 9432, 9433, 9439.—Lack of turf alone would drive people from the country, 9432.—Harm had been done by owners selling "cuts" of bogs to people who reclaimed it, that was a wrong to the community, 9433.—And a short-sighted policy, 9434.—In inspecting new land, fuel an important question, 9435-6.—Price of turbary would increase as it got scarcer, 9437.—Idea of reclamation opposed to that of having bogs for community at large, 9437.—Six shillings a "dirk" paid for several years by witness, tenant's own price given for sake of being on good terms, 9438.—Bog might be put into hands of trustees to manage on behalf of Board, 9440.

Indebtedness.

People's indebtedness to Northern and Joint Stock Banks very large, money borrowed from bank to pay bills at shops, merchant being security, promissory notes signed for four or five months, interest 7½ per cent., shopkeeper needed accounts paid to carry on business, people on shore paid off debts with earnings from fishing, witness's family had made £15 that way, inland people had much indebtedness, 9441, 9443.—Migration would mitigate evil, 9442.—Shopkeeper could process debtor if there were chattels available, sometimes there were not, people glad of opportunity of going to bank, 9444.—Interest charged by shopkeeper only by arrangement agreed to by customers, otherwise illegal, 9445-6, 9456-8.—Instances rare, 9458.—Interest paid to bank on the four months, fine of 6*d*. or 1*s*. liable if one day late, 9447.—Interest had to be paid beforehand, not added to bill when renewed, 9448-9.—Indebtedness of fishing people less than formerly, 9450.—Away from fishing indebtedness was increasing, appearance of house no guide as to solvency of occupier, 9451.—Merchant usually sent printed form of account giving amount, items necessary if he wished to sue, 9452-5.—Bills did not usually contain statement that interest would be charged, done in some instances, 9458.—No licence for merchants selling goods in general, except tobacco, 9459.

NUMBER OF LICENSED HOUSES.—SHOPS SHOULD NOT BE LICENSED.

Some shops had spirit licences, 9460.—Too much spent on drink, scandalous number of licences given, reduction of number of public-houses needed, 9461, 9466.—Better if public-house were a mile from shop, not with it, debt would be less, as the amount for drink would add to it, 9462.—Man with a liking for drink would be tempted to drink when buying other things if shop were a licensed house, 9463.—Man who had had a drink would buy more goods, 9464-5.—Large proportion of people in favour of temperate habits, too much intemperance in the past, 9467.—Witness would have liked law preventing new licences to have been made fifty years before, 9468-70.

PURCHASE NO BENEFIT TO POOREST TENANTS UNLESS TERMS WERE FAVOURABLE.

Wtih regard to purchasing estates from landlords, poorest classes better off as they were, they had no chattels, so landlord's only remedy was eviction, and he therefore often let them off their rent for one or more years, if land were purchased they must pay their instalments or go; unless estates were bought at reasonable prices, so that annual annuity were less than rent, the poorest class would be worse off; impartial valuer should be sent to fix a just price, tenants would like too low and landlords too high a price, 9471-5.—Wiser for estates to be bought through Congested Districts Board than Land Commission, if they bought at reasonable price, 9473.

RIGHT TO SEAWEED.

Seaweed a matter of great importance in case of purchase by Board, in spite of people's right from time immemorial, landlord had claimed it as his fifty years ago, and used it for his own purposes, he had divided it most inconveniently, people living in the north had to go south for it, and *vice versa*, people living inland mostly sold it to someone else, best way would be for Congested Districts Board to take it over and divide it equitably, would not cost much, 9476-7, 9481.—If Board purchased estate, rights would fall to it, 9487.—Immemorial right had been interfered with before and might be again, 9479-80.—If Board took over seaweed it would interfere with landlord's as well as tenant's right, 9481.

SWEENEY, VERY REV. CANON.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness had been parish priest at Killybegs for ten years and at Ardara for eleven; had been a member of County Committee of Agriculture since its formation, 9485.

ENLARGEMENT OF FISHERMEN'S HOLDINGS AT ST. JOHN'S POINT.

St. John's Point Migration Scheme: St. John's Point a headland coming out four miles into Donegal Bay, Killybegs on the north, Inver Bay on the south; all inhabitants, except schoolmaster, fishermen; those nearest mainland had farms, those at extremity of Point no land, only hovels; landlord, Mr. C. Tredennick; area 420 acres, 280 used by landlord for grazing, not milch cows, milk got two or three miles away; Board had bought place and interest of a tenant with grazing farm of 60 acres who did not live there; Board thus had 340 acres in their own hands and nine or ten tenanted holdings on remainder; Board then divided land, enlarging existing holdings and giving to landless fishermen; made roads, built and improved houses; each new tenant got six to ten acres, according to quality of land; holdings large enough for fishermen; doubt as to prudence of such small holdings in case of failure of fish; sea harvest as dependable as land, 9485, 9491.—Rent charged for land and houses, £5 to £7 or 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; Congested Districts Board's work a great success; some others in neighbourhood also given plots; total number of families provided for forty or fifty, 9484.—49

holdings occupied, two unoccupied, 9485.—Some of the tenants called migrants on return given by Board had had houses on estate before and were given land, 9486-9.—Not so many as fifty-five holdings, 9488-9.—Migrants came from immediate district, 9490, 9506.—Tenants could not live from land alone, but better off than with no land, 9492.—Some of the landless people were sons of tenants, 9493.

SUB-DIVISION.

Getting a site and building a hovel was hardly sub-division, 9494.—Holdings too small to sub-divide, 9495.—Fishermen there from time immemorial, 9496.—Tenants' sons built houses without land rather than go away, 9497.—Sub-division should be strongly prohibited, 9498, 9500.—Board had the power until annuities were paid off that is for next 69 years, 9501-2.—Holdings as arranged were sufficient, 9503, 9507.—If a holder's son married, an upper story could be built to house and the two families could live on land; a yearling well attended to would pay the rent, 9499, 9508.—One class of fish might fail at St. John's Point; four or five chances in the year, herring, mackerel, whiting, haddock, etc., 9504.—People had lived there by fishing many generations, 9505.—Fishing could be developed, larger boats than yawls required, 9509.

BRENTER ESTATE AVAILABLE FOR MIGRATION.

1,067 acres of coast land on Brenter Estate available for purchase, 9510-2.—Land blue till clay, bottom land, used as grazing; landlord Mr. Bustard, 9513.—Evicted land, 9513, 9515. No demesne in it; sixty families evicted in 1847 or 1848 by Mr. Houghton, 9514.—Board had offered to purchase; price asked extravagant, 9515.—Property suited for fishermen; people in fishing village of Inver near by living in miserable houses, 9515, 9535.—Mr. Bustard did not live on land; only way of dealing with property was to ascertain income derived and offer price to yield that income, 9515-8, 9522-3.—Or else offer a Government annuity, 9519, 9523.—With the option of converting it into cash at any time, 9520, 9524, 9526.—Witness did not think an annuity in perpetuity much more trouble to Government than lump sum, 9524.—There were securities yielded more than 3 per cent. 9521.—Terms of Land Conference: sum offered should yield income if invested at 3¼ per cent. were reasonable, 9525.—No grazing tenants on property, 9527.—Same principle should be applied to a grazing tenant, 9588.—Government security in perpetuity better bargain than deteriorating land; cattle had gone wild on Brenter Estate some years ago, and hunters came from Scotland to shoot them and took away the flesh and sold it, 9529-30.—Landlord's net income must be estimated by experts, 9530.—State should acquire land in order to arrange holdings of poor occupiers; individual from whom land was taken should not be a loser; he would be a gainer if he got State security for his income, 9531-2.—Many small holders on border of Brenter Estate whose holdings could be enlarged, 9533, 9536.—Union of Glenties very congested, larged, 9533, 9536.

CONGESTION IN GLENTIES.

Union of Glenties very congested, three parishes, Killybegs, Kilcar, Glencolumbkille average rating little over £2; population, 9,027; number of holdings, 3,037, valuation, £7,603, 9534.—Witness thought there would be no difficulty in getting migrants to take up land remaining after enlargement of holdings in district, 9537.—Bowan Estate, about five miles from Killybegs, owners Messrs. Musgrave, evicted land used for grazing, 9538.—Tenants evicted in 1848 or 1849 by Messrs. Musgrave's predecessors, 9539.—Messrs. Musgrave not willing to sell; Brenter land might be available for migrants after dealing with districts; much congestion in Glencolumbkille and part of Kilcar, 9540.—People inland as poor as on St. John's Point, 9541.—People on promontories suffered from lack of turf, 9542.—People on mountains in misery, but eked out an existence, 9543.—Men with land near sea more comfortable, 9544.—Turbary in neighbourhood of Brenter property, 9545.

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Carpet Factory.

Carpet factory started by Mr. Morton with assistance from Congested Districts Board employed about 100 girls, similar factory in Kilcar; average wage six shillings a week, 9546, 9558. —Same as in Carlisle, less cost of carriage of materials, 9546, 9560.—Could not be increased on account of foreign competition, 9546.—Employees satisfied, 9547.—Attendance at factory fell off during harvest and diminished weekly wage, 9549, 9555, 9559.—Factory could accommodate 200, 9550.—Only 120 available, 9551.—Plenty of orders for work, 9552.—Would like more girls if they could get them, 9553. —Little domestic work done, 9554.—Everyone not employed at home and within reasonable distance employed in factory, 9555-6.—Some travelled two miles, those beyond two miles sometimes stopped in town during winter; hours, 7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., 9554, 9557.—Were engaged for nine and a-half hours a day and had half-day on Saturday, 9557.—Deductions for non-attendance, 9559.

Emigration.

Not much emigration to Canada; average emigration 100 a year; last nine months, 119, 9561.—Employment in factory tended to prevent women emigrating, 9562-3.—Industries for men must be started to keep boys at home, 9563.

Spinning Factory Question.

Spinning factory to supply yarn for carpets had been Mr. Morton's original project; it would give employment to men and boys to save carriage of materials from Paisley, enabling manufacturer to give girls better wages and keep them longer at work; young girls very anxious to work and could soon make as much as older ones; no progressive increase of wages the only drawback; water power was convenient and owned by Mr. Morton, and Donegal wool suitable; not enough consumption of material at first to justify starting spinning factory; there would be now, and Board would probably help the start, 9564.

Sheep Farming.

Donegal wool would be sufficient to meet demands; all mountains round used for grazing sheep, 9565.—Wool sent away in bulk at present, large price not obtained, 9566.—Farmers near mountains all had sheep on mountain, held in common, 9567-8.—Congested Districts Board had supplied rams for improving breed; district not under Board now, 9569.

Embroidery and Lace Classes.

Embroidery only other industry; 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* a week made at that, 9546, 9554, 9570.—Lace class established by Board in Bruckless, 9570.—Instructress paid by Board, 9570, 9580.—About forty girls attended, 9570, 9577.—Not quite a year established, 9570.—Very little earned at present; girls only apprentices, 9571.—Price got depended on market, 9572, 9579.—12*s.* or 15*s.* a week exceptional, 9573.—Witness was against establishment of lace industry as there was a factory, not room for both, 9574.—Numbers attending class falling off, 9576.—Better wages paid for embroidery; lace class at Ballyshannon made better quality lace and was better paid than where classes were not well established, 9579.

Domestic Economy Classes.

Domestic economy classes, with instructress paid by Congested Districts Board, well attended and successful; fifty out of seventy pupils got certificates, 9577, 9581.—Classes in Kilcar, Inver, and Bruckless, 9581. —Domestic economy taught in National Schools could be only practically taught on Saturdays on account of utensils, 9578.—Classes had improved girls who attended, 9578, 9582-3.—Laundry and practical instruction in cookery, theory as well as practice taught, 9582.—Girls who attended had not gone out to service; classes intended for factory girls, who attended evening classes; other girls attended day classes, 9583.—Factory girls had little opportunity for acquiring domestic knowledge; they learnt it in the classes, 9583-4, 9586.—Knowledge put into practice in their own homes in the future, 9585, 9590.—They had some practice in cooking their breakfasts, etc., at home, 9587, 9591.—Classes had a general educative effect, 9589.—Consumption of the viands the most attractive part of syllabus, 9592.

Fishing Industry.—Piers and Boat Slips Required.

Boat slip at Cassan Sound considered by Congested Districts Board; Engineer had inspected place; slip would cost more than expected, 9594.—£500 to £1,000, 9595.—Cassan Sound on south side of St. John's Point, 9596.—St. John's Point ran south-west and north-east, 9597.—Pier wanted for large boats at Ballymacdonell, 9597, 9604. —In Inver Bay close to Dunkineely, deepening of river required and small basin to keep boats; old pier at Portnacross might be repaired by Board; such work not costly and very valuable, 9598.—Killybegs Bay not much used because fishing not successful till last two years, 9599, 9602.

Provision of Boats.

People had no large boats, only yawls; Board had offered boats; offer not taken advantage of; boats in demand now, 9599.—Large number of fish landed at Killybegs last September, 9600.—Few Zulu boats used; mostly yawls, 9601.—People did not go to Killybegs with yawls; could pull them up where they lived; herring, whiting, haddock, and lobster only fishing done with yawls, 9602.—Some yawls at Killybegs; boats at Largy near Portnacross formerly, 9603.—St. John's Point fishermen kept boats at home, 9604.—Because there was no pier for large boats, 9605.—Inver and Donegal boats good for fishing, but only yawls, Teelin men the first to get larger boats and go round coast, some brought home £30, 9649.—Buyers went down for fish, 9606-7.—Ordinary fishing sent to Dunkineely railway station and to Glasgow and Manchester if they were not satisfied with buyers' prices, 9607.—Ballymacdonnell half a mile from railway, 9608.—No pier there, 9609.—Good harbour and accommodation at Killybegs, 9610.—Harbour crowded with boats a fortnight before, 9611, 9614.—From Arklow, Galway, and Scotland, 9612.—Fishing boats congregated where fishing was, 9613.—Herring did not remain long; must be discovered at once to be profitable, 9614.

Boat-Building—Possibilities of Development.

Boat-buiding yard under Saint Columba's School assisted by Board; instructors appointed by Board built best boats in whole fleet; yard should be extended, 9614.—Established six or seven years, 9615.—No large boats built; yawls, ten yawls ordered for Mr. Fleming for salmon fishing, 9616-8.—Nineteen nobbies and sixty-seven yawls built since establishment, 9619 (note).—Three-fourths of boats for herring fishery built in Scotland; more apprentices wanted for yard; only four boats could be built in one year, 9620, 9631.—Price of boats in Scotland and Ireland about same, 9621-2.—Formerly a yard in Arran Island, 9623.—Difficulty of taking materials to island, 9624.—Killybegs more suitable for yard, 9625.—Demand for boats in excess of supply from Ireland; had to be got from Scotland, 9626.—Large boats given to fishermen by Congested Districts Board on share system, 9627.—If fishing were found remunerative there would be demand for boats, 9628.—Existing yard a private enterprise, 9629.—Board in purchasing boats should give Irish yards first chance, 9630. —They had to go elsewhere at present as boats were not produced in Ireland, 9631.—Yard could be developed if there were chance of sale of boats, 9632-4. —Regular specification for materials, etc., of boats, 9635-6, 9638.—Wood got from Galway and Derry, 9637.—Board indifferent as to where wood came from, 9639.—Wood as well seasoned as in Scotland, boats considered as good, 9640.—Price of material brought from Scotland could not be compared with price of native wood, prices only compared on completion of boat, 9642.—School did not get materials from Scotland, 9641.

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Sail-Making, Net-Making, and Cooperage.

Sail-making, net-making, and cooperage might be started, Killybegs good distributing centre, 4250.—Barrels imported this year, 9642.—Some from Scotland, some from Burtonport, 9642-3.—Net-making factory in Lisburn, yawls got nets there, gear of boat cost £60-£160, 9644.—Machinery or hand-made nets might be introduced, 9644a.—Loans made on honesty of fishermen, only £8 arrears in £10,000, 9645-6.—Teelin men the pioneers of this fishing, very successful at first, not so much last two or three years, condition in Teelin much improved, some had paid off shares on boats, 9646.—More fishermen round Teelin than in Killybegs, 9648.—A very congested district, no railway, fish brought to Killybegs, 9648.—Teelin further in the deep than Killybegs, more to windward, so men got to fishing ground sooner, 9650-2.—More boat-slips and piers would lead more men to have boats, promotion of fishing most important, 9653.

Road-Making.

Congested Districts Board had done good work in district in regard to road-making and bridge and pier building, roads needed in a few districts, 9653.—County maintained roads and bridges made by Board fairly satisfactory, 9654-7.

Parish Committees.

Parish Committees did useful work, 9658.—Prize system used, 9659.—Sixty or seventy prizes, 100 or 120 competitors, 9660.—Always some who did not receive prize, prizes sometimes divided if work was inferior, and more people got them; prizes calculated on inspector's estimate of value of work, inspector pointed out work to be done, returned to mark progress, and again to see completion, no standard laid down, value calculated by inspector and prize given to man who did most work and did it best, work done sometimes ten or twelve times value of prize, sometimes only six or eight, specification of certain things laid down, size of doors, etc., and distance of manure heap from house, 9661, 9662-4.—System no more degrading than school prizes, as it was competitive, 9661.—Smaller prize given to man who could not afford to do much, 9665.—Men not allowed to compete whose houses were valued over £4 or drainage £6, 9666-7, 9670.—Valuation of holding a test of financial position, 9669.—Man building house for shop not allowed to compete, 9670-1.—Parish Committee's business with small holders and for sanitary work, 9672-3.

Duplicate Machinery for Carrying Out Sanitary Laws.

Committee did better work than sanitary authorities, were more particular in some ways, but could not enforce Public Health Act, could only induce people to do it by prizes, inefficient work of sanitary officers was a matter for the sanitary authorities, 9674-6, 9680.—Sub-sanitary officers gave orders to sanitary authorities, 9677.—His superiors were Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, 9678-9.—He had duties of disinfection, etc., as well as sanitary work, 9679.—Parish Committee by emulation brought public opinion to bear in favour of sanitation, 9680.—Congested Districts Board supplied pamphlet to members of Parish Committees on principles of drainage, 9681-2.—Scheme of proposed prizes, names of persons, and inspector's report, had to go to the Board and satisfy them that money was rightly distributed, 9683.—Committee could not work without control of scheme, 9684.

Agricultural Work of Department—Very Little Done—Difficulty About Schemes.

Department also had scheme, but only gave small amount, double amount allocated last year, 9685.—Department worked on similar lines to Board, since agricultural work was handed over to Department congested districts got very little benefit, 9686.—Witness a member of County Committee, attended regularly, could get nothing done, 9687.—Where controlling authority was representative power passed to representatives of richer parts, work of poorer parts not so well attended to, 9688-9, 9693, 9718.—In the beginning County Committee directed Districts Councils to appoint Committee to draw up

scheme for their own districts, witness's district Committee met at Glenties and drew up scheme; Department refused it; wanted one scheme for whole county; matter argued with Department without result; other counties had drawn up one scheme for whole county, 9689-90, 9702, 9716.—Difficulty arose in 1901, when Board were negotiating to hand over work to Agricultural Department, 9691-3.—Parish local authorities should be established in place of County Council, or else return to Congested Districts Board advisable, 9694.—No Parish Councils now; formerly there were Dispensary Committees composed of guardians and highest ratepayers, 9695.—Parish Councils the ideal body; distance to County Committee too great, 9696.—If Parish Committees, as in England, were started they must have authority, 9697.—There might be 100 different schemes with such an arrangement in one county, 9698.—Present Committees had different schemes for prizes for sanitation, 9699.—For agricultural schemes, such as bull premiums, shows, etc.; one for each parish too much, but same for whole county not suitable, 9701.—Live-stock work handed over to Department after Act of 1903, 9703.—Schemes referred to Department in 1901 because Department had to be consulted about any scheme for which county rate had been raised; rate at that time was raised over congested as well as other areas; Department was prohibited from spending its money in congested areas, yet its money had to be raised by rate; some thought Board should back rate in congested area, although rate in congested area was raised through Board, Department had to be consulted; this was prior to 1903; difficulty arose about scheme to expend fund composed partly of rate in congested districts and partly of money supplied by Board, 9703-12.—Board had started some unsuccessful poultry schemes, 9712.—Donegal pony breed had not been much improved, 9713-5.—Congested districts required special treatment, not to be obtained from administrative body, including well-to-do districts; blame could not be laid on Committee, 9716.—Difficult for representatives living far from Lifford to attend, 9717.

Agricultural Banks.

People's bank at Killybegs very successful; established by Agricultural Organisation Society; useful to small farmers; no bad debts, 9719, 9722.—Money issued for three, six, or twelve months, at five per cent.; if repaid before the time charge only made for time they had it, 9720.—Difficult for farmers to borrow from outside banks; money punctually paid, 9720.—Capital about £300; £300 to £400 amount in loans, 9721. Began with £50 at three per cent. from Congested Districts Board, 9723.—Very little profit; 4 per cent. given, 5 per cent. received, 6 per cent. charged at first till reserve was £20; bank a voluntary association, 9724.—Teacher did work for nothing; small expenditure on fuel for meetings in winter, 9725.—Operations limited to buying cattle, pigs, or sheep, 9726.—Not anxious to extend, though more money could be obtained, 9727.—Cause of success, supervision and personal knowledge of borrowers, 9728.—Bank's capital grew through deposits, 9735, 9737.—Money got from Board had been repaid, 9735-6.—Money lay on hand for months; very little profit; four per cent. given; only five per cent. received, 9736.—Local people deposited, 9738.—Similar work at Bruckless, in Killyaghtree parish only just commenced; convenient for St. John's Point; Killyaghtree people too far for Killybegs bank; supervision impossible, 9739-41.—Two neighbours went security for borrower, and reported to bank if borrower had sold his stock; bank's duty was warning, 9742.—Good neighbourhood induced men to go security, 9743.—Rule against crossing; large amount not given if security had a loan out, 9744.—Similar bank at Inver, 9745.—Running a year and doing well, 9746-7.—Never were prosecutions; neighbours knew when borrowers had money; formerly some delicacy about it: none now; securities never came for renewals, 9747.

Witness Not in Favour of Extending Principle to Fishery Loans.

Fishermen who borrowed from Board paid well, 9729.—Not much trouble and expense in borrowing from Dublin; instalments sent when due, 9730.—Board had instructor on each boat; boat lent on share system; nine shares, one each for five men and

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four for the Board, 9731.—Witness would not like to undertake it from local bank, even if he had the money, 9732-4.

Spraying.

Congested Districts Board formerly supplied spraying machines; not for last two years; certain number supplied at wholesale prices; no spraying done in present season; potato crop a failure, as bad as 1879; spraying should be done before 29th June, 9748.—Should be compulsory, 9748, 9752.

Machines Not Supplied by Department.

Spraying machines not available since Department took over work, 9748-9.—Want of them had cost £3,000 or £4,000, 9750.—And lot of suffering; 800 families lost four to six months' food, which must be supplied by Indian meal at 10*s*. for two cwt., or £1 for a month's food for family, 9751.—Appearance of field showed if it had been sprayed; police could find out, 9753.—Neighbour might give a hint, 9754.—Few bees in district, 9755.—Had been a foul brood, and instructor was discontinued by Department, though Board had introduced him, 9756-9.—Board had introduced instructor in Glencolumbkille, 9759.—He was also discontinued when Board gave up work, 9760.—Agricultural holding under supervision of man from Board as an object lesson suggested, 9759.—Prizes offered for spraying might be useful, 9761-2.—Parish Committee might hire out machines; better if men combined and bought one; they would take more care of it, 9762, 9766-7.—If spraying became a practice or fashion it would be better than a system of hints; a bad year had a good educational effect, 9763-5.—Local opinion would assist Parish Committee in hiring project, 9768.

Land Purchase.

Only one property sold through Estates Commissioners since 1903, 9768-70.—Landlords unwilling to sell or asked too much, 9768.

Price of Land.

One property in Kilcar sold through Congested Districts Board, 9769.—Property sold through Estates Commissioners adjoined town; one year's rent remitted by landlord; practically 21½ years' purchase for landlord and 20 for tenant, 9771.—Land held in detached plots not rundale, 9772-4.—Plots in neighbourhood were mixed up; land when sold should be purchased by Board and re-divided, 9774.—Existing division of land an economic evil, and should not continue; since passing of Act landlords asked higher prices; tenants unwilling to give higher prices; sales stopped; very few purchases in Donegal; money spent on building piers and roads, supplying boats, etc.; landlords looked for 21½ years' purchase of first term, 24 of second term rents; Board were going to wait; if Canadian cattle came small cattle of district would be unsaleable and reduced to half value; no machinery, no plough; crops to fatten cattle could not be grown by spade work, 9775.—Improvement of estates Board's main object in purchasing, 9776.

Migration Prospects.

Would entail enlargement of holdings by migration of some tenants, 9777.—Men would probably be glad to go, 9778.—Little prospect of it, as there was no land, 9779.—Available land would be taken by immediate neighbourhood, 9780.—Land required outside congested districts, 9781.—Board should have power to settle local claims before settling "congests" on such land to prevent friction, 9782-4.

Clashing between Estates Commissioners and Board.

If the Estates Commissioners purchased all lands outside congested area for settlement of local claims there would be no room to allow migration; Land Purchase powers for settlement of local claims in vicinity of congested areas should be vested in Board, 9785-91.—Land near at hand should be bought for migration purposes, 9792-3.—Available land near Ballyshannon, 9794.—Grazing land, 9795.—Public opinion might be educated to migration to a distance if experiment were made on land at hand, 9796.—It would not take long, 9799.—Board should have all purchase powers, 9797-8.—Witness believed people would emigrate, 9800-3.

Migrants' Tenant-right.

Tenant-right was high, 9778-9804.—Migrant might expect to sell his tenant-right and get money to stock his new holding if new holding were better, and he agreed with Commissioners to transfer to it he could not get the price of his own farm as well as the new one at a reduced rate; he must forego tenant-right, 9804-9.—He would probably agree with Commissioners if he got his value, 9810.

Cutting down Timber on Sale.

Growing timber should be under county control; witness had seen fine growing timber cut down when estates were sold; this was a loss to landscape, and might destroy the value of land to the east of a plantation; timber was in landlord's hands; should be under county, and thinning directed by engineer, 9810-3.

Congested Districts Board the best agency to deal with Congestion.

Congested Districts Board the only Board that had given what was wanted, and endeavoured to do good service without too much red tape; inspector always sent down when representation was made, 9813-4.—Mr. Balfour showed true insight of a statesman in recognising necessity for special treatment for congested districts, 9813.

M'NELIS, Mr. JAMES P.

Donegal Homespuns.

Woollen industry the principal one in South Donegal; parishes of Ardara, Carrick, and Killybegs being mountainous, adapted only to sheep, 9815, 9859.—Donegal homespuns a permanent industry; pattern of cloth formerly irregular; 50 per cent. of goods sold returned; to cope with this Irish Industries Association started weavers' class; introduced new looms with flying shuttles, and taught weavers to use them; then sold looms at nominal price under instalment system; Donegal homespuns now as regular as Harris, 9815.—Association encouraged improvement by collecting, measuring, and stamping best pieces day before market; premium of penny a yard for stamped pieces given to owner and weaver; good effect; aroused competition; stopped after a year, 9815.—Premiums should be continued, 9840.—Board continued to measure tweeds for convenience of buyers and sellers; employed a man measuring at depôts in Ardara and Carrick; had no inspectors; measuring saved disputes between buyers and sellers, 9815, 9822-3.—Board held responsible for measurement, which was clearly marked; fringe at end of roll showed whether anything had been cut off after measurement, 9863-6.—In 1902 Donegal tweeds came into fashion; demand exceeded supply; local prices went up 100 per cent.; peasantry unable to produce enough; result was imitations were made by mills everywhere, and real Donegal homespuns were now unsaleable almost, 9815.—Dealers having to compete with imitations, paid small price to manufacturer, 9825-6.

Stamping needed to check sale of imitations.

Board could protect industries by stamping genuine homespun with trade mark as it passed through their hands for measurement and prosecuting fraudulent traders selling imitations as real, 9815, 9821, 9827.—Imitations would be checked and more stuff produced at home, 9829-30.—Some homespuns made with manufactured warp, 9834.—Homespuns not so good in such cases, 9835.—Thread of real homespun spun on hand wheel, 9833.—Only real homespun should be stamped, 9835.—Stamping would stimulate industry and eventually enhance price, 9837, 9848.—Protection should not go further than certifying goods and prosecuting fraudulent persons, 9841.—Board could prosecute in conjunction with Department, 9842-3.—People would not prosecute themselves unless subsidised by some of the Boards, 9844-7.—If Board stamped goods they must employ inspectors, 9850-2.—Cost of inspection could be got from merchants, 9849, 9853.—Industry very important; £10,000 to £12,000 paid annually to people for goods;

more would be paid with protection; woollen mill might be started at Ardara; fine water power there; it would be an output for wool if homespuns failed, 9815.—Competition with machine-made goods not feared; only imitations, 9816.—Homespun could be imitated, 9817-9.—Principal importations came from Yorkshire; some Irish mills made imitations, 9820.—All goods sold to local dealers, 9824.—Some sent to all over the world, 9828.—Through the dealers Board had assisted in sending goods to exhibitions as advertisement, 9829.—Processes of industry conducted in people's houses, 9831.—Price cheaper than Harris, Donegal homespuns sometimes sold as Harris, 9832.—Spinning wool by machinery started in 1902, when people could not spin fast enough, 9838.—Board should continue to have instructor in poor district, 9853.—No difficulty in bringing such questions before Board, 9854.—This had never been brought, 9855.—Board would be more in touch if sessions were held in district periodically, 9856.—Fostering had helped industry, 9857.—Advantage of stamp would be people would know where to buy Donegal homespuns, 9858.—Witness had had no experience of mountain farms, 9860.—Quality of wool and breed of sheep had bearing on success of industry, 9861.—Instruction had had good effect, 9862.—Dealers all in opposition to each other; it was open competition; no chance of dealers combining and offering highest price possible for a good article; pure open competition; witness wished to avoid that, 9867-72.—Imitations had superseded Donegal tweed in market, 9873.—Would continue to so so long as they were not stamped, 9874.—Goods not bought for quality, but as a variety in the market, 9875-6.—Scotch homespuns not stamped; had been prosecutions for selling Harris imitations, 9877.—Principal thing to be prepared for improvement and stamp better quality, 9878.—All wool used raised in Donegal, 9879-80.—No adulterations; decline not due to use of other wool, 9881-2.—Abundant supply of wool; mountains well stocked, 9883.—Dungloe and Dughery mountains adapted for sheep and not worked for sheep not productive, 9885.

Embroidery and Lace Classes.

Embroidery and lace class started at Ardara in 18898; drawn-thread work introduced; four shillings a week earned at beginning, eight shillings to ten shillings when trained; fourteen shillings by an expert; girls sent out as teachers; salary £40 per annum and commission on work; £850 to £900 paid by class annually to workers; crochet lace class at Ardara one of the best under Board; tedious at first; 100 girls attended, earning five shillings to ten shillings weekly; good workers, twelve shillings to fourteen shillings; sixteen girls' teachers salary £1 to £1 10*s.* weekly; £650 to £900 paid annually to workers, 9885.

Knitting.

Hand-knit hosiery leading industry some years ago; machines put it out; Glenties, Dungloe, Lettermacaward centres, earnings small, 5*d.* to 10*d.* a day; Board taught machine-knitting and gave out machines on same terms as looms; earnings eight shillings to ten shillings weekly; yarn imported; spinning mill would be an advantage, 9885.

Fishing Industry.

Fishing had kept people in country; Rosbeg successful centre for yawls; pier on north side of boat-slip desirable for development of deep sea herring fishery in May and June; would also enable large boats to fish in spring and winter, 9886.

M'DEVITT, Mr. HUGH.

Hand-Knitting.

Witness's firm engaged in hand-knitting industry for some years, 9889.—More women employed before introduction of machinery, 9890.—Machine reduced labour, 9891.—It had come to stay, 9892.—Development of knitting industry must be through machinery; great bulk of work now done by machine; witness's firm stuck to hand-knitting, 9893.—He and his brother started forty-five years before and employed nearly all female population; industry peculiar to district, 9894.—Spread over three or four parishes, 9895.—Two systems of giving out knitting machines by Board and by merchants, 9897.—Witness gave no machines; stuck to hand work; better and more durable, 9898, 9913-4.—Not disposed to go in for new state of things, 9899.—Always enough demand for handwork; not so much as formerly, 9900.—Not anxious to extend business, 9901.—Mill for locally spun wool an advantage; there were difficulties, 9902, 9910.—Wool for hand and machine work different; mill could spin both, 9903-5.—Witness imported yarn from Scotland chiefly; some from Yorkshire and Lancashire, 9905.—Workers paid in cash; prejudice against truck system, 9906.—Machine-knitter earned more, 9907, 9909.—Elderly people stuck to hand-knitting, 9908.—No difference between Donegal machine-knitting and any other, 9911.—Difference was between machine and hand knitting, 9912.

Improvement of Live Stock by Board.

Board had improved stock, cattle, poultry, &c., in Glenties union; grievance that Board had ceased to assist, 9915; same help not got from Department of Agriculture; money not so important as breeds; polled Angus bulls no longer sent; two years ago £400 made in one glen by sale of calves, 9916-7; polled cattle in great demand; others of no account, 9918.—Graziers from Fermanagh and other districts bought them, 9918-20.—Poultry-rearing had been a great industry, 9920.—Witness had farmed a little, 9921-2.

Young Stock sold to Graziers.

Young stock sold to graziers; sent to England and Scotland as two year olds; Irish graziers filled the interval between sale by small farmer and purchase in Great Britain, 9924-5, 9928.—Equally good if small farmer could fatten cattle, 9926.

Effect of Breaking up Grazing Lands.

If grazing lands were sold to tenants, cattle could not be sold to grazier, 9923.—Tenants could fatten cattle if they kept grass or grew roots for feeding, 9929-33.—If 300 acres were cut into thirty ten-acre holdings, cattle might be grazed if land were kept as grass; if half were tilled they would have food for winter, but not enough grass, 9934-6.—Would make a difference if land were divided into ten thirty-acre holdings, with a good portion of grass, 9937.—Tillage system involved a good deal of grass land, 9938-9.—Rotation well conducted would yield more than area in prairie condition; with thirty acres portion could always be in grass, 9940.—Intensity of cultivation with small proportion of pasture and large amount of feeding might produce increase in number of cattle, 9941-2.—Farmer in Glenties union could never fatten his own stock, 9943, 9946.—New holders of grass lands must keep their lands in grass in order not to deprive farmers of market for young stock, 9945, 9947, 9949.—Many year and a half olds exported to Scotland, 9948-9.—Farmers in Ireland had to keep stores to eat grass; no market for home stores feared if Canadian stores were introduced, 9949.

Gweebarra Bridge and Portnoo Pier.

Gweebarra Bridge of great use; most important work done by Congested Districts Board, 9896.—Rumour it was suffering in some way, Portnoo pier useful if boat-slip were made, excavation for pier deprived people of means of drawing up boats, 9949-50.

Good Work done by Board.

Board of great use, no other Department had done so much, 9951-3.—It had the people's confidence, 9952.

Water Supply Defective in Glenties.

Water supply bad and impure in Glenties Union, ratepayers protested against paying for good supply, they were ground down with taxation, 9953, 9960, 9966.—Witness Chairman of Glenties Board of Guardians, the Sanitary Authority, 9954.—Rates in district nearly 8*s.* in the pound, 9955.—Board of Guardians had power, and were anxious to provide

M'DEVITT, Mr. HUGH—*continued.*

water, but had no money, 9956-7.—Hoped Commission would provide money, 9958.—Great project if Congested Districts Board took over water, 9959.—Ratepayers thought inhabitants of villages should pay for water, 9960.—Villages incompetent to defray expense, 9961.—Charge a district one, whether on actual outlay or if money were borrowed, 9962-4.—Guardians could recommend Local Government Board to tax any area, 9965.—Had proposed it for these villages, deputation of ratepayers protested, and were told they would not be taxed, 9966.

Road-Making.

County Council would not grant all main roads authorised by law, richer had no sympathy with poorer parts, no main roads maintained by county, 9966-7.—Mountains no longer fenced by Congested Districts Board, fencing great advantage to farmers, 9967.

M'NELIS, Mr. MICHAEL.

Size of Glenties Union.

Glenties Union covered area larger than several counties, such as Carlow, Longford, etc., 9969.—And had a larger population than two of them, 9970.—Demanded special attention from Congested Districts Board, 9971.—For improvement of industries and live-stock and holdings, protection of industries and reclamation of bog-land, 9972.

Horse-Breeding.

Horse-breeding needed improvement, 9973.—County Committee issued nominations for mares at certain centres, too far for people to travel, 9974.—Congested Districts Board did a great deal, local wants not considered, too much in favour of hackneys, 9975.—Donegal pony had not improved since formation of Board, 9976.—Hackneys mated to Donegal ponies not successful, 9977, 9979.—Present ponies a mixture of Donegal and hackney, 9978.—Thoroughbred horse would produce polo ponies for sale, 9980-1.—Welsh pony good for district, 9981-2.—Welsh horses could be produced from local mares, 9983.—Donegal mares slightly larger than Welsh, 9984.—Hunting horses could be bred with a strong half-thoroughbred horse, 9985-6.—Fifteen to fifteen and a quarter-hand mares in Glenties and Ardara district, 9986.

Department and Board Compared.

New Department had done nothing, 9974, 9987.—Witness would like to see work again transferred to Board, 9987.—Same thing applied to bulls and sheep, 9988-9.—Witness did not think discontent had been made known, County Committee had some representatives from congested area, a minority, majority did not know their needs, 9990-1.

Fishing Industry.

Herring fishing and curing question, witness did some curing, a lot done round coast, barrels should be stamped to guarantee purity, badly cured fish got into market and gave unfavourable impression, barrels were stamped in Scotland, 9992.—Curer would not mind trouble if he got brand, 9993-4.—Board could help coopers by providing staves and hoops for barrels, and keep them occupied in summer, 9994.

Boat-Slips and Shelter Piers Needed.

More boat-slips should be provided, 9995.—Rossbeg pier immense boon, also Loughros Point boat-slip when completed, 9996.—No herring-fishing done in Killybegs for seventy years, hardships of people in Dowras Bay in 1904 through lack of accommodation, Board should be able to provide shelter when required, 9997-8.—Dowras Bay thirteen Irish miles from Glenties station, 9999.

Administration of Public Health Acts.

Enforcement of Public Health Act should be in hands of police, 10000, 10004-5.—They were more independent and had more time for moving about, 10001, 10018.—Rural District Council at present sanitary authority, 10002.—Salaries of sanitary officers paid partly by rates and partly by Imperial Funds, 10003.—Insufficient to make them independent, District Council reluctant to prosecute, 10006.—Sanitary laws not worked, because it was unpopular, 10007-8.—Elected members neglected duty rather than be unpopular, 10009-10.—Therefore police would do it better, 10011.—Elected bodies should do only agreeable duties, 10016-7.—Parish Committees had improved sanitation, 10012-3.—Their methods made people care more for sanitary conditions, 10014.—In time, when public opinion changed, elected bodies would be less reluctant to enforce laws, 10015.

Effect of Cutting up Grazing Lands.

Cutting up farm into tillage would not affect cattle-market, market for young stock in England and Scotland, 10028, 10031.

Land Available for Enlargement of Holdings.

3,600 acres of bog-land in Glenties Union could be reclaimed, 10018.—Non-residential holdings to be acquired, 10019.—Scattered over district, 1,000 acres at Fintra, etc., landlord in occupation, 10020-1.—Meenavalley farm sub-let from year to year, 10021, 10023-4.—Yearly tenant on leasehold terms, 10022.—Grazing farm stocked with cattle bought from small holders, 10025-6. In local markets, 10027.—Land could be used for any purpose, 10029.—Witness farmed land, 10030.—Non-residential farms should be acquired, 10032-3.—Only one had tenant, 10034-6.—Tenant-right to be purchased as well as landlord's, 10038.—Price not higher because purchase from landlord, 10039.—Board would pay heavy price divided between landlord and tenant, 10040.—No difference between purchase of land with tenant's and landlord's rights in one person's hands or two, 10041.—Landlord would not sell cheaper because he had a tenant, 10042.

Congested Estates should be improved before Re-sale.

Estates Commissioners should not buy land in congested districts, 10043.—All purchase operations should be confined to Board, estates should be improved, if Estates Commissioners had power to improve they might purchase, perpetuation of rundale property a great evil, 10044-7.—Board should have compulsory powers, 10048.

MARRON, Rev. JAMES.

Ballyshannon should be Scheduled.

Ballyshannon extreme point of county at head of Erne River, 10050.—District should be scheduled as congested; congestion determined by relation between valuation and number of inhabitants; valuation of non-tenanted districts or fisheries whose owners did not live in locality should not be included; district under rules of Congested Districts Board if these were eliminated, 10051.

Definition of Congestion should be amended.

Townland should be unit, not rural district; valuation of non-residential holdings and residential holdings over £25 valuation excluded, 10052.—Unlikely, though possible, that townland would have large holding of valuable untenanted land as well as poor holdings, 10053.—Point not arrived at by making electoral division unit; most townlands had some large holdings, 10054.—Two to three hundred acres area of townland; 100 and 150 in one person's hands; possibly some not residing there, 10055.—Fair for Lord Lieutenant to have discretionary power of scheduling on advice of Board or some body; if townland were unit, advantage to witness's parish to be under Board if Board had compulsory powers; non-residential holdings could be purchased and sold to tenants on other holdings, 10056-7.

State of Agriculture.

Capital insufficient to make agriculture profitable, 10058-9.—Money could be borrowed, but unprofitable, 10060-1.—Industries only hope for country in present circumstances, 10058, 10061-2.—Holdings small enough to be worked by family might pay, 10063-4.

MARRON, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

Development of Industries.

Non-congested districts neglected; Department neglected industries completely; transferred to Technical Board; would be better under Congested Districts Board; industries got up by local Committee could not compete elsewhere; no advertisement; no protection against frauds; cataloguing as genuine by some Board would help; great demand for Irish goods, especially lace and embroidery; Board could do much by advertisement and protection, 10065.

Lace Industry.

Committee sold lace in London, America, etc.; complaints against Department, it could not tell where lace was to be got, 10066.—Nine shillings to fifteen shillings earned weekly, 10067.—Best expert training desirable; central depôt best means of giving training, 10068.—No girls went to Dublin Metropolitan School of Art; month's training at Cork not much good, 10069.

Parish Committees.

Parish Committees should have more funds; rate in congested districts should only be spent in that area by Board; some given to Parish Committee for local purposes; bridges and roads should be made by Board, 10069-70.

Department Unsuccessful.

Department's schemes unsatisfactory; impossible to have one scheme for whole county as at present; conditions varied in different areas; rate at present given to County Councils to work schemes; public monies wasted on itinerant teachers; some districts get no profit from rate; more should be done for industries, 10069-70.—Some areas of witness's parish very congested, 10071.

Land Available for Enlargement of Holdings.

Large tracts of good non-residential grazing land used by tenants; some by landlords, 10072-4.—Lands would relieve congestion if merged in holdings; good land; men would be anxious to get it, 10075-6.—Farmers would turn it to the best advantage; probably till portion of it for their support, 10077-8.

DUNLEVY, Rev. PATRICK.

Areas Needing to be Scheduled.

Several areas should be scheduled as congested; one electoral division in Donegal portion at Ballyshannon Union was scheduled; Cliff Division; high rating due to River Erne fishery, cause of not scheduling; £875 valuation of fishery; no benefit to people of district, except a few employed by company, 10080.—Actual river rated and taken into consideration for scheduling purposes, 10081-3.—Some of the poorest places in union along sea coast, 10084.

Definition of Congestion Needed Amendment.

Townland should be unit of congestion, 10085.—Witness had not formed clear idea of definition, but thought poverty test most important; population would also have to be considered, 10086-8.

Land Available for Re-settlement.

Uninhabited lands should be acquired for migration or enlargement of holdings; three large tracts of land available; Cavan Garden Estate five miles from Bundoran; 1,250 acres; 436 acres in grass; grazed by landlord himself; 800 acres bog let out at £4 an acre, sixpence a perch; estate adjoined Cashel Ard townland; could be used for migration if acquired, 10089-91.—Beighy estate, 164 acres; 22 acres bog; land better adapted for tillage than land in congested area; Likely estate 572 acres; valuation £342; close to townlands of Kilbarn, Kildoney, and Cloughbally, which were very poor, though not scheduled, 10091.—Holdings on these townlands very small, 10092.—Majority in Kildoney close to shore, 10093.—Valuations from £2 10s. to £3, 10094.

DUNLEVY, Rev. PATRICK—*continued*

Migration Prospects.

People should be migrated from townlands close by; sons would not emigrate if they got farms at home, 10095-6.—Old people would not migrate, 10096, 10098.—Family ties too great, 10112-3.—Might move if better land were at their disposal, 10114-6.—One son would remain to succeed old people, 10099.—Board should acquire lands mentioned to give farms to tenants' sons, 10097.—Witness's policy enlargement of some holdings and creation of new ones for holders' sons, 10100-2.—After enlargement of holdings remaining land should be given to sons; better policy than bringing people from a distance, 10103.—Migration a cure for congestion, 10104.—Emigration prevented by giving land to sons, 10105-6.—People on spot had first claim, 10107.—Not unjustifiable to bring people from a distance, 10108-10.—People satisfied if their own uneconomic holdings were provided for first, 10111.—Small holders in Kilbarn would go to Cavan Garden estate, 10117.

Parish Committees.

Success of Parish Committees, removal of manure heaps and improvement of houses principal work in Cliff division, 10118-9, 10121.—Houses formerly insanitary, prize scheme successful, 10120.—No prize given till removal of manure heap thirty feet from dwelling, 10121.—Sanitary officers had only removed manure heap in exceptional cases, 10122-3.—Witness had been in Donegal all his life, 10124.

Diet.

Standard of diet not improved, 10125.—Poor people live mainly on potatoes, more bread than formerly, meat on rare occasions, 10126-8.—American bacon once a week or if they had friends, 10129-30.—Used their eggs, but not to a great extent, 10131.—Not a poultry district, surplus poultry sold and brought a few shillings a year, 10132-3.—Mostly had a cow and milk, 10134-5.—Creamery in district, 10136.—Those with two cows sold milk, poorer people used their own, 10137.—Very little butter sold except from Creamery, 10138.

Pier and Boat-Slip at Bunatruhan.

Pier and boat-slip at Bunatruhan built by funds from Relief of Distress Act were useless, slip too steep to launch boats in rough weather, Board of Works promised in 1889 to rectify mistake, nothing yet done, cost was £4,000 according to Board of Works Engineer's design, 10139-40.—Pier too short, never used, could be remedied by lengthening fifty or sixty feet or more, length of pier 260 feet, 10140, 10141.—Ballyshannon suffered from bar at mouth of Erne, ships discharged at Killybegs, price of coal higher in consequence, if pier were lengthened ships could discharge there within half a mile of railway, 10140, 10144.—If District were under Congested Districts Board affair would have been remedied, 10141.—Lengthening would give depth of twelve or fourteen feet, 10142.—Pier cost £4,000, pier built for fishermen, boats now had to be beached every day, pier insufficient protection, ships could come in if pier were lengthened, 10143.—About a dozen steamers crossed bar at Ballyshannon yearly, 10145-6.—No regular steamer service, steamers came with coal, 10147.—Had to cross bar at spring tide, if they missed tide had to wait a week, 10148.

BEWGLAS, Rev. W. J.

Parish Committees.

Parish Committee had conferred great benefits in district, dwellings improved, health improved on account of sanitary conditions attached to grants, grants should be increased, £55 for forty persons last year, £60 for eighty-three this, help given to all who applied, no prizes, nothing could be done for those who could do nothing themselves, that class needed help, 10151.

Difficulty with People too Poor to Contribute towards Improvement.

Board of Guardians could not repair people's houses, 10153.—Congested Districts Board the

BEWGLAS, Rev. W. J.—*continued.*

only Board who could help, 10154, 10169.—Widow with helpless children could do no work unless she was paid for it, 10155.—Very poor were on various estates, Lord Leitrim principal landlord, 10156-7.—Parish Committee should have power to improve houses irrespective of occupier's ability to contribute, 10158, 10181.—People themselves to be made to work if able, 10158.—Parish Committee might be competent to expend £5 to £10 of total grant on such work, subject to making special return to Board controlling expenditure, 10170-1.—Committee would judge who were unable to contribute, 10159-60, 10165.—Poor Law officers had no money for such work, 10161.—Cases would not be many, some asked for assistance at present, and Committee could do nothing, 10162.—Difficulty of differentiating between those able to contribute and those unable would be got over if it were within Committee's general programme to improve class of dwellinghouses, 10163-5, 10172.—Committee's popularity would not suffer, 10166, 10168.—Committee's good terms with population one great secret of success, 10167.—One of these cases in Carrigart now, 10173.—Poor rate 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound in 1891, double that now, 10174.—Local authority for relief of poor not created to improve dwellings, 10175.—Witness's proposition referred only to houses, 10176.—Money not to be expended on houses unfit for habitation, only on those needing sanitary improvements, 10178, 10180.—Hard and fast line to ensure work done to best of their ability, 10182.

DOWNING'S PIER EXTENSION NEEDED.

Further extension of Downings pier necessary, only one-fourth of boats could get near it during May, great hardship, 10182.—Last extension made by Board of Works, 10185.—County Council had an oversight of it, 10186.—And right to tax it, 10187.—Money used to pay various expenses about pier, 10188.—Pier vested in County Council, 10189.—Harbour-master was a County Council official, 10190.

RAILWAY EXTENSION NEEDED.

New railway from Strabane to Letterkenny, talk of extension to Milford, further extension to Downings Bay desirable, if Board would contribute company would do it, 10192.—Twelve miles from Milford to Downings, line would cross Letterkenny line and go by Ramelton to Milford, and up side of Mulroy Bay to Carrigart, 10193-4.—Great advantage in getting fish to market, 5,200 salmon landed at Downings this summer and sent to railway by cart, other fish which should go fresh to market lost, 10194.—Cost would be £5,000 a mile, company would do it if Board contributed £1,000 a mile, 10195.—Letterkenny to Milford twelve miles, inducement only required for extension to Downings, 10196.—Not fair to ask contribution from Lord Leitrim, he might give land free witness thought, 10197, 10199.—Not so easy for landlord to give land as in England, tenants demanded full pound of flesh, 10200.—Rosapenna Hotel might or might not benefit, its present class of visitors wanted to get away from railway, 10198.

BOAT-BUILDING YARD AT FANNEY'S BAY.

Boat-building yard at Fanney's Bay, on west side of Mulroy Bay, would give employment and help fishing industry, 10198, 10200.—Yard would build any boats demanded, and probably supply whole of north-west coast, 10201.—One yard at first, and as demand grew others might be opened in district, 10202.—Demand would grow with fishing industry, 10203.

LACE AND EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY.

Lace class in Carrigart fairly successful, girls did not attend regularly, as they did not get regular wage, 10204, 10225.—They were paid by the piece, 10204, 10207, 10218, 10221.—This took several weeks before they were paid, it would encourage the industry if the money that was to be paid at the end was paid during the time of the apprenticeship as small weekly wage, girls would then attend regularly, payment would not be up to full value of work, 10204, 10206-8, 10212A, 10217-9, 10221-3, 10225-6.—Would not hamper industry, encouragement necessary in congested districts to start an industry, 10213-4, 10219.—No loss

to Board in such payment, 10221.—Girls not learning trade would be in the fields or idling at home or away at service, and later emigrate, 10215.—Work though unpaid better than idling, 10226.—Learners ten years old and up, 10216.—Witness would not interfere with Board's method of instructing fishermen, 10220.—Supplying instruction for lace industry was Board's function, 10224.—Embroidery class distinct from lace class, got no help from Board, was not under Board, 10205, 10209.—Would be glad of help, started two years ago, girls clever and got highest awards at Albert Hall Exhibition of 1905, and Limerick Exhibition, 1906, chain embroidery much admired, girls poor and walked far to classes, delighted in work, 10209.

MARKET DIFFICULTY.

Finding market question of demand and beyond individual help, information wanted as to where market was, 10209, 10211.—Embroidery high-class product, 10212.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

Board might employ expert to find out mineral resources, said to be coal in neighbourhood, inexhaustible supply of granite, 10226.

ROADS NEEDED.

Board might assist road-making to isolated houses, rates could not afford to, 10226.—Cart roads wanted, 10227.—Difficult to make men work together and make them without inducement, 10228-9, 10232.—Only had to cut bog and put down stones, 10230.—They made foothpaths over fields, 10231.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AND COUNTY COMMITTEE DID NOTHING.

Agricultural Department did nothing in district, Congested Districts Board used to do a great deal, kept instructor who had experimental plots and gave people advice, hired out agricultural implements at 6*d.* or 1*s.* a day, when Department took over implements were sold, great loss and grievance, 10232-3, 10239.—No one knew how to bring pressure to bear on Department, 10233.—Nothing heard about Department except grumbling, 10236.—Each district had representatives on Committee to bring matters before Department, 10234.—Department entrenched behind Committee, 10237.—District had been in touch with people working for Board, 10238.—Did not know the names of people working for Department, 10235-6, 10239.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY CLASSES.

Board had had cookery and dressmaking classes, 10240-1.—Given up now, 10241.—Good effect, fitted girls for service and home, 10242.—More demand for girls' services, 10243.

AGRICULTURAL BANK.

No agricultural bank in district, 10244.

M'GLYNN, RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR.

DISSATISFACTION WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Work of agricultural development and improvement in breed of stock should never have been handed over to Department by Congested Districts Board, 10247-8.—Board's consent was necessary to handing over, and should not have been given, 10298.—People complained of Department's neglect, 10249-50.—County Committee knew it, County Councillors thought it would be a good thing to refuse to levy county rate of one penny in the pound as the ratepayers did not get proper return, 10251, 10254, 10333.—Department would be left without funds and have to find means of doing work better, 10333.

MONEY RAISED BY RATES, DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS, ETC.

One penny in the pound rate raised for agricultural development Department contributed thirty shillings for every pound raised by county, 10252, 10261.—Department took charge of fund, 10253.—Reason for neglect, Department had acted high-handedly and not listened to County Committee's suggestions, Committee proposed that money saved from schemes in congested areas if not reallotted that year should be saved for congested districts in future and not thrown into general fund, Department refused, and put it into general fund, 10255-8, 10260, 10331, 10337A.—No reason given by Department, a Committee like County Committee should be given reasons, 10259, 10262.—Penny in the pound collected from whole county, congested and non-congested, 10261, 10343.—Some of the money spent, all schemes not taken up, for different reasons, 10263-4.—Several not sanctioned one year by Department although put forward in time, 10265.—There were live-stock schemes for providing bulls, etc., for improving stock, farm prize scheme for best managed farm, cottage prize scheme for best kept cottage, scheme for sending instructors in butter-making to farmers' houses, and poultry-rearing scheme, 10266.—Department's representative at County Committee meetings had schemes fitted up, his figures had largely to be taken, 10267.—Committee had very little initiative, 10268.—Schemes drawn up by Committee and Department's officer, 10269.—Money not transferable from one scheme, such as live-stock, to another, such as farm prize, 10269-70.—District heard of schemes through advertisements in papers, posters, etc., 10271.—Arrangement broke down through differences between Committee and Department, 10272.

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Department did not give as much satisfaction as Board, 10733.—Methods did not reach poorer farmers, prizes at shows carried off by large farmers, 10734.—Rules could be made giving prizes for certain sized holdings, 10735-6, 10738.—Lectures on manures were above the men and useless, 10739-42.—Better to send a man to reside in district and superintend actual cultivation, 10743.—Some lectures by men giving itinerant instruction, 10744.

CREAMERIES.

Creameries started by Irish Agricultural Organisation not a success, 10745-7.—People not working in co-operation but in competition, 10747.—Creameries too close together, intended to be five miles apart, were as close as two miles, not sufficient milk in district to supply so many, 10747, 10751, 10755.—Creamery butter in Donegal fair in summer, old style butter better, 10748-9.—Shareholders responsible for management of creameries, committee and secretary, 10750.—Committee not responsible for bad butter if not enough milk available, could not make it pay, 10751.—Quality of separated milk not so good as ordinary skimmed or butter-milk, unsuitable for food for man or beast, children and calves and pigs all suffered, 10752-4.—One creamery in mountainous district got on well, had fine supply, got first prize in London, 10754.—Milk supply in winter in congested districts so small that creameries were closed, 10756-7.—Much loss in poor parts through inability to treat milk and butter as they should, 10758.—Might be remedied by giving better house accommodation in cottages for milk and butter and sending itinerant teachers, 10759-61.—Gain in money would be great, at present butter sold at nominal price, 10762-3.

COUNTY COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE OVER WORK OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENT.

Witness thought work of Congested Districts Board and Agricultural Department should be handed over to County Council, 10764, 10766, 10789.—County Council a competent body, had worked well and successfully for eight years, 10764-5, 10771.

ROAD-MAKING.

County Council had not asked to take over road-making from Board, they had to maintain roads when made, with limited means, 10768-9.—Amount allotted to road-making regulated by amount spent last three years Grand Jury were in office, Grand Jury had spent as little as possible knowing they were going out of office, 10769, 10862.—Margin of 25 per cent. allowed, 10863.—Local Government Board's sanction to increased expenditure could be got, 10864.—Had been asked for once, and took two years to obtain; narrow roads in mountains required, sixteen-foot roads too expensive, if law were altered more roads could be made; expense of keeping up Congested Districts Board's roads prevented main roads getting attention, 10769, 10865-6.—Council took over Board's roads subject to reasonable requirements, 10867.

EMPLOYMENT OF OFFICERS.

Council would require officers similar to Board, they need not be permanently attached to one county, 10770-1, 10774.—Officers could be appointed by County Council, 10773.—Could be paid out of existing fund, 10774.—No necessity for keeping Board at all, 10775.—Officers would be advertised for, 10776.—Donegal could have special staff if required, 10777.—Not expensive, few congested counties, one staff would work as well under Councils as under Board 10778, 10781-2.—Nobody to harmonise County Councils at present, 10779.—County Council in each congested district could appoint certain members to meet in Dublin and appoint officers, 10783.—Would meet requirements if Board worked through County Council, 10784.—There would be bound to be friction, 10785.—Present method expensive and unsatisfactory, 10786.—No objection to Board, had worked satisfactorily, if either Board or Department remained, it should be Board, 10787, 10789.—Representative body could do work as well, if unsatisfactory, electors had a remedy, 10788.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

Grant might be made to establishment of industries at first, 10790.—Board had done it in case of shirt factory, 10799-800.—Department had not power to subsidise industries, 10795-6.—County Council should have the power and the money, 10795.—No greater outcry if County Council did it than Board, 10793, 10798, 10801.—County Council could do it in same way as Board, 10802.—They had more knowledge of the country, 10791.—And would have as good opportunity if they had the money, 10792.—Donegal Education Committee practically carried on industries, 10793.—Did not get the money to subsidise, 10794.

DIVISION OF FUNDS.

Witness thought proportion of funds belonging to Donegal should be paid over to County Council, 10808.—Amount at disposal of Board could never be concentrated on special areas, amount due to the county

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might be too small to be of use, witness would not like to have to levy rate to supplement amount, 10803-7.

Constitution of Committee.

Committee of County Council for relief of congestion might be either representatives of congested areas or from all parts of county, 10809.—Would probably be formed of most prominent members, considered most adapted to work, 10810.—Few members were unacquainted with congested areas, 10811.—Committee would be subordinate to County Council, 10812.

Migration.

Transfer of work to County Council would help migration, 10780.—It would be carried out by the officers, 10813.—Inquiries as to purchase of land in another county and negotiations and arrangements for transfer of people could be carried out without consulting the other county, 10814-6.—Witness might object to Mayo County Council sending people to better parts of Donegal if there were inhabitants of Donegal who might be migrated there, 10817.—Witness had received no official notification of Committee to inquire into working of Department of Agriculture which sat in Londonderry, 10818-9.

Definition of Congestion, Amendment needed.

Definition of congested district area should be left to Board's discretion, subject to Lord Lieutenant's approval, 10821, 10827, 10842-3.—Unit might be townland but not below, 10822-3.—Guiding principle should be existing one, leaving out larger holdings and enriching areas, 10824, 10827, 10843.—Lough Esk, although one of the poorest parts, was excepted on account of Lough Esk demesne, 10824.—Present 30*s.* limit reasonable, 10825-6.—Holdings above £10 would be left out, 10828-30.—Townlands that would be under thirty shillings limit if it were not for the presence of holdings of £20 and upwards should be scheduled, 10831-2, 10839.—Donegal not scheduled on account of town of Donegal, 10832, 10841.—Presence of demesne in small townland might affect condition of people if landlord employed labour, 10833-4.—As a fact, no labour was employed by resident landlords, 10834, 10838.—Practically no resident landlords, 10838.—General White's estate had only six acres under cultivation, 10835.—Gardeners and gamekeepers brought from Scotland, 10836.—Farming population did not become beaters, 10837.—Board would not be anxious to discover congestion where it didn't exist, 10844.

Compulsory Powers, Price Question.

Act of Parliament required to carry out compulsory purchase of grass lands; question depended on price; desirable for owner and Board to agree without compulsion; if not fair price must be fixed, 10845.—Basis of price; acreable rent fixed on land; average number of years' purchase of land in district or of same quality as that acquired by Board, 10847, 10850.—Land Commission fixe fair rents, 10848-9.—Price should not be based on sum which, if invested, would produce owner's present income, 10846, 10851.—Certain income being given for uncertain; landlord's interest in land depreciating, 10851, 10854.—Landlord would make a good bargain, 10856.—Rents were being reduced, 10852.—Same principle not applicable to tenant; tenant-right going up, 10853.—Best for landlord to cut up grass land and sell by auction to tenants, 10857-8.—Landlord's interest in land in his own hands would be improving if there were purchasers; grass lands without holdings did not fetch high price, even from adjoining neighbours, 10859-60.

Piers.

Piers supplied by Board worthless, 10766.—Two piers in Donegal in disreputable state; £500 required; £250 required to obtain Board of Trade order to levy toll; Board of Trade's fees £50, 10861.

PEARSON, Mr. DAVID.

Definition of Congestion, Amendment needed

Re-arrangement of scheduled areas needed, 10870.—At present some electoral areas not scheduled on account of land at one end raising valuation, 10871.—Townland definition instead of electoral division would meet case; witness did not think one townland should be scheduled alone; where there was a group of townlands it might be included, 10870, 10872.—Lord Lieutenant or some other body might have discretionary power for scheduling, 10873-4.—Board would then be able to operate outside congested areas, 10875.—Board had once operated to good effect outside area in making bridge to connect Donegal town with railway; work had been invaluable, though much criticised, 10876.—Lord Lieutenant might have power to discharge an area when work was completed, 10877-9.—An area could then be scheduled for a required improvement, 10879.—Districts scheduled for purposes of Congested Districts Board remained scheduled, 10880.—There was a precedent, in the case of railway making, for proposed temporary scheduling, 10880-2.—Small holdings should be enlarged; benefit temporary unless law against sub-division was enforced; Board should have power to purchase tenant-right even when fee could not be secured; prevention of sub-division separate question from that of purchase of tenant-right; might be possible to purchase one from a group of farms or induce holder to migrate; feeling against removal of population in bulk; emigrants always wished to return to native parish, 10883.

Migration and Tenant-right.

Holding of which tenant-right was purchased to be handed over to adjoining tenants; full value would be given without inflated price induced by competition when tenant sold to tenant; rent did not affect price; price fixed by money purchasers had to offer, 10884-5.—Board could be recouped for loss of fee by getting personal security, as in case of boats; 10886-7.—Vendors of tenant-right of two classes; man wanting to sell who would be given his money and allowed to go, and man induced to migrate; there would be a few here and there, 10888.

Compulsory Powers.

Compulsory purchase difficult to carry out, 10890.—Price would have to be enormous, as it was for land purchased for railways, 10890-1.—Few landlords would refuse to sell if they got their net income, but some would not agree to any offer, 10892.—Mr. Bustard would not sell under any circumstances; his net income was nil; he did not collect rents; had sued for them this year, and accepted half the terms previously offered, 10892-4.—Statement of area and valuation of his holdings handed in, 10894 (p. 248).—Brenter had scarp for grazing; not good land, blue tilled bottom; some years ago soil buried under blue tilling, 10894.—Was more suitable for reclamation than deep bog-land; profitable to reclaim bog cut to within 18 inches of sub-soil, 10894-5.

Sub-division.

Witness disliked sub-division; almost impossible to prevent; landlord did not hear of it till family quarrelled; landlord seldom visited outlying districts, 10896-7.—Law against sub-division; tenant could be evicted for it, not enforced, 10897-8.—Prior to Act of 1898 landlord had to pay poor rate on land under £4 valuation, so prevented sub-division below that; relieved of that duty by Act, and now permitted it to get rents more easily, 10899.—Onus of preventing sub-division on landlord; in case of purchase Land Commission offered reward to rate-collectors for information; repugnance to informers in Ireland, 10900.—Difficult to check; inspection by State desirable, both for estates purchased by Board and by Land Commission, 10901-4.

Tillage should be encouraged.

Tendency for small holdings to go out tillage and grow grass; paid better to sell calves and live on bought food; young and strong people emigrated; old could not till, 10905-11.—Not good for people to change manner of living and live on bought food, 10912.—Could not force them to till; might induce them with prizes, 10913.—Migrants should not be given holdings except on condition of treating them in good farming style with rotation of crops, etc., 10914-5.—Effect of dividing grass lands

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merely to give them to greater number of tenants, 10916, 10943.—Witness tilled a great deal; went over land capable of tillage from time to time, 10917.—Not experienced difficulty of lack of labour through emigration; difficulty had been experienced, 10918.

Sale of Young Stock.

Small man got such a price for dry stock that it was not worth his while to keep them over one and a-half years, 10919.—Young stock sold went to England and Scotland, 10920, 10930.—Generally to York, 10921, 10941.—Store cattle sent to York largely, smaller and older beasts, class grazed on poor mountain districts, 10922.—Small farmer with arable round house and tract of mountain grazing was best off, 10923.—Every year younger calves were sold by small holders; youngest two or three months; oldest two years; mountain district cattle did not come to maturity till two years old; witness bought two-year-olds to run over the winter, 10924-6, 10928-30.—Very young calves went to Sligo and Leitrim, 10927, 10932, 10935.—Older ones went straight to Britain or were sold to large holders to winter, 10930.—Wintered inside on mountain land, on lowlands out at night, 10931.

Effect of breaking up Grazing Land.

Purchase of grazing land for migration would have inappreciable effect on market for young beasts, 10933-4.—No cattle sent to Mayo, Meath, or Galway from Donegal, 10935-6.—Very young cattle bought by small holders in Ballyshannon and round about to complete rearing, 10937.—If grazing lands were broken up more would probably go to England, 10938.—Men who went in for cow-keeping anxious to get more calves than they could rear; farmers glad to buy from those who could not keep calves, 10939-40.—There would still be demand, 10940.—Buyers came from Derry, Strabane, Connaught; largest dealers traded across Channel, 10941.

Mixed farming the only way farmer could live comfortably, 10944.—Witness had grass for cattle and gave employment with tillage, 10945.

Woollen Industry.

Advantage if local wool were used; Messrs. Moreton used practically no native wool; Board might help spinning and weaving industry; done best by assisting local effort, 10945.

County Council should not supersede Board.

Witness did not think County Council should supersede Congested Districts Board; body like the Board should be removed from arena of party strife and local pressure; great difference between aiding industries by funds of body like the Board or by body like County Council who must vote funds from rates, 10946-9.

Department's Rule about Inspectors.

Agricultural Department right in saying inspectors should not be chosen from district they inspected, 10949.—Advantage of local knowledge doubtful; more attention paid to strangers than to neighbours, 10950-1, 10954.—Distinction of Parliamentary division enough, 10951.—Inspector from Inishowen would be a stranger in Killybegs, 10952, 10954.—Knowledge of Irish very important in some districts, 10953.—School managers tried to get teachers not belonging to the locality, 10955.

Change of Seed.

Systematic introduction of fresh seeds a great advantage, even interchange of same seeds from one locality to another a good thing, 10956.—Difficulty of getting supplies outside county when dealing with Board of Guardians; to much local pressure on Board, 10957.—Board of Guardians carried out sale of seed in connection with relief of distress, 10959-60.—Parish Committees might do it if assisted by Congested Districts Board as to where to get the seeds, etc., 10957-8, 10961-3.—Board of Guardians the only alternative to Parish Committees, possibly the agricultural banks might do it, 10964.

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Spraying.

Spraying should be carried out; immunity of crops during last few years led to neglect and ineffectual spraying with disastrous results, 10965.—Congested Districts Board might help to enforce it; expenditure involved looked unnecessary at first; if people took that view they would run the risk, 10966.—Witness afraid of compulsion, 10967.—Spraying improved plants and would pay independently of immunity from blight, 10968.

Creamery Competition.

Creameries in district ruined by competition; Irish Agricultural Organisation Society started creamery and their representative promised no other should be built within five miles, when creamery was finished the same man laid out ground for another two miles away, 10969-70.—Fierce competition between creameries supposed to be co-operative, 10970-1.—Second one started by owners of creamery six miles distance with encouragement of society, 10972.—Butter made by old method preferable; uniformity of quality not to be depended on, 10973.—Creamery secured that, 10974.—Result of competition was creameries gave lower price for milk, 10975.—Uniform quality of butter obtainable without competition; one churning centre in radius of ten miles enough, 10976.—Lack of proper means of keeping butter and milk caused loss to cottagers in congested areas, 10977.—Parish Committee encouraged provision of small dairies and gave percentage of cost, 10978-9.—Difficult to get them erected otherwise; Congested Districts Board gave £1 for every £5 or £6 expended, 10980.

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MOLLOY, Mr. THOMAS.

Amalgamation of Department.

Too many Boards in the country; land board should be formed and absorb Congested Districts Board, Estates Commissioners, and Agricultural Department, dealing with congested and non-congested areas and buying up all grass lands as outlet for congestion; community in general agreed with witness, 10982, 10988-3.

Migration.

Migrants would not give up holdings at a sacrifice, 10982-5.—Full market value should be given; in Gweedore and the Rosses, two out of three families should be migrated, and offered an inducement to leave, 10985-6, 10987-8.—If new building were necessary on amalgamated farms, better class house should be erected in healthier situation, 10986-7.

Promotion of Industries.

New industries should not be started to hinder existing ones, and only with prospect of success; anything that could ought to be done; opening for boot factories all over the country, if boots could be produced as cheaply as imported; it would lead to establishment of tanneries, 10993-4.—Plenty of water-power for factory in Donegal, 11021.—Water-power utilised at Convoy mills, 11022.—Witness would like to see more utilised, 11023. Room for small corn mills if more corn were produced, 10994—Fair amount grown in district; might be more; people could then make their own meal and flour, 10995. Woollen mills of district excellent; cloth too good for poor people; mills for cheaper cloth would thrive, 10995-6.

Education and Sub-division.

Better education for people would relieve congestion; they would be less anxious to remain in con-

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gested districts and sub-divide farms, 10996.—Witness had lived in county thirty years, 10997.—Thirty years ago sub-division more prevalent than latterly; Donegal people, naturally bright, availed themselves of schools; National School education tended to diminish sub-division; uneducated emigrants returned home and sub-divided, 10998-11000.—Land hunger less than formerly; price of land still high, but less than thirty years ago, 11000-4.

STANDARD OF LIVING, DIET, ETC.

Standard of living higher than thirty years before, 11005.—Diet then was potatoes and milk, 11006-7.—Potatoes only while they lasted; then Indian meal and milk, 11028.—Too much tea taken now; meals mixed; bread and tea at breakfast, potatoes at dinner, stirabout at supper, 11007.—Porridge more used now in that way; formerly used at all meals when potatoes ran out, 11007-8.—Porridge not made from corn grown in district; only small patches of oats grown; not more grown thirty years ago, 11009-11.—Fewer potatoes and less milk used than formerly, 11024.—Tea and flour bread instead, 11025.—Varying diet a great improvement, 11026, 11029.—No meat eaten, 11030.—Practically no bacon, 11031.—Fish eaten, 11032.—Generally speaking, people dressed and ate better than formerly, 11027.

HOUSING QUESTION AND PARISH COMMITTEES.

Situation of houses formerly badly chosen in sheltered low-lying hollow places injurious to health; new houses should be built on more suitable sites and be better lighted, 11012-3.—Parish Committees did useful work, 11016-11018-9.—They could not bring enough pressure; they ought to have legal powers to deal with sites, doors, and windows, 11017, 11020.—Under witness's scheme Parish Committees would be wiped out, 11014-5.

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FISHING AT INVER BAY.

Dunkineely, the centre of fishing grounds in Donegal Bay, including Inver Bay; all classes of fish caught there during season; in winter herrings, 11034, 11062.—Inver Bay had always been a remarkable area, 11039-40.—Thirty-seven first-class yawls employed locally, employing 300 men and boys, 11034, 11042-3.—Boats from outside districts came in herring season; over forty "Zulu" boats in bay in present year, 11032, 11042.

PIER ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED.

Large boats had to go to Killybegs every day for want of landing place and pier accommodation in bay; twenty miles round St. John's Point; sometimes took so long to get back the boats lost the night's fishing; could not get round at all in boisterous weather; with proper landing place in bay boats could remain overnight and continue fishing; small pier at "The Port" only landing place in bay; could only be reached by yawls at high water; had accommodation for half a dozen boats, 11034-5.—Thirty miles by sea from Killybegs, 11035.—Built by Congested Districts Board six or seven years ago; extended two years ago; men had to carry fish along shore to landing place and rail them to Killybegs, as there was no curing station, 11036.—Useless for number of boats frequenting bay, 11048.—Only intended for boats of that particular place, 11050.—Tide left it, and boats had to wait till tide came back, 11051-2.—Pier asked for at suitable spot called "The Scar," convenient distance from Dunkineely Station; plenty of water at all tides; all classes of boats could land, 11036-8.—Good anchorage ground, 11037-8.—Would be a centre for Inver Bay, 11041.—Fishermen fishing all the year round were local men; some came from other side of the bay, but would go there in preference to Killybegs, 11043-4.—Killybegs not a fishing pier, 11036.—Useless as a fishing centre, 11044-6.—More a commercial port, 11074-7.—Fishermen with large boats sometimes had to go sixty or 100 miles to pier, 11047.—No site for pier in Donegal Bay at present; only boat slip, 11048.—Proposed pier would be useful, because it would be in suitable place, 11049.—Railway made subsequent to quay at "The Port," 11054.—Railway did not affect it; objection was lack of water; St. John's Point had two little slips for local use, 11055.—"Zulu" boats went out far to fish, 11055.—They would come to fishing ground; fish caught more inland, 11056.—£4,000 estimate for proposed pier, 11057-8.—That would give four or five fathoms depth at low tide, 11059.—It would be headquarters of Donegal fishing, and expenditure would be more beneficial than elsewhere, 11060-1.—£8,000 worth of herrings caught in bay in eight weeks, 11062.—Smaller work would serve local people, 11063.—Had been in correspondence with Congested Districts Board some years ago; land for approach road and curing station not attainable then; owner now supporting suggestion, 11064-5.—Encouragement had been received from Board, 11067.—More fishing ground to south and west of St. John's Point than other side, 11068.—Best ground inside St. John's Point Head, 11069.—£3,000 worth of herrings landed at Killybegs in September were caught in Inver Bay; Inver Bay fish landed by larger boats at Killybegs; small boats could not get round point so well, 11070-3.—Pier at Dunkineely would save expense; ground could be got for curing; would save expense for buyers and curers, 11074.—Killybegs Pier better far off fishing grounds; landing place required at Inver apart from large boats, 11095-6.—If more fish were landed people would go there to cure, 11097.

SUPPLY OF NETS.

Nets supplied to fishermen by witness on share system; one share of catch went towards net; one towards boat; eight men in crew, that was ten shares; in 1894 a boat earned £28 7*s.* 6*d.*; 1895, £61 5*s.*; 1896, £30; 1897, £52 13*s.* 4*d.*; 1898 £19; 1899, £77 5*s.*; 1900, £81 10*s.*; 1901, £68 10*s.*; 1902, £49 10*s.*; 1903, £92; 1904, £105 7*s.* 6*d.*; 1905, £119; present year, incomplete, £105, 11077-8.—Increase in demand for nets, 11079.—Men's earnings increased, 11080.—Number of fishermen and boats had also increased; boats better class, 11081-2.—General development in Inver Bay fishing, 11083-4.—Witness supplied nets because men could not otherwise get them; had no desire to give up business, 11085-6.—Increase in earnings partly due to enhanced price of herrings, partly to larger boats, better gear, and increased knowledge of fishing, 11087-8

QUESTION OF LARGER BOATS.

Men should be encouraged to go further out and have larger boats, and thus prolong fishing season, 11089-90.—Development of fishing more profitable than anything, 11090.—Young men understood fishing better and had pluck to go further away, 11091.—Fourteen or fifteen miles average distance from shore; that was riding at the nets, 11092-3.—Boats becoming larger since fishing disaster some years ago; formerly they cost £9 or £10; now £16 or £17, 11094.

LOAN SYSTEM FOR BOATS.

Loan system for boats: three years rule for repayment made when boats cost £9 or £10; extension to six years desirable; now boats were larger and more expensive; instalments heavy in a bad year, 11098, 11099, 11111-4, 11116, 11122.—Boats would last twelve to fifteen years, 11098A, 11099A.—Large boats caught more fish and earned more; difficult to meet instalment only in bad years, 11115-6, 11123-4.—Board not rigorous in exacting conditions in bad years, 11125.—Good for a man to be independent; six years for repayment of loan would not prevent independence, 11099A, 11117-8.—Repayment in shorter period could be encouraged by allowing interest, 11100.—Five per cent. present charge; sufficient for longer period, 11119, 11126.—Six years now given for larger boats, 11119.—Same terms might be given for smaller boats, 11120-2.

AND NETS.

Nets on loan system not taken enough advantage of on account of trouble in getting them, 11100.—Board made loans for nets; usual routine was to apply for nets; certain specification given; nets supplied by one firm, corks by another, ropes by another; better to have central station for supply

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of everything together, 11101.—In future men might co-operate and have their own supply, 11102.—At present Board should do it and get their supply from local shopkeepers, 11103-7.

STORING NETS.

Want of storing place for nets, 11108.—Kept in dwelling-houses or exposed to weather, 11109.—Sheds would be a saving, 11109.—No local curing station or means of saving nets, 11110.

FISHERMEN'S HOLDINGS.

Good work done at St. John's Point; should be continued, 11127.—Improvement to give fishermen small holdings, 11128; all the houses occupied; more needed along coast, 11129-30.—Land between Inver Bridge and Dunkineely had several owners; 1,500 acres of derelict along shore owned by Mr. Bustard, 11131.—Fishermen with land better and more prosperous than those without, 11132-3.—Fishermen needed enough land to grow potatoes and keep a cow, not enough to make him give up fishing, 11134-5.—Houses for fishermen better built in a cluster, 11136-7.—More likely to have good harbour in one centre, 11139-40.—Row of cottages with potato gardens would improve condition of people, 11138.—Such houses would require two acres of land; more scattered houses eight to ten, 11141.—They might have common grazing ground and land near house for vegetable growing, 11142-3.—Home fishermen wanted land, not those fishing further away; number in Inver district without land; large tracts of grass available for purchase by Board, 11144.—Houses built in cluster would keep young men at home and prevent emigration; and would prevent sub-division, 11146-8.—Man with small piece of land better fisherman than man with large piece; same applied to St. John's Point; Labourers' Act never put in force in Inver and Dunkineely, 11149.—Several large farms available; land went down to seashore, 11149-50.—Many labourers without houses; houses could have been built for fishermen if Labourers Act had been enforced, 11151-2.—Fishermen content to become tenant purchasers of houses with small lot of land; they looked to fishing for support, 11153-4.—Witness would not build larger houses, 11155.—Fishing not expected to fail, 11156, 11160.—Tenants for houses always to be found, 11157.—To get advances of public money holdings must be certain size, 11158-9.—Development of fishery on Irish coast in its infancy; with larger boats men could go anywhere, 11161.

SALMON FISHING.

Salmon fishing on coast not prosperous last few years; same nets and boats used as for herrings, 11162.—Eany River at head of bay not properly protected; otherwise supply would not fail, 11163, 11165, 11168-9.—Salmon bred in fresh water, 11166.—Returned to water where they were bred, 11164, 11170.—Protection of inland water essential to prosperity of sea fishing, 11167.—Sea fishing on large scale outside three mile limit would not affect supply of fresh water salmon, 11171-2.

DIET.

Standard of diet improved in some ways; former diet better in a sense; more potatoes, oaten meal and porridge used, 11173.

INDEBTEDNESS.

Cost of living and dressing more; debts to shops not increased; tendency at present to deal for cash, 11174-8; and clear off debt where earnings were good, 11179.—Especially among fishermen, 11180.—More money spent represented larger earnings, 11175-6.

O'DONNELL, MR. HUGH (of Meenaneery).

HOLDING OF WITNESS.

Valuation of witness's farm, including house and shop, £9 15s., land valuation £5, 11184, 11288.—Only one house, 11289.—Six miles from sea, 11290.—Witness had a spirit licence, 11291.—Made more by shop and licence than by farm, 11292.—Customers more agricultural than fishermen, 11293.

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TEELIN FISHERY.

Teelin fishery very bad at present, 11185.—Big boats went to Downings or wherever there was fishing, 11187, 11191-2.—One or two went to Inver Bay, 11188.—Teelin boats Zulus, 11189.—There were eight, 11190.—Practically no yawls, all young men and fishermen engaged on Zulus, 11193, 11195.—Cod and ling fishing as well as herrings, 11194, 11196.—Zulus used for that, 11197.—Conger eel fishing done away with, 11198.—Not to be got now, 11202.—Got off Innismurry first season, 11203.—Market in Manchester and London, 11204.—Teelin pier cost £5,000 to £6,000, 11199-200.—Now only used when "Granuaile" came in, 11201.—Salmon fishing during season poor, good at Burtonport, 11206-7.

BOARD'S SHARE SYSTEM.

No complaint of method of payment for boats, 11205.—Boats bought on share system, 11208.—Board got one-third of fish first year, two-fifths for remainder of time 11209, 11212.—Fishermen complained of paying more in last years, 11212-3.—Board supplied nets, 11215, 11233.—Price complained of, 11214A, 11234.—5s. a net more charged than by other people, thirty or forty nets to a boat, 11236.—Only lately discovered that nets were cheaper elsewhere, 11237-42.—Shopkeepers could get nets if there were a demand, 11244.—Board used to repair boats, refused to now, 11245, 11248.—Some boats had been completely acquired; repairs referred to all boats, 11246-7.—Boats given to fishermen to repair and send in account to Board, 11249, 11251.—Large sum would be added to outstanding amount, 11252.—Plenty of carpenters, 11250.—Money formerly advanced to men fishing at a distance to pay their board for a few weeks till they made their money; no longer done, 11253, 11255.—Careful treatment could not be continued as men got accustomed to work, 11254.—Matter could be arranged with Mr. Duthie, 11256.—Mr. Duthie generally at Downings, could be written to, 11257-9.—Board had power to discharge man from boat until instalments were paid, 11260.—On death of a man his successor had no claim, 11261-3.—Man taking his place paid the remaining amount due, 11265-70.—Port was in Glencolumbkill, no landing place there, 11210.—On coast midway between Slieve League and Ardara, 11211, 11282.—Price of cod and ling had gone up since Board started, they got the market and bought the fish, 11216-8, 11220.—Curing station at Teelin abandoned; no fish landed there now, 11219, 11221-2.—Fish landed at Clannageeragh on opposite side of bay, 11222.—Four miles nearer railway, 11223.—Clannageeragh pier had been improved, 11224.—Teelin had advanced in spite of bad seasons, 11225.—Twenty years since pier was built, 11226.—Pier built before Killybegs railway, 11228-9.—Failure of fishing attributed to drift net fishing after night and steam trawlers, 11230.—That frightened away fish, 11232.—No herrings in trawl net, it interfered with cod and ling, 11232.

ROAD-MAKING.

Not many roads required; a few to limestone quarries; lime now carried on men's backs, 11271-2, 11276.—People built kilns themselves; nearly every farmer had one, 11273-4.—Not hard to construct, 11275.—Proposed roads would serve several townlands, 11276.

BOAT SLIP REQUIRED AT PORT.

Boat slip at port would be most useful; none there now, 11279-81.—A great place for salmon, 11283.—No stream there to take salmon, 11284-6.—Probably heading to Inny water, 11287.

Credit given as much formerly as now, cash paid if they had it, 11249-5.—Farmers did not come more to shop than they used, 11296.

Lace industry of service some years ago; had failed now, 11297.

IMPORTANCE OF FISHING INDUSTRY.

Prosperity or failure of fishing affected people six miles inland, 11298-300, 11302-3.—Some farmers carted fish from Cladnageeragh to Killybegs, 11301, 11304.—Occasionally got large jobs, principally in connection with herring fishery, 11305-7.—Other operations calling for skilled labour, such as curing, in connection with herring fishing 11308-9.

DUNNION, Mr. JOHN PETER.

HOLDING OF WITNESS.

Farm belonged to witness's mother, 11312.—Had fourteen acres; valuation, £4 15*s*., 11311, 11503.—No others but witness worked on farm, 11314-5.

GRAZING ON BARNES MOUNTAIN.

Free grazing on Barnes mountain attached to Townawilly, 11316, 11320.—Witness supported himself and mother on land without going to Scotland, 11317-9.—No grazing except mountain, 11320.—Witness had no cattle or sheep on mountain, 11321-2, 11366.—Cattle kept on farm, 11323.—Mountain too unprotected; required fencing, 11324, 11356, 11361.—Witness a tenant-purchaser, 1136 .—Farm was on Royal School estate, 11327-8.—Began to pay instalments ten years before, 11329.—Tenant-purchasers kept sheep on mountain, 11325, 11330.—Sheep grazed in common; each man looked after his own; put a mark on them and left them to wander, 11331-6.—No limit to number a man could graze; never any complaints; 11337-45, 11346-7.—Right of grazing purchased with holding, 11343-5.—Each man had equal rights, 11346.—System better than fencing mountain and dividing amongst tenants, 11349-51.—Division would not pay; mountain bad, rough and rocky, 11352, 11360.—Fence or ditch between mountain and arable land, 11353.—Division unnecessary if mountain were twice as good, 11354.—Mountain not really good enough to graze cattle, 11355, 11360, 11357-8.—Sheep grazed on worse pasture than cattle, 11359.—Would carry more sheep if wet places were drained, 11362-5.—One hundred to 150 tenants on estate, 11367.

MIGRATION PROSPECTS.

Witness could work a holding double the size of his own; would be better off with bigger holding, 11368-73.—Would be willing to migrate to any part of Ireland if offered a farm with good land, 11374-5, 11385.—He thought his mother would probably go with him, 11376-83.—He would not want to be paid for his farm, 11384.—Nor care who got it after him, 11387-9.—Witness was twenty-six years old, 11390.—Had two sisters in America, and one at home, 11391.—He thought others as willing to migrate as himself, 11395-7.

EFFECTS OF GOOD FISHING SEASON ON INLAND FARM.

Farm inland, 4½ miles from Donegal town, 11398.—Witness better off in good fishing season; he got fish to eat, 11399-401.—He did no other business but farming, 11402.

SUPPLY OF BULLS.

Had to go two miles for a bull, 11403.—Congested Districts Board no longer supplied bulls; they did three years ago, 11404.—Calves were then a better breed, 11405-6.—Bull used with witness's own cow, 11407.

BOG ROADS AND TURBARY.

Bog roads badly needed, 11348.—Six roads needed extension, 11409.—Turbary got further towards mountain through cutting, 11410, 11416.—Turbary right bought with farm, 11411.—All bog in district held among tenants who bought, 11412.—Each had a bit, 11414.—No other tenants had right on it, 11413.—All had some left, 11415.—If witness lived to be old he would have to go very far for turf, 11425.—Roads required need only be twelve or fourteen feet wide; the county insisted on sixteen feet, 11417-8, 11420-3.—Six existing roads not sixteen feet, 11419.—Width of carts 5½ to 6 feet, 11422.—Peat carried now on mens' backs, 11424, 11439-41.—Path for horse or donkey would partially meet case and be less expensive, 11426-9.—Turf cut in May or June, left to dry, and carted at all times of the year as wanted, 11430-34.—Might all be carted in leisure time in winter if road were made, 11435.—Witness had neither horse nor donkey, 11438.—Turf sometimes carried a mile, 11440.—From bog to road and then along road, 11442-3.—Existing road only a "pad"; not on county, 11444.—Broad enough for cart, but not in repair; no one more right to repair than another, 11445.—Now no road, 11446.—No arrangement for repairing, 11447; road had been contracted for, but County Surveyor would not pass it, 11448-51.—One man worked at it for two or three years and did not get paid, 11450-2.

LOANS FOR PURCHASE OF STOCK.

Tenants kept as many sheep on mountain as they could; many kept none, 11453.—Because they had no money to buy, 11454.—Would pay to give loans; witness would take a loan from Board if he could, 11455-6.—Was paying for mountain without return, 11457-9.—It would help means of living if there were means of getting sheep, 11462.—If Parish Committee or bank offered to lend money witness would undertake to repay, 11461.

Rent lower since farm was purchased; formerly £4 15*s*. 2*d*., now £2 15*s*. 2*d*., 11463-6.—Farm had also done better in other ways, 11463, 11467.

LIVE STOCK TRADE.

Witness kept four cows and fed them on oats and potatoes, nothing else, 11468-70.—Had four calves a year, 11471.—Sold them at three, four, or six months, or a year old, 11472.—Sometimes kept them till two years, 11473-4.—Dry stock on farm at present; four cows, two year-olds and a two-year-old, 11475, 11478.—Calves born in present year not yearlings, 11476.—Last calf born in August of previous year, 11477.—Seldom kept till two-year-olds, 11479.—Dry stock sold in fairs, 11480.—Bought both by local buyers and men from other parts, 11481.—Calves born in May and June of present year sold in October, 11482-5.—Very young calves bought by people in locality; not often by strangers, 11486, 11488.—Local buyers also bought yearlings and two-year-olds, 11487.—Cattle sold at fairs went to England or Scotland or were kept at grass in locality, 11489-90.—More profitable in a mountain country to sell young, 11491.—Witness kept calves till year old previous year, and was not disappointed in price, 11492-3.—Had to buy hay for winter feeding, 11494-5.—Had not bought the previous winter, 11496.—Hay bought growing, by auction, 11497.—Sometimes as far as six miles away; carting had to be paid for, 11497-502.

TILLAGE.

Witness had three acres of land in oats and potatoes, 11505.—Remaining eleven acres not all arable, 11507.—Needed reclaiming before it could be tilled, 11508.—Tenants around doing as much tillage now as in witness's memory, 11506.

TREES AS SHELTER.

No trees, only small hedges on holding when witness bought, 11509.—Trees no advantage; did not protect tillage land, 11510-1.—Close thorn hedge in ditch good; sheltered cattle in winter, 11511-2.

O'DONNELL, Mr. JAMES.

Witness lived with his brother on his farm; had an interest in a rowing boat; sometimes helped on farm, 11514-9, 11532-3.—Had travelled in America, Australia, New Zealand, 11533.—Came home on account of ill-health, 11533-4.—Left home in 1860; returned three years ago, 11569-70; had been back at intervals, 11571.

ACCOMMODATION FOR FISHING BOATS AND ROAD REQUIRED AT PULLAHORRA.

Slip at Pullahorra unsafe on account of a rock that needed removing, 11520, 11527, 11529, 11537-9, 11561, 11568.—Still of some advantage in pulling up boats, 11530.—People too poor to repair it, though they could work, 11540-1.—Slip not on the county, 11542.—Store-house gone to ruin; place required to keep stores and nets, 11520, 11562.—Store-house built before pier, 11563.—Belonged to townland, 11564.—Required fresh roof and walls patched, 11565.—Road from pier to main road required; old road could be repaired; people too poor to do it; wanted it done by public money, 11520, 11542-5, 11549-51.—Road had never been on the county, 11546.—Good road went into decay by neglect, 11547.—Would have paid the people to keep it in repair, 11548.—If money were now spent on it people would be to blame if they did not keep it repaired, 11552.—People should be

O'DONNELL, Mr. JAMES.—*continued.*

required to guarantee it, 11557.—As that could not be enforced, County Council should keep it up, 11558. —Pullahorra pier unsuitable; wanted extension, 11520-1, 11530, 11559.—Pullahorra two miles from Tawney pier, a little on Killybegs side of Muckross Head, 11522-4.—Teelin Bay two miles nearer Kilcar, 11525.—Tawney Bay all right for keeping boats, 11526.—But too far for Pullahorra people; pier and slip at Pullahorra wanted making; landing place wanted repairing, 11527.—Pier made by Government, 11528.—Did not want repairing, 11528, 11539.—Probably never would for a long time, 11559, 11561.—Was an advantage in rough weather, 11530.—People too poor to maintain it, 11531.

Mackerel Fishing.

Witness carried on mackerel fishing round the coast, 11566, 11568.—Fairly good this year, 11567.

Condition of District.

Standard of living in district had improved since 1860; style of farming better and general economic conditions improved, 11572-7.—Great improvements in some places; others at a standstill, 11573.

KEENEY, Mr. EDWARD.

Life of Witness.

Rent paid by witness £1 16*s.*, 11582, 11594.—He lived entirely off land, 11583.—Had two sons to help who lived in his house, 11584-5.

Land taken from Tenants.

Sixty or seventy years ago town had sixty or seventy acres taken forcibly from tenants and given to Captain Harkness, 11587-8, 11605, 11616A.—Best land taken; tenants left with bogs and rocks, 11587, 11589, 11616A.—Tenants not paid for land; allowed reduction of rent to 2*s.* 6*d.* for several years; rent then rose to what it was before, £1 16*s.*, 11590-6, 11613-4, 11616A.—Tenants had been to Land Court and got no reduction, 11597, 11601-4.—£1 16*s.* rent had been paid for thirty or fifty years, 11600.—More than twelve years since they went to court, 11599.—Captain Harkness had land for grass, 11606.—Tilled none of it, 11607. Landlord had promised to return land to tenants if it changed hands, 11605, 11616A.—No tenants put on land, 11608.—Captain Harkness broke down, then Murray Stewart got land, 11609-11.—He sold to Mr. Dillon, who died and land passed to William H. Byrne; he was evicted and landlord got it; land now owned by Alexander Morton, 11612.—Witness had not purchased his farm; tenants refused to purchase unless they got back good land, 11615-6.—Were anxious to purchase and considered they had prior claim if land were offered under Land Purchase Act; names of tenants claiming portions, Rose Byrne, Alice Boyle, J. M'Gill, Con Gavigan, N. Maloney, T. Gavigan, J. Conaghan, Ellen Gallagher, T. Gallagher, Neddy Keeney, C. M'Gill, Grace Gallagher, 11619A.—Tenants had nothing to do with Mr. Morton, 11617.—Land taken about year witness was born, 11618.

CAMPBELL, Mr. JOHN.

Occupation.

Witness lived partly by land and partly by fishing, 11624.—Had eight acres, 11621.—Valuation £4 5*s.*, 11622.

Fishing Facilities required at Inver.

River at Inver had some "scars" that wanted cleaning; also basin for boats required; river wanted deepening a short distance up, 11625, 11629.—Continual fishing at Inver, 11626.—Boats pulled up; patch of land needed to keep them in safety, 11627, 11631, 11634.—Seven boats at Inver; scores from other places; 60,000 herrings landed last week on one day, 11635.—Liberty of land belonging to Rector behind graveyard obtained last year; before that men were prosecuted for putting boats there, 11628, 11637-9.—Land grazing land; boats were sometimes kept there a week, 11636, 11639.—Men settled with Rector by giving 2*s.* 6*d.* and price of summons, 11640-1.—Only place where boats were safe in storms, 11642-3.—Boats mostly kept near tide, 11644.—No proper boat slip; boats could not be left on slip all night, 11629-31.—

CAMPBELL, Mr. JOHN.—*continued.*

Shed wanted to store nets; nets rotted in the open, 11645-7.—Fishermen too poor to join and build shed, 11648-9.—Better if Board did it, 11650.—Board had done nothing there, 11651.—There was a man willing to give land for a shed and an inlet for boats, 11652. —No one in Inver willing to erect shed and get rent for stowing nets, 11652A.—Necessary for something to be done at Inver, 11653.—Men made £10 to £20 each this season, 11655.—All kinds of fishing there; had always been a fishing village, 11655.

M'NAW, Mr. MICHAEL.

Nature of Holding.

Witness lived on Earl of Arran's property, 11657.—Valuation, £9, 11658.—Had thirty acres of rough, moory land, bog, moor and rock, 11659.—Tilled five acres, 11660.—Which his father had reclaimed, 11661. —Only five acres reclaimed, 11662-3.

Turbary.

Bog all cut away, 11664-5.—Went four miles for turf, 11665.—It belonged to landlord and 7*s.* 6*d.* to £1 was paid for it in the rent, 11665A-7.—Bit of bog marked out for holding, 11668-9.—Five years since turf on holding gave out, 11670.—Turf on mountain used till it gave out, 11671-2.—Witness's father made arrangement with Lord Arran, 11673.

Cattle Trade.

Witness had three cows, 11674.—Calves sold in Donegal on fair days, 11675-6.—Generally sold before winter, 11677.—Calves generally went to non-congested parts near Donegal, where there was better land, 11678-9.—Kept there for year or year and a-half till two years old, 11680-1.—Fair amount of grass round Donegal; all calves did not go there; youngest stock went to nearest grazing land possible, 11682-5.

Land Purchase on Lord Arran's Estate.

Land not bought out by witness; two-thirds of tenants on same estate bought about a year ago, 11686-8, 11690, 11701.—One-third did not like terms offered, 11689-90.—Tenants near mountain did not buy; those adjoining mountain bought; they could give a higher price on account of sheep kept on mountain, 11691, 11703.—Witness declined to buy on score of price, 11692.—Twenty-four and a-half years' purchase of rent offered, 11693.—Twenty-four years on second term rents; twenty-two for first term rents; reduction of 6*s*, and 4*s.*, 11711-2.—Greater part had not had rent fixed in court, 11694.—Nine increases of rent on estate on tenants' improvements within memory of man before 1881, 11695-700.—Tenants who bought mostly not in one area, unsigned tenants also in two or three townlands, 11702-4.—Tenants adjoining Donegal town in non-congested area had all bought, 11704. —Lord Arran sold direct to tenants, 11705.—Witness excluded from mountain, 11706.—No allowance made for intermediate tenants, 11707-8.—Same number of years purchase, arrangement wanted, 11709-10.—Sales not yet through; those in arrears being driven to sign or would be turned out; arrears added to years' purchase, 11713-5.—Formerly rent paid yearly, since Land Purchase Act it was paid twice a year, usually paid twice a year in other parts of Ireland; law based on that supposition, 11715-20.—People were made to believe that some tenants had agreed to buy, 11721-2. —Neighbours of witness who had been processed were poor men unable to pay rent half-yearly, 11723-7. —Would have paid at end of year, 11726.—If Congested Districts Board stepped in arrangement might be made to enable tenants to buy, 11728-30, 11731A-3. —Tenants without mountain grazing wanted to give only thirteen years' purchase instead of twenty-four, 11734-5, 11741.—Present rent of £7 17*s.* 6*d.* settled with landlord out of court, 11736-9.—Amount of annuity payable with thirteen years' purchase had not been considered; would be ascertained if offer were made, 11740-6.

Industries should be started.

Industries should be started in district, 11747.—Any industry to give employment, 11748.—Never had been any, 11750.—Witness lived half-a-mile from main road, 11749.

M'NAW, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 209.

Nature of Holding.

Witness had five acres, all reclaimed land, 11752, 11755.—Valuation, £1 15*s.*, 11753.—He and his father had reclaimed it all, 11756-7.—He lived entirely on holding with assistance from two brothers in America, 11758-9.—Witness never went to Scotland; men round about were compelled to, 11760-1.—Would get on better if he had more land, 11762.—Would till it and put stock on it, 11763.—Present land enough only too poor, 11764.—One cow kept, 11765.—Calf sold in Donegal market, 11766.—Kept three or six months, 11767. —No potatoes grown this year; land not worth turning, 11768.—Would not be able to buy, 11769.—Rent paid £1 13*s.*, 11770.

Migration.

Would migrate if better farm were offered, 11771, 11775.—Wife would go too, 11772-4.—Would have no right to be paid for farm if he got a better one, 11776.—Assistance from Board wanted to improve place, 11776-7.—Coal mine in townland closed up fifty or sixty years ago, 11777-8.—Needed to be opened as turf was three or four miles away, 11779-11781.—

Turbary.

Turbary went with holdings, 11780.—Road to bog only went about a mile, 11782.—Three miles of road ran through bog, but bog was half-a-mile away on each side, 11783-4.—Turf carried on men's backs, 11779.

Witness's sons only seven years old, 11785-7.

HERON, Mr. WILLIAM.

Nature of Holding.

Witness had ten acres of mountainy land, 11790-1. —Three acres reclaimed, 11791-2.—Valuation £2 6*s.*, 11789, 11827-8.—Witness lived entirely on land and got some support from brothers in America and other places, 11793-4, 11799.—His father was too old to work, 11795, 11802.—He was not married, 11797.—Had stayed at home to look after his parents, 11800-1. —Did nothing but work on land, 11803.—Kept three cattle, 11804, 11806.—Had no other grazing land but farm, 11805, 11808.—Bought hay to feed cattle in winter at auctions four or five miles away, 11806, 11810-1.—His father kept no horse, so he had to walk backwards and forwards to cut hay and pay for carting, 11812-4.—He tilled all good land on farm, rest would not grow hay, 11807.—The ten acres were all together, 11809.

Migration.

Whole family would migrate if they got better farm, 11815, 11826.

Mountain should be divided among Poor Tenants.

Tenants in district had no mountain liberty and could not keep sheep, 11815, 11838.—Mountain held by two or three men who lived by sheep, 11816.—These men lived on their own holdings, 11819-20.—If these men were bought out by Congested Districts Board tenants would prefer to have part of mountain added to holdings rather than new farm in different part of Ireland, 11817.—District reaped no benefit from Board, 11818.—Tenants on Glenwilly side had mountain free, 11821-2.—Witness would like the same, 11823.—Could get along if he had mountain to run sheep, 11824.—Would prefer to remain in neighbourhood, but would go elsewhere if he couldn't get mountain, 11825-6.—Present landlord's forefathers made rule to add five shillings to the pound on rent if tenant would buy, 11826.—Rent had risen to £6 5*s.*, Court reduced it to £2 19*s.* 6*d.*, 11827-8.—Witness would leave district if it were not for his parents, 11829-31.

Promotion of Industries.

District a wool-growing one, wool could be manufactured at home and give employment to boys and girls if factory were started, 11831, 11833, 11838.—Plenty of water to start factory, 11834.—Building at Druminin suggested, 11835.—Plenty of people there and in surrounding country, 11836.—Application had been made to Mr. Morton, but fell through, 11837.—Everyone in district at present went to Scotland except member of family stopping with old people, 11832.—Witness had never been to Scotland, 11833.

HERON, Mr. WILLIAM—*continued.*

Roads into bogs wanted; should be made by direct labour to give employment to people, 11833-4.

Live Stock.

Cattle could be improved, 11837.—Board's bulls no benefit; district too poor for high class animals, 11837A.—District so poor families could not be supported for more than four months in the year; farms only five or six acres, barely able to keep two cows.—No turbary on farms; tenants had to go three miles for turf although paying 7*s.* 6*d.* to £1 for it, they had to carry it on their backs.—No home industries except a little sprigging, etc.; people could not live without assistance from relatives abroad; could be remedied by providing employment in district; abundance of coal in district; woollen or carpet factory could be started; sprigging industry subsidised and encouragement given for improvement of holdings, 11838.

CAMPBELL, Mr. PATRICK.

Nature of Holding.

Holding not large; witness had no right to it, 11840.—Tenants had got land divided, and each man got his own part, 11841.—They were satisfied till they divided themselves; three days after it was done they got a second surveyor, who went through farms; result was witness paid for cut he did not hold, 11842.—He paid same rent as before and got less land, 11842A-3.—Congested Districts Board had property now, 11841.—No loss suffered since they got it, 11844.—Board had not yet sold to tenants, 11845. —Witness was using same land as before he bought from Board, 11846.—Land striped ten years ago, 11846.

GALLAGHER, Mr. CHARLES.

Land Trouble in 1850.

Father of witness was one of the tenants transferred from Bavin East in 1850; the whole townland except three went to America; witness's father one of the three sent to the mountains without house or foot of reclaimed land, 11847.—No people living on witness's farm before that, 11848.—People going to America got no compensation; only passages paid, 11849.—Only part of the families went to America, 11853-4.—No one knew what happened to remainder of families, 11858.—People sent to mountain got no compensation, 11850.—They had no arrears of rent, 11851.—They now had good improvement holdings; they got less land than before, but rent was not lowered; rent raised by £1 ten years later; land was then in Chancery; Messrs. Musgrave now landlords; witness was seventy years old, 11852; people went to mountains against their will, 11855.—They were given doors and windows for houses, and 30*s.* towards the mason, 11856.—They had houses on former holdings, 11857.—Land was 300 acres a quarter of a mile from witness's farm; it was walled up and used for grass, 11859-64.—Witness would have claim on it if it were brought by Board, 11861.—He could work it from present house, 11865.

Turbary.

Forty years ago tenants in district had leave to cut turf; now they were to be sent twelve miles to top of a mountain, 11865-6, 11874.—There was a bog available half-way up hill, 11866, 11872-3.—Landlord did not allow it to be cut, 11873.—Impossible to get turf twelve miles away, 11868-9, 11871.—Rent had been fixed in court; it included turbary for fifteen years, 11867-8.—Present bog would last three or four more years, 11870.—Witness had cut within eighteen perches of place where there was turf; it was an evicted farm for nineteen years, 11873-4.

JUDGE, Mr. HENRY.

Turbary.

Tenants paid a penny a perch for bog; some were cutting at Crownasillagh above road; were notified not to do it, as it would waste the land, the bog being nearly run out, 11875, 11876.—Landlords in Coguish had laid out road to bog there where tenants could get turf, 11875.—All tenants had difficulty in geting turf; it was cut out; landlord had had place surveyed, and was going to open up place where there was plenty of bog, 11882.

CARR, Mr. JOHN.

Turbary.

Witness farmed his father's land; rent, £4; valuation, £4 3*s.*; about twenty-five acres; mountain land, including rocks; landlord W. H. Musgrave; went eight or ten miles for turf; did not get turf on own estate; paid 10*s.* for bog trespass on Mr. Tredenick's estate, 11878.—Thirty loads got for 10*s.*; road so bad only two-thirds of a load taken; road needed improvement; eight miles of it good; a mile at each end bad, 11878A-81.—There was turf nearer, but no road to it, 11882.

Fishing and other Industries.

People along shore would like boat-slip or pier, 11883.—Great place for fishing; not so many boats as formerly, 11883-4.—Young men emigrated; industry should be started to keep people at home; forty years ago 600 families in parish, now 400, 11884, 11893.

Farms of Evicted Tenants.

Many lands lying waste; little farms of evicted families not taken up, 11885-8, 11895A-6.—Ten such holdings in district, all separate, 11889, 11896.—Portion of land had gone back to grass; it was not fenced, and neighbours grazed it; it was not taken by a tenant, 11890-2.—Some of the 200 families sold to neighbours, 11893.—Some enlarged holdings; some gave to their sons, 11894.—Part of the land was consolidated into large holdings and still in tenants' possession, 11895-5A.

O'DONNELL, Mr. JAMES.

Holding of Witness.

Farm forty-four acres, besides individual mountain; valuation, £8 7*s.*; eleven acres arable; part of the eleven meadow, 11897, 12008.

Mountain Grazing.

Witness occasionally put sheep on mountain; poor grazing.—Fencing mountain would not pay; twelve neighbours were arranging to fence a dozen farms into one, and to keep stock inside according to valuation, 11898-9, 11901.—All except one or two of the twelve were willing, 11921-2.—These twelve shares might accommodate 200 sheep, but they would be in a bad condition and not much profit, land on mountain was so poor, 11924-5.—Would not pay to keep a shepherd; some of the land not twopence an acre in value, 11900, 11923, 12005A.—Some portions worth 5*s.* an acre, 12007.

Drainage.

Mountain very wet; too full of perils to put cattle on; some of it could be drained; arable land and grass for meadow would pay better for draining; draining the only industry that would pay; portion would produce double the crop, 11902.—Drains to carry water a yard deep wanted, 11903.—People in general too poor to make drains; made all they could, 11904. Witness had eleven children; all at home but two; two sons twenty and twenty-four years old, 11905.—They helped to do draining, 11906.—Small drains on each farm sufficient, 11907.—Some could do that themselves, 11908.—Witness had made £300 worth of drains in thirty winters, 11910.—Want of drainage biggest loss in country, 11911.—Drains were sometimes open, mostly piped with stones, 11912-3.—Crockery pipe used sometimes, 11919.—Average cost £10, 11918.—Most men would have to pay labour to do it, 11920.—Witness proposed to provide loans for farmers, 11914.—Half the profit would repay loan, 11916.—Prizes and loans from Parish Committee would not be enough; they had too small a sum at their disposal, 11915-7.—More profitable to drain arable than mountain land, 11940.—Witness was doing well on his farm, 11941.—Other people had no time to make drains; they had to do odd jobs to make money, 11942-3.

Sheep Trade.

If mountain were fenced in common each man would keep his own sheep, 11926-7.—Dogs never taken to mountains; little boys taken to catch sheep, 11928-8A.—Owners would not all go at once, 11929.—Sheep fetched 16*s.* each, 11930.—Lambs, 8*s.*, 11932.—Wool sold well, 11931.—Profit on sheep in year one-third of capital, 11933, 11937.—Most people had not the means to purchase, 11933-4.—Man with one sheep would sell lambs, 11935.—Some of the twelve farmers had sheep, 11936.—Greatest loss was when sheep got off track, and were worried by dogs or put in the pound, 11938.

Land Purchase.

Witness had offered to buy holding at seventeen years' purchase; agent offered 5*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* reduction on rents; considered too little for class of land, 11944.—If improvements were made in holdings they would answer for themselves at time of purchase, 11949.

Turbary.

Fair supply of turf within a mile in witness's townland; some townlands had to go three or four miles, 11945-6.—Turf an important question in a permanent settlement, 11948.

Promotion of Industries.

Introduction of cottage industries into Glenties useful; they had been introduced in Ardara, 11950-1.—Sprigging knitting in witness's parish; those with knitting machines made 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week; those without 1*s.* 6*d.*, 11952.—Board taught forty girls last year to use machines, 11953, 11957.—Department of Agriculture had one class, and forty-four girls attended; three more classes needed, 11954-5.—Hundreds would take advantage of them, 11956.—Girls did not apply for machines because they could not use them, 11954.

Improvement of Live Stock.

Animals a third more valuable since improvement by Board, 11957-60.—More bulls required, 11961-4.—Supply still continued; all bulls supplied were good, 11961-2.

Spraying.

Lack of spraying a terrible loss; Board sent man with machine and material free for two years; only two out of twenty availed themselves of instruction; £10 lost this year in district through lack of spraying, 11965.—People who sprayed had better crop, 11966.—Would be easier in future to induce people to spray, 11967.—Board supplied machines at two-thirds cost price, 11967.—Department supplied them now, 11969-70.—Witness sprayed with machine bought from Board, 11973.—Spraying only done in dry weather; neighbours too late this year; blight fell early, 11973.—One machine only useful for two people; machines got out of order and there was no one to mend them, 11974-6.—Local shopkeepers sold the mixture; they adulterated it the last few years, 11976-7.—No complaints had been made to Department, 11977-8.—Congested Districts Board's resident in district had left, 11979.—He had been very useful, 11980.

Supply of Seed.

Good seed brought into county would be beneficial; no grease or smut since Board sent oats, 11980.—Seed should be changed every three or four years; potatoes would last twenty years if changed from bog to clay, 11981-4.

O'DONNELL, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

Farming of District.

Board had had experimental plots in district; that was stopped, 11988.—Holdings too small for rotation; not enough manure, 11989-90.—Witness himself went in for rotation; valuation of four-fifths of people under £4; arable land six to seven acres; three required for meadow; crops never changed, 11990.—Average stock three cows; some year olds and a calf and ten sheep, 11991.—Manure only collected in byres, 11992.—Lack of rotation the cause of light crops, 11993.—Potatoes seldom planted after potatoes, 11994.—While Board was in district there was a marked improvement in people, 11995.—Arable land too small; with double amount crops could be changed, 11996-7.

Size of Farm suitable.

Twenty-five acres of good land a fair sized holding; ten or eight better than farms here, 11999.—Land witness was on not adapted for horse labour; only dealt with by spade, &c.; ten or twelve acres of such land for tillage, and a bit of rough grazing enought to support a family, 12000, 12002.—Such a farm could keep twelve or fourteen beasts; the strip of grazing should support six beasts and a score of sheep, 12001-4.—Valuation would be £5 to £5 10*s.*, 12005-6.—Poor land not tilled in seven or eight years went back to natural state, 12008.—Man could not look after more than ten or twelve acres, 12009.—Witness's holding most suitable size where only manual labour was employed, 12010-1.—What was not arable was at foot of mountain covered with heather, 12012, 12014.—Slightly better than higher up, 12013.—Small amount of turnips or mangold-wurzels grown; not enough manure for that, 12015-6.

Migration.

People would migrate if they got better holdings, 11998.—Witness and his wife would go to Westmenth at once if offered a farm, 12017-8.—Con Molloy had tract of mountain land he paid rent and taxes for, and could not get rid of, 12018-9.—It was too bleak and barren for trees; whins would grow and shelter grouse, and it could be let for the sporting rights, 12020-3.

Education.

National School education not so good now as formerly; witness thought geography, spelling, arithmetic, &c., more profitable than drawing, 12024-5, 12027-9, 12032, 12039.—Irish taught in schools not much help, 12026.—Witness was at a National School for two years, and learnt more than modern children in four, 10230-1, 12039, 12042.—Home lessons a good thing, 12033-4.—Children not kept so tight in schools now-a-days, 12037-8.—Might be good to teach farming; agricultural class books of National Board did not apply to North of Ireland, 12035.—Plots attached to schools would be serviceable, 12036.—Children went to school at five years old, 12040.—Stayed till sixteen, 12041, 12043.—Extremely poor did not go to school, 12043-4.—Fewer ragged and shoeless children than when witness was a boy, 12045.—Spread of education and work of the Board was the reason, 12046.

Condition of People.

Crops this year nearly as bad as in 1879.—Situation serious if nothing were done; making drains would give employment and permanently improve land, 12046-7.—Standard of living better now than formerly; improvement mostly confined to seaboard; people in mountains very badly off in winter, 12048, 12050.—Fish generally sent away in bulk, 12049.—Seaboard districts greatly benefited from Board's improvements, 12051.—Fishing industry had changed the aspect of the country, 12052.—Board's second most profitable work was improvement to live stock, 12053.—Price gone up from thirty shillings to £2 a beast; polled Angus very suitable for mountains, 12054-5.

Indebtedness.

Not more credit given now than when witness was a boy; people paid cash where possible and avoided debt, 12056-7.—More cash in the country and standard of living higher, 12058.

CONAGHAN, Mr. PATRICK.

Holding of Witness.

Witness's holding twenty acres; valuation thirty-five shillings; land nearly all mountain; five acres arable, sheep kept on mountain, 12059.

Road-making.

Road from Ardara to Killybegs a broken footpath, used by seventeen ratepayers; County Council refused to make it, although passed three times by Rural District Council, owing to lack of funds; road could be made if Congested Districts Board gave £50 and County Council £50; it would be a short cut from Ardara to Killybegs, 12059-62.—Matter had never been brought to Board's notice, 12061.

Bridge-making.

Bridge going through a townland of seven houses made of rotten sticks, and a danger to horses; used by twenty tenants cutting turf; made by tenants and twice repaired in witness's memory; road built on both sides by county, 12063.—Tenants not fit to keep up a bridge always, 12064.—County had made several roads on both sides of streams without bridges, 12065.—Road cheaper and made first, 12066.—Ford sometimes made, 12067.—Roads ordinary second-class county roads; bridge giving way, 12068.—Road authority would not make bridge; they had no money; nothing could be done if Board did not help, 12069.—£50 would make a stone structure, 12070-1.

BOYLE, Mr. JAMES.

Occupation of Witness.

Witness had a small piece of land and a drapery and grocery store; he had no spirit licence, 12072.

Publichouses should be closed.

Publichouses in congested districts should be all closed by compulsion, 12073, 12081.—People were not drunkards, but were underfed and unable to stand much drink; money earned by fishing and other industries spent foolishly in drink, 12073.—Five public houses in Carrick, one in Teelin, two in Meenanery, two in Glencolumbkill; useless to reduce number; remaining ones provided more accommodation and same quantity of drink sold, 12074.—Not more drunkenness now than there used to be; more spent in publichouses, 12075.—On fair evenings people did not remain so long in the street, 12076.—Some drunkenness still seen, 12077.—Witness did not go beyond his district, 12078.—He thought the class who got State aid spent the money in drink, 12080.—More drunkenness now in villages; twenty-five years ago they made illicit whiskey and had it locally; thousands of pounds put into Exchequer by suppression of illicit manufacture; people's condition would improve in a short time if publichouses were closed, 12081-2.—Not as much drink taken as formerly, 12082.—Majority of people sober, 12083.

Credit and Standard of Living.

For some years past credit not so high as it used to be; more required again this year, 12084.—More and better class goods sold than formerly, 12085.

DEENY, Mr. JOHN.

Drainage of the "Black Burn."

Drainage of "Black Burn" River needed deepening and improving; by deepening stream ten feet at highest point and four or five at other points bog on Drumhalla side would yield abundant supply of turf for farmers for a generation, and thirty or forty acres on the other side could be used for tillage and grazing; drainage important, as turf was becoming scarce in neighbourhood; bed of river of soft rock, easily blasted, 12087.—If Congested Districts Board granted £80 people in neighbourhood would make up balance in labour, they were too poor to supply means themselves, 12087, 12092.—Witness's valuation was £7; he paid £175 for tenant-right of farm, 12088.—Farm had belonged to his father's cousins, 12089.—People in Glenties might be worse off than in Inniskill; much had been done for them, 12090.—Landlord of estate on other side of stream had refused to sell, 12091.

DEENY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Local Industries.

Lace-making the only local industry; people's farms so small they could not exist without help from America, Scotland, etc.; lace-making did immense good; some other industry for girls should be started in case of failure of demand for lace; skilled workers should be sent amongst people to teach them to help themselves. Nothing done to keep young men at home; something urgently needed; much might be done by establishing centres where knowledge of industries might be acquired, and by finding profitable market for manufactured articles, 12092.—No weaving; one loom at Glenvar, 12093.—Plenty of wool, 12093a.—Sold locally, 12094.

Fishing Industry.

Fishing industry fast dying out on Fanad side of Lough Swilly; no piers or shelter for boats from Rathmullan to Portsalon; boat-slip and break-water asked for at Newbridge still hanging in abeyance; impossible to use large boats without pier; industry could not be developed without boats; curing stations and cheap means of transit and communication necessary if industry were developed; large number of smaller farmers could devote half their time to it with reasonable facilities; boat had been supplied to some men at Haugherdan, who had to walk four miles to Rathmullan for it for want of pier at Newbridge, 12095.

Transit Facilities.

Railway and steamboat rates between Rathmullan and Derry very high; people consequently took farm produce to Kerrykeel or Mulroy Bay for transit to Glasgow; hilly and indifferent roads to Kerrykeel; new road wanted at Shankey to avoid hill; charge for cartage from Lough Swilly railway terminus at Pennyburn to steamboat or other railways, in addition, 12097.—Double handling of goods might account for high rates, 12097a.—Usual passenger fare to Derry 1*s.* 3*d.*; on market days 1*s.* 8*d.*, 12098-99.

Work of Parish Committees.

Prize system had improved houses; room for further encouragement, 12100.

Emigration.

Best of the population emigrating, 12101.

DOHERTY, Mr. CHARLES.

Drainage.

Tenants in district suffered from want of drainage; landlord took mountain away thirty-one years ago, or they would not otherwise suffer so much, 12105.—Mountain partly used to increase bailiff's farm; partly kept in landlord's own hands, 12106.—Witness a judicial tenant; rent £4; valuation £5 16*s.* 9*d.*, 12107.

Turbary.

Tenants who settled out of court paid a penny a perch for turbary; those in court 1*s.* 6*d.* per perch, 12108.

Migration.

People would migrate if given suitable holdings elsewhere, 12109.

M'CALLUM, Mr. JAMES.

Drainage.

Drainage operations referred to would benefit witness, 12111.—He purchased holding three years ago under Act of 1903, 12112.—He had not told inspector about drain, 12113.—Or got engineer to look at it, 12116.—He bought within the zones, 12115.—Under zone system inspection confined to verification of occupancy and delimitation of holding, 12115.

Turbary.

Bog common turbary conveyed by landlord to three trustees for tenants, 12117.

Agricultural Improvement.

As regards cattle breeding Board should provide suitable stock for soil; facilities for change of seed potatoes should be given, 12118.

M'CARRON, Mr. JOHN.

Witness's farm seven acres one rood; rough and smooth; three acres arable; rest rocks and bushes; share of mountain with it; valuation £4 13*s.*, rent £5 15*s.*, 12120.

Size of Holding suitable.

Size of average holdings in district and same class of land, 12121-2.—Witness would get on better with more land; would prefer twenty-five acres; could live on ten with a little grazing, 12123-7, 12129-30; plenty of rough grazing available that could be subsoiled and added to holdings, 12128.—Ten acres of arable land could hardly be worked by spade; man with ten acres could keep horse, 12172.—Under present circumstances farm that enabled man to earn a living must be one on which he could keep a horse 21173.

Land Purchase.

Land Purchase Bill suggested; witness would like property in congested districts where average valuation was below £6 to be bought by Board, 12131.—Captain Cochrane, witness's landlord, 12131-2.—He lived at Redcastle, 12134.—He refused to sell when tenants proposed to buy, 12132-3.

Land Improvement.

Improvement of soil by draining and subsoiling, planting worst corners, hedging with thorn-quicks, etc., would be beneficial, 12135.—Men could do subsoiling themselves if they had help; could not afford to pay help, 12136, 12139.—Board could help with loans to be repaid by instalments added to annuities in cases of purchased holdings, 12137-8.

Live Stock.

Stock could be improved by sending pure-bred bulls, two kinds, one for stores and one for milk, 12140.—Board doing good work, with great results, 12141.—Bull in district too far away; Board was giving another, 12142.—Witness kept one milch cow and two or three dry young cattle, 12198.—Sold at a year or a year and a half, 12199.—Could keep them longer if he grew turnips, 12200.—He sold them at market, 12201.—Majority went to England; some to other parts of Ireland, 12202-3.—He had no horse; lots of people had none, 12204.—Horses on bog belonged to farmers who were better off, 12205-6.

Parish Committees and Farm Buildings.

Loans for adding to farm buildings would be useful, 12143-4.—Parish Committee gave prizes and did great work; more money wanted, 12145-7.—Loans needed in addition to prizes; Parish Committee could select recipients, 12148.—Amount of loans for improvement should be left to Parish Committee, 12190-1.—Witness's holding only fit to pay £2 10*s.* to £3, 12192, 12194.—If there were improvements amount would be greater and interest could be paid, 12193.

Agricultural Instruction.

Better training needed for farmers; man should be sent to instruct in planting crops and selecting seeds and artificial manures, 12149.—Board used to send man; no one came now, 12150.—Landlord's agent no help; did nothing but collect rents and terrorise people, 12151-4.

Relations between Landlord and Tenants.

People afraid to go into Land Court lest landlord should try to recover arrears, 12154.—Arrears must be paid before rent could be fixed; evicted tenants getting place again; got rent fixed in such a way as to be unable to go into court again; men with arrears could settle with landlord; for instance, if a man had four years' arrears landlord might wipe off two years and get £10 or £12 costs; costs settled by adding to the rent a shilling in the pound; result was rent was raised, 12155-7.—Witness used to be afraid of going into court on account of arrears, 12158, 12231.—His mother had also been afraid, 12182-4.—Witness no longer afraid, 12185, 12231.—He thought the change of Government had put a better class of men on the Land Commission, and tenants would be less likely to be penalised by landlords; there was more confidence in the country; they were not so much afraid of eviction, 12231-40.

Drainage.

Witness had improved his holding, 12159.—Had done some draining, 12160.—Loans would be useful to get drainage done quickly, 12161.—Main drainage required on estate, also fencing mountains, 12162.

Thatched Roofs a waste of Fodder.

Loans for slate roofs an improvement; thatched roof a waste of farm produce; more cows could be kept; witness could feed another cow with straw from roof, 12163-5.

Migration.

People would migrate if they got respectable holdings in other places with tenant-right and buildings, 12166-70.—Would give up tenant-right if they got good holdings, 12214.—Witness preferred tilled land to grazing, 12215-6.—If grass land were reclaimed and good enough to till he would not object, 12217-8.—Witness had been born on holding; it had belonged to his mother, 12174.—He was married and alone on farm, 12175-6.—Had no other means of living; got help from friends in America, 12177.—Had been in England, Scotland, and America, 12178.—Worked on land in England, 12178A.—At chemical works in Scotland and railways and a hotel in America, 12179.—Had been arrears on farm before he left and there still were, 12180-1.—Most of the young people in district went to America, 12186.—Hundreds crossed to Greenock, 12187.—They worked at public works there, 12188.—And sent earnings home; parents could not live without, 12189.—Witness's main crops, potatoes, some oats, 12195.—Plots changed from time to time; some hardly worth breaking, and allowed to go into grass; some would not grow grass; turnips not possible every year, 12195.—Artificial manure used, 12197.

Turbary.

Witness bought all his turf, and carted it eight miles, 12208.—He paid eight shillings bog rent, 12209.—Turf nearer to farm more expensive, 12210.—He paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a load for carting, 12211.—Fifty loads required for winter's firing, 12212.—Cost about £8 or £9, 12213.

Sub-Division.

Holdings too small for sub-division, 12227-9.

Witness would give same number of years' purchase for holding as landlord did in 1879 and two more besides, 12230.—He was thirty-eight years old, 12241.

Condition of People.

Witness came back from America to look after his mother; there were two other sons still in America, 12219-21.—Some of those who went to Scotland did agricultural work; witness had done some there, 12222-3.—Debts to landlords paid before debts to shopkeepers, 12224-6.—People were a little better off than twenty years ago, owing to the help they got from friends in Scotland and America, but more emigrated, 12242.—They didn't get more out of the land, 12243.—They still lived mostly on potatoes and stirabout, sometimes herrings, 12245-6.—Very seldom meat, 12247.—Witness would have stopped in America if he had had his own way, 12248.

KELLY, Mr. PATRICK.

Nature of Holding.

Witness had twenty-eight acres of land; ten arable; the rest rough; rent £5 4*s.*; valuation £6 10*s.*, 12251-2.—He was not fit to work land himself; sometimes paid men to help; some of the arable left in lea, 12253.—None let in con-acre or for cropping, 12254-5.—He managed farm himself, and got help for putting in and taking off crops, 12256.

Fishing.

He had a yawl, and fished for all sorts of fish round Dunaff coast, 12258-61.—Did not fish for lobsters; neighbours did, 12262.—Witness had more land than most people, yet could make as much money by fishing in Scotland in a few months as he could of land, 12263, 12290.—He went to Scotland to fish; if his crops were not in he paid someone to do it, 12264-5.—He went in a Scotch fishing boat, and his own yawl was laid up, 12266-7.—Sons too small to help, 12268.—Had no means to get a big boat, 12269.

Harbour wanted at Dunaff.

There was no harbour, so large boat would be useless; Dunaff could have as good accommodation as any place if there were means to build harbour and pier, 12270.—With big boat witness could fish for cod, ling, and herring and do deep sea fishing, 12271.—Herrings had a season round every coast, 12272.—In Scotland practically all the year; witness had made latterly £30 there, because of the good boats and harbours, 12273.

Larger boats got back to port quicker, and got better price for fish; they could also go out further; herring beds inland were getting destroyed by the trawlers, 12274-6.—Crews would be easily found; numbers of men had no land, and had to migrate, 12277-8, 12281.—Not many had as much land as witness, 12279-80.

Harbour should be at Roxtown, 12282-3, 12297-8.—Fine island there for shelter and channel to enter; the few rocks would be easily blasted, 12284.—Witness had never talked about it to Fishery Commissioner, but thought money would be better spent there than at other ports in neighbourhood, 12285.—No use in spending money on harbour without someone to look out for improvements in future; a little could be spent on small harbour at first, 12286.—There would be large number of people there to go fishing; holdings were so small people would prefer to fish at home rather than emigrate as at present, 12287-9.—They could live cheaper at home, 12289.

Witness would not give up his farm for a large boat and a cottage; if there were a fishing industry he could grow vegetables for sale to fishermen, 12291-2.

Increase in number of steam trawlers and drifters, 12293.—Sailing boats could hold their own against steamboats except in calm weather, they cost less 12294-5.

Effect of harbour at Roxtown would be to greatly stimulate the fishing industry, 12299-300.

CROSSAN, Mr. JAMES.

Drainage needed.

Witness's holding, 12 acres; valuation, £8 15*s.*; rent, £5 17*s.* 4*d.*, 12304.—Rent settled out of Court, 12305.—Landlord, Earl of Shaftesbury, 12306.—Farms in district mountainy, holdings small, people could not live on land, had to work at road-making, etc., 12307.—Drainage needed, land mossy, had been reclaimed bygone back, drains needed cleaning every five or six years, 12308-12.—People did not fish, 12314.—Drains repaired by tenants, they got choked notwithstanding, it took a great deal of labour, 12335-7.—Land never drained by landlord, 12338.

Live Stock.

Witness's farm on side of mountain, 12315.—No common grazing, portion of mountain rented for the season, 12316-7.—Three cows and four calves kept, 12318.—Dry stock sold as yearlings, too expensive to keep longer, 12319-21.—Some bought in locality, majority went to England, 12322.

Nature of Farming.

Two acres of witness's land rough, 12324.—Six acres really good, 12325.—Three acres kept in grazing, 12326-7.—Crops grown, potatoes and corn, sometimes turnips, land not good enough for the latter, 12328.

Horse kept by witness and some other farmers, farm did not keep it employed, other work found for it as well, 12329-32.—Farm could not be worked without horse, 12333.—Grass land on farm ploughed, and turn on rotation system, grass sown with corn, 12339-42.—Large farmers in locality let part of farms to small farmers for very high rent, by auction, small farmers laboured it, 12343-6.—There was both tillage and grazing, 12347-8.—Letting in con-acre more profitable than grazing young stock, 12349-50.

RUDDY, Mr. JAMES.

Nature of Holding.

Twenty acres on witness's farm, 12352.—Valuation, £7 15*s.*; rent, £10 10*s.*, 12353.—Some rough land, 12354.—No mountain run, 12355.—Sheep kept on farm, 12356.—Six or seven acres arable, 12357.—Some reclaimed from bog many years ago, partly by witness's father, who had farm before him, 12358-61.

Relations with Landlord.

Evictions took place on estate in 1882, whole town was evicted, 12362-5.—After a year tenants were reinstated as future tenants, 12366.—Witness still a future tenant, and could not go to Court to have fair rent fixed, 12367-8.—Rents increased at time of re-instatement to £10 10*s.*, 12369-70, 12373, 12377.—Two or three years ago an abatement was made, further reduction made by agent last year, nominal rent £10 10*s.*, actual rent only £8 6*s.*, 12371, 12374-6, 12378-9, 12381-6.—Abatement of £1 always allowed, 12380.—Rent before evictions, £8 10*s.*, 12372.

Migration.

Witness would not migrate if he got a fair rent fixed, 12387-8.—£5 a fair rent, 12389.

Live Stock.

Two milch cows and some dry stock kept by witness, 12390.—Sold at Cross and Clonmany, 12391.—Kept till two or three years old if grass was bad, 12392-3.

NOONE, Mr. NEAL.

Nature of Holding.

Twenty-four acres size of witness's holding, 12395.—Ten or twelve acres reclaimed land and was cropped, 12396-7.—Other fourteen used for cutting turf and rough grazing; bits reclaimed, 12398-400.—Rent, £3 15*s.*; valuation, £3 17*s.*, 12401.

Improvements wanted.

Fences wanted on unreclaimed land; ditches of such light stuff they blow away, 12402.—Fences useful to divide tilled land from grazing, 12403-5.—There were some quick fences where they would grow; none would grow on mossy places, 12406.—Stone walls in some parts; no stones in mossy place, 12407.—Fences of sods and whins would do in some places; wire best in lighter places, 12408-9.—Help from Congested Districts Board would be useful, 12410.—Too dear for people to do themselves; cost of wire fence 4*d.* to 6*d.* a yard for a fence of four feet high, with four or five wires and iron standards, 12411-4.—Advantage to repay cost on instalment system, 12415.—Witness was not an evicted tenant, 12416.—He was on Mitchell estate, 12417.—Boundary fences were solid sod, 12418.—In boggy places they dried up and blew away, 12419.

Draining and subsoiling would be useful, 12420.—Slate roofs better and cheaper than thatch, 12420-1.

Migration.

Witness would migrate if offered better farm, 12422.—Others would do the same, 12423.—Witness had been to Scotland and done other work besides farming, 12424.

Size of Holding.

With a horse he could manage more than ten acres of arable, 12426.—With assistance of family could do more, 12427.

Reclamation of Bog Land.

Reclamation of bog land useful if a man had help from family, would not pay to hire labour, land not good, but not too bad, 12428-31.—Turnips grew best the first year of reclamation, 12432.—If manured, the land went on improving for ten years, 12433-5.—Manure put in alternate years, 12436.—Much depended on thoroughness of drainage, 12437.—Good to put in lime, it was generally too far off, no limestone in district, 12438-9.—Sea-sand useful for dry land land, but not for wet, 12440.

NOONE, Mr. NEAL—*continued.*

Live Stock.

Nine or ten head of stock kept by witness, 12441.—Two milch cows, 12442.—Dry stock not worth parting with till three years old, farmers forced to part with them at a year or two years' old, because they could not keep them, grass so poor, not five shillings difference in value in twelve months, dealers bought them, if there were no demand in Ireland they must be sold in Scotland, 12443-50.—Old stock seen on farms showed farmers had friends in America or Scotland, witness had friends there, 12450-1.

Sub-division.

Witness's farm had been sub-divided amongst three brothers by his grandfather, it was in rundale, 12452-4.—Fencing more difficult on that account, 12455-6.—No attempt made to divide holding into three separate farms as others had been done, on account of its peculiar shape, 12457-8.—Sub-division still going on within last twenty years in spite of landlord's objections, 12459-62.—Reclaimed land on witness's holding was also sub-divided, 12476-8.—Rent collected by landlord from the three brothers and raised whenever land was reclaimed, 12479-81.—Had not risen since 1881, 12483.

Land Purchase.

Purchase talked of, lowest terms offered by landlord, twenty-four years on first term rents, bargain not made because there was no turbary included, 12463-8.—Witness's rent settled out of Court, 12467.—Twenty-five and three-quarters years' purchase required for inclusion of turbary, 12473.—No extra rent paid on Mitchell estate for turbary, it was mostly got from an undivided place, 12469-72.

Board had increased tillage by draining, 12484-6, 12489.—Done by one big drain, 12488.

Witness might make something of his farm if it were increased or a better shape, 12490-2.—Rent might be reduced, 12493.

JOHNSTON, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 229.

Drainage of Glentogher River.

River needed deepening and broadening, whole country flooded after rain, roads impassable, crops often lost, 12495-7.—Cost probably £1,000, 12497.—Representations made to County Council with no result, 12499-500.—Rural District Council responsible for roads, 12502.—Witness would like Congested Districts Board to do it, 12503.—It was a congested district, 12504.—River in Inishowen and flowed into Strawbreagha Bay, 12505.—All the arable land was in the valley, 12506.

Public Limekiln wanted.

Public limekiln to burn the lime in the vicinity would be of great use to farmers, at present farmers took the lime away and burnt it themselves, 12508-9.—Not started for lack of capital, would probably pay, 12511-13.

LAFFERTY, Mr. WILLIAM.

Nature of Holding.

Holding forty acres, but very poor, 12516.—Rent, £3 4*s.*; valuation, £6, 12517.—Two acres fairly good, mostly cut away bog, one acre yielded tons of stones, landlord, Lord Shaftesbury, had right to let part of mountain to other tenants to cut turf, low land too soft for grazing, 12518.—Grazed as much as possible, 12519.—Eight head of stock kept, not all supported on farm, 12520.

Drainage.

Congested Districts Board might help by draining and ditching land and starting industries for girls, 12521.—Witness had drained his own land and spent £40 on banking river, 12522.—If river were deepened by Board, good drains could be made on holding, 12524-5.—No estimate of cost of deepening river had been made, landlord one side, named Nicholson, the other, Torrens, 12530.—It wanted deepening for four miles taking a straight course, 12531.—No fishery

LAFFERTY, Mr. WILLIAM—*continued.*

rights on river, 12532.—Drainage Board required to carry out proposed work, 12533.—No industries in district, 12526.

Industries.

Fishermen between Greencastle and Tremore had no way of landing in stormy weather, extension of small pier at Greencastle would be useful, 12527.

Shirtmaking industry had failed, girls walked long distances and often got no shirts, 12521, 12528.

QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHN.

Fishing Industry, Provision of Boats.

System and means of fishing the same now as in time of men's grandfathers, except salmon-fishing, boats small, only four months' fishing possible, result was young people emigrated, 12537.—Boats, four-foot yawls, 12538.—Witness had lived in district forty years, 12539.—Board had supplied Zulu boats for two seasons, fishermen did not acquire them, they earned fair wages off Malin Head, but Board insisted on their going to Downings Bay where the fishing was bad that season, men got into debt to Board, and left their boats and came home, 12540-50, 12552.—There was an instructor on each boat, and ten shillings a week advanced to men, 12550.—This took place three years ago, there had been good fishing at Downings since, which the men would have shared had they stuck to the boats, 12553-5.—Witness suggested that Board should supply three or four herring-fishing smacks and test fishing themselves until it was seen to be a success, 12556-7, 12562.—Same difficulty would probably not be experienced, desertion of boats not peculiar to Malin Head, 12563.—Twenty miles by sea from Malin Head to Downings, 12558-9.—As good fishing at home as forty miles away, 12560-1.—Men should be given another trial, 12606.

Pier Extension required.

Extension of present pier fifty to seventy yards would afford perfect shelter, Mr. Wyndham visited pier three years ago and allocated £10,000 out of Marine Works Act, money had never reached Malin Head, an engineer had visited pier after allocation of money, it was thought his report was unfavourable, but people in district placed no reliance on his report, 12564, 12567-71.—Downings Bay boats did not come to Malin, 12565.—Cod and grey fish found towards Inistrahull, 12566.—Witness got information from people in the district, the member of Parliament told him of the £10,000, 12572-6.—Mr. Bryce had also visited place recently, 12564.

Markets for Fish.

Fish sold in Carndonagh market to people coming in, 12577-8.—All the fish sold, fish decreasing of late years, attributed to Scotch trawlers outside, 12579-80.—Large boats went out thirty miles and used hand-lines, 12581-2.—Lobster and turbot sent by rail to Derry and elsewhere, 12583.—A member of the Irish Fishing Company bought herring, but not white fish, 12584-5.—Market sometimes glutted with the latter, and it was sent by boat to Ramelton and Letterkenny, 12586.—If not sent by boat it would be taken home and cured, 12587.

Turbary.

Turbary in district practically exhausted, people must soon use coal, therefore their earning powers must be increased, 12588, 12590-1.—Turf on a mountain six to eight miles away, 12589.—Good pier for landing goods, but purchase of turf from Buncrana would be dearer than buying coal, 12592-4.—A load of turf at Malin Head would cost 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*, only two could be carted in one day, sixty loads required a year, that is six weeks occupied in carting, 12595-6.—Cutting and drying of turf would cost £2, bog rent 10*s.*, 12597.—Took five men using spade a day to cut sixty loads, 12598.—Impossible to do with less than sixty loads, 12599-600.—That would cost £12 if men were paid 5*s.* a day for drawing, 12602.—Nine tons of coal could be purchased for that, 12603.—Men generally carted themselves, 12604.—If man had his own turf and family to help cut it was much cheaper than buying, 12605.

QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Industries wanted.

Sprigging a failure, no employment for girls, 12606, 12612.—Demand for sprigging insufficient and wages too low, 12607-12.—There should be more opportunities for girls, 12613.

Land Purchase.

Parish improvement schemes successful, should be extended, 12615.—Estate fishermen lived on should be bought out, 12615.—Tenants once offered to buy, but landlord did not wish to sell, 12616.—Board never applied to, 12617.

GRANT, Mr. JOHN.

Nature of Holding and District.

Holding ten acres of bog on a mountain, valuation £4 10*s.*, 12618.—Half reclaimed, 12619.—Too poor to raise crops, 12620.—£50 paid for farm, witness had thought it better than it was, 12621-2.—There was no one else wanting it at the time, it was not sold by auction, 12624-5.—Witness could not live on farm, 12620.—Would get on better with new land, had to take from a farmer lower down to grow potatoes and turnips and pay £3 to £5 for a crop he had to manure, 12626-8.—For a fodder or corn crop he had to pay £6 or £7, 12629.—Hardly any potatoes this year, they were not good, 12630.—Land taken from a man with sixty or fifty acres who let about half in the same way, 12631-2.—Witness's own holding little use except for fodder, it could be improved by draining, but he was unable to do that, 12633-5.—He could live by land if he had two or three good acres added, 12637.—Present land only good for rough grazing, not for cattle, 12638-9.—Land was worse than other farms round, 12640.—Was beside turf, 12641.—Land round town not beside turf, 12642.—Other farms were mountain land with clay soil, this was bog, 12643-4.—No good land near to add, 12645.—Witness would have to migrate to get good land, 12646.—He would not mind that, 12647.—He had had a farm before and sold it to his brother, 12648.—The man he bought this farm from went into the workhouse at Waterside shortly after, 12650-2.

Turf Selling.

Living made formerly by selling turf, that was stopped, 12652-5.—Living now only made by shirt-sewing and other trades, 12652.—Rent had been fixed out of Court nine years ago, turbary was free, 12654.

DOHERTY, Mr. MICHAEL.

See pp. 232-3.

Drainage required.

Witness had land adjoining river, which got flooded, hay usually cut before it was mature, and taken to safe place, floods destroyed crops left in meadow, flooding could be stopped by draining river lower down, 12656.—Landlords, Captain Cochrane and Lord Shaftesbury, 12657.—Place where the public road was flooded, 12659.—Contractor had to put a fresh coating on it each time, 12659.—Great floods two years ago, 12660.—Witness fared badly, escaped this year, 12661.—Sufficient fall below to carry away water, 12662.—Nothing done in the old days, Congested Districts Board had had representations made to them but gave no satisfaction, 12663-4.—More crops destroyed along this river than anywhere else, 12664.

DOHERTY, Mr. DENIS.

Holding of Witness.

Holding twenty acres, valuation £7, rent was £6, witness purchased two years ago, annuity £4 2*s.* 6*d.*, reduction 6*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, 12665.

Drainage required.

River needed deepening to drain land better, land not flooded, but had no fall drain, and it would help to dry the bog, 12667-8.—It could serve two or three quarter lands, 12665.—Some places would need to be quarried, principally mud, 12666.

DOHERTY, Mr. DENIS—*continued.*

Harbour Accommodation.

No accommodation for boats between Tremore Bay and Greencastle, ports were too narrow, particularly if in a drug that rose along shore, 12670.—More harbour accommodation wanted, 12671.—There were little places to land, but no safe one, 12672.

Fishing.

Small boats used, four or five men in a yawl, would be satisfied if they had place to get out at, and would pull up boats, pier wanted like the Greencastle one, 12674.—Could not pull up big boats, 12675.

Land Purchase.

Districts had been purchased under Land Act of 1903, and got no benefit from Congested Districts Board, on the quarter land referred to if river were not sunk land would become useless, 12676.—People on brow of river had bought land, 100 or 150 acres of that part flooded, more valuable if it were drained, 12677.—People would rather have bought through Board and had holdings improved during transfer, 12678.

DOHERTY, Mr. CON.

Large Boats and Piers wanted.

Witness had a yawl and kept it in Lenane Bay, 12679.—Larger boats and a pier wanted, 12680.—With boats the same size as the Scotch boats people would fish in the Swilly and go out twenty or thirty miles, 12680-2.—Boats expensive, but fair amount of herrings in Lough Swilly, people could go to Scotland in summer, 12683-6.—At present no place to keep large boats, 12681, 12686.—Hard to get below Buncrana on calm day, 12687.—Lenane near entrance of Lough, good place for a pier, in bad weather no place to land for miles until Lenane, 12688.—Military had made small slip near fort, useful to nobody but themselves, 12689.—Bay itself well sheltered, 12690.—Herrings landed for Lenane and Uriss, sent to the country and sold, salmon sent to Derry, lobsters to England, 12691.—Witness had one and a half acres of land, 12692.—Fish taken five or six miles to railway, at Clonmany, 12693.—Easier than going to Buncrana, witness sometimes went with boat if wind were favourable, 12694.—Prevailing wind was favourable, 12696.—Bay sheltered with north-west winds, 12695.—Witness never had a "Zulu," 12697.—Lenane men good enough fishermen for big boats, they had one of forty or fifty feet at present, 12699.—Witness had been in Scotch and English boats, 12700.—At sea most of the time, 12701.—Large boats generally kept in big harbours, sometimes some distance from men's homes, 12706.—Could do the same in Ireland, 12707.

Drainage.

Main drain between two townlands often flooded and destroyed crops, it needed deepening and widening, was an old drain, and had never been deep enough, landlord used to give a little, but not enough to keep it in repair, 12708-13.

McCALLION, Mr. PATRICK.

Migration.

Migration the best remedy for congestion, people willing to go if taken in families, several taken to same neighbourhood, 12715-6.—Holdings would be given to people who remained, 12717.—More land all they wanted, 12718.—The worse the land the more they wanted, land in this place very good, 12719.—Easy to re-arrange holdings, 12720.—Would not matter what happened to houses, largest only worth £10, 12726-7.

McCALLION, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Industries—Weaving, etc.

Many people in district emigrated, 12716.—Shirt-making industry had failed, sprigging getting worse, some weaving with old machines, 12270.—Men worked at home, loom took up six feet square space, more would follow trade if there were better looms, 12721-2.—Best plan to put looms together in one building, little light in cottages and time lost putting looms up, 12723-4.—Four weavers in Cartagh district, 12725.

Sub-Division.

Witness against sub-division, 12728.—Had not seen much, 12729.—No temptation to sub-divide by letting houses vacated by migrants, sub-division impossible on land purchased by Government, 12730.—Tenants could be trusted not to sub-divide if they had decent holdings, no difficulty in preventing it, 12731-2.—Farms that were run down were sub-divided, when tenants had to go away in summer, 12733.—Not ready to sub-divide good holdings, family could have a trade, 12734.—With a small holding people did not look to land for livelihood, 12735-6.

Steam Trawlers.

Steam trawlers took all the fish and fishermen got a bad living, big boats required, and harbours, 12736-7.

Sheep Disease.

Sheep only lived two years on mountain, they got "poke" or "fluke" from the damp, draining land would be useful; give employment, 12737.—"Poke" gave the sheep a ball of water under the head, 12738.—Land common grazing, cattle and sheep, 12739.—Sheep pasture should be separated from low lands and surface drained for sheep, 12740.

McDAID, Mr. HUGH.

Holding of Witness.

Farm 152 acres, valuation £9, witness had purchased in 1889, annuity £7 2*s.*, former rent £13 19*s.* 6*d.*, twenty years purchase, 12741.—Witness had never been in Court but had had two reductions, 12742-3.

Drainage wanted.

Eighty-two acres of mountain land was witness's portion of common grazing, he had cattle and sheep, on the same ground, 12743-4.—It worked badly, portion dry, but required draining where there was bog, 12745.—Not too wet for grazing, but for turf, 12746.

Roads needed.

Congested Districts Board might open up roads to bog, it was useless as it was, 12747-8.—Witness would not be willing to pay towards road, 12764.—He and others would pay their part, 12765-6.—Had tried to get road at Presentment Sessions, but failed, 12766.

Fencing.

Fencing would be useful, 12748.—Witness had put some up, sod fences, whins and quicks, they grew well, 12749.—Some were thirty years old, newest over a year and showed signs of growing, 12750-2.—Only one side drained of some fences, 12753.—Board was wanted to help pay for them, 12754.—Loan wanted, not free grant, a long loan and light interest, cheaper than Board of Works loans, for which witness paid 7 per cent. in 1883, and repaid in twenty-two years, 12758-63.

Witness had twenty-five acres of arable land, twenty of which were tilled, 12755.—He had two sons to help him, 12756.—And kept some horses, 12757.

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. III.

M‘CLINTOCK, Mr. A.

Office of Public Trustee.

Cases for Public Trustee came from Land Court and Master of the Rolls, 12768.—Public Trustee appointed in every case, 12769.—Landlords could consult Public Trustee in his advisory capacity, 12770-1.—No fees charged for services, 12772.—Estimate of probable financial result of sales under Land Purchase Act given by Trustee in advisory capacity, 12773-4.—In twenty-nine cases estimate had been given as to investment of purchase money, 12775-6.

Powers of Vendors as to Investments.

Proceeds of sale of settled estates could only be invested in securities answering to certain statutory definitions, absolute owners were unfettered, 12777-8.—Witness had not come across anything in the nature of a constructive trust, 12779.—There were only the two cases, landlord a life tenant and landlord an absolute owner, 12782-4.—If there was a settlement the money was then in trust 12923-6.

Average Rate of Interest on Trustee Investments held by Public Trustee.

Average percentage on trust investments held by witness was £3 6*s.* 7*d.*, 12785, 12787-8, 12927, 12952, 13028-31.—Some estates handed to witness in land stock, some vendors preferred to retain that stock, 12786, 12818-9.—Average percentage on trusts purchased by witness was £3 10*s.* 6*d.*, 12786, 12788-9, 12928, 13036.—Percentage for all trusts other than securities authorised by 1903 Act was £3 6*s.* 6*d.*, 12789, 12813-7, 12929, 13030.—Amount invested in Consols, £1,589, amount of same stock handed over by Land Commission to witness, £23,374, 12790.

Comparative Merits of Different Securities.

Consols considered highest class investment, but during last eight years Consols had fallen from 113 or 114 to 86, 12791.—French rentes were not trustee securities, 12792-3.—Railway shares and Colonial stock differentiated, difficult to give opinion as to relative security, it depended on state of the market, &c.—Colonial stocks were very good, 12794-6.—Possibility of easy realisation should have great effect in disposing of trust money, 12797.—Owner consulted, but not permitted to invest where realisation at a particular moment would be difficult, 12798.—Nature of previous security not taken into account in giving advice as to investment, 12799-800.—Canadian Pacific Stock not a trustee stock, as decided by Court of Appeal, 12801.—Because Canadian Pacific was not registered in England under Companies' Act, 12802, 12490, 124944.—Held by Court of Appeal that a railway company registered in England was an English company, no matter where the rails were, 12803, 12978-9.—Rate of interest on Debenture Stock of Canadian Pacific £3 13s., 12980.—Witness considered it one of the finest invesments in the world, 12982, 12984.—Best Colonials paid about 3½ per cent., 12985-6.

Trend of Rate of Interest.

Interest a shade better since 1903, 12804.—Sudden large sale of land would probably not lower rate of interest, but that was merely a private opinion, 12806.—Years since 1903 had been more favourable for investments, 13024-5.—Witness could not say definitely that a certain rate of interest was likely to continue, all investments were uncertain, 13026-7.

Question of safety of Investments authorised under Act of 1903.

Securities under Act of 1903 not all safe, 12807-8, impossible to be certain of realising at any moment sum invested in ordinary shares of a railway company at high premium, 12809.

M‘CLINTOCK, Mr. A.—*continued.*

Possible extension of Trustee Securities.

General rate of interest might be raised by investment in debenture stocks of industrials, 12810, 12947.—Guinness's debentures probably preferable to Irish land, 12811.—Legislation required to enable trustees to invest in industrials, 12812, 12946.

Advice given by Public Trustee—Procedure.

Witness had himself made some of the investments, 12816-7, 12820-1.—Others were transferred to him as stock in connection with particular estates dealt with, 12818-9.—Broker's information invariably acted on, 12822-4.—Broker not paid for information, 12825, 12910.—Vendor got broker's advice gratis through witness, 12826-30, 12832-6.—Vendor would have paid brokerage fees had he acted by himself, he now employed Chancery brokers, 12831.—Same broker who gave information not necessarily employed to invest money, 12837-8.—Witness's rules did not allow him to apply to broker from whom information was obtained, 12842

Court Brokers.

Court brokers pooled their fees, 12839, 12921.—Witness always got information from court brokers never from outsiders, 12843, 12845-8, 12918, 12921-2, 13021.—To invest an estate witness must go to the broker on duty, and the whole of the brokers got their fees through investment, 12844, 12920.—Number of court brokers ten or twelve.—They monopolised work of office, 12850-1.—Broker's fees were laid down, they could not charge what they liked, 12852.—Restriction of inquiries to circumscribed number of brokers not desirable, 12855-6, 12916.—Fairer for broker who gave information to carry work through, 12857.—Better to be able to employ any broker, although it involved a certain amount of responsibility, 12916-7.—No security afforded by dealing with brokers appointed by Court of Chancery, 12858, 12861.—No additional security in dealing with one broker or another whether inside ring or not, 12859.—Witness never parted with money until he got the scrip, and never parted with scrip until he got the money, 12868, 12917.

Advice given as to probable Financial Effect of Sales—Advice confined to Investment.

Intending vendors consulted witness as to desirability of selling, price to be obtained, and investment of proceeds, 12864.—Landlord's real object in consulting witness was what income he would get if he sold, 12865-6, 12868.—Advice as to number of years' purchase to be asked, not given, 12867, 12869, 12877.—Advice given as to result of investment, 12870.—Was an indication of number of years' purchase to be asked, 12871-2.—Public Trustee required by Act of 1903 to give on request estimate of probable financial effect of sale, 12873-5.—Landlord in asking advice would mention his income and price of land in his neighbourhood, 12876.—Within witness's province to point out return inquirer could get under 1903 Act, 12878-9, 12881.—And to say that security was satisfactory if he thought so, 12880.

Average Rate of Interest a Landlord might expect to obtain.

No particular rate of interest recommended, witness did his best to meet landlord's views, 12882.—Witness by recommending better investment could facilitate matter where landlord and tenant had a quarrel as to number of years' purchase, 12883-4.—Numbers came to consult witness in unofficial way, 12885-7.—Witness had registers of letters, 12886.—So that numbers could be ascertained, 12887.

Investments most sought after.

Railway investments most sought after, many had never heard of Colonial inscribed stocks, 12888, 12960.—One investment only in Government of India securities, 12889, 12961.—Indian investments had been recommended, 12890, 12962.—Orders for investments went to Dublin Stock Exchange, 12891.—Witness had no dealing with London in official capacity, 12892.

AMOUNT OF STOCK HELD BY PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

Stock held by witness yielding £3 6*s.* 6*d.* about £104,000, 12894.—Aggregate stock held, £108,000, 12895.—Aggregate stock yielding £3 10*s.* 6*d.* £61,000, 12896.—Aggregate stock from investments prior to Act of 1903, £104,000, 12897.—Aggregate from investments under Act of 1903, £3,600, 12898.—Work done in Public Trustee's office very small, 12899.—Out of total sum of £15,000,000 from estates sold £80,000 to £100,000 stock held by Public Trustee, 12900, 13044-5.—Stock held by witness represented proportion of property of which he had been appointed Trustee, he was appointed only where required, 12911.—£80,000 to £100,000 held by witness was amount belonging to people applying to Public Trustee to act for them under the Act, 12914.—£3 6*s.* 7*d.* percentage related to transactions previous to the Act of 1903, witness did not know when they were purchased, 12930.—Stock had been handed over to witness, 12931-2.—Act of 1903 enlarged power of investment, 12933.—Average return from investments under the Act £3 11*s.* 11*d.*, 12934-6, 12957.—£70,000 or £80,000 was amount passed through witness's hands since passage of Act of 1903, 13044-5.—It all consisted of settled estates, and included only that of which witness held scrip in his own name, 13047.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

Work had almost all come in within the last year, very little before, 12901.—Salary of Public Trustee, £1,200, 12902.—Clerks got £200 per annum, 12903.—Witness held stock as trustee, and paid out interest to beneficiary, 12904-7.—Witness could be sole trustee, 12908.—He was appointed either solely or jointly by the court, 12908-9.—No sole trustee except Public Trustee appointed by court as far as witness knew, 12910.

QUESTION OF WHAT COLONIAL AND FOREIGN STOCKS WERE TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS.

Colonial stocks not all trustee investments, only certain Colonial inscribed stocks, 12937-9, 12974-7.—San Paula and Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railways within the Act, 12941.—But Court of Appeal judgment debarred witness from using them, 12942-5.

AVERAGE RATE OF INTEREST A LANDLORD MIGHT HOPE TO OBTAIN.

Average rate of interest on ten estates taken at haphazard out of those held by witness was £3 10*s.* 9½*d.*, 12948-52, 13037-43.—Difference from rate on all investments taken together accounted for by difference in percentage return of stocks bought and stocks handed over by Land Commission, and by use made of investments sanctioned by Act of 1903 from which £3 11*s.* 11*d.* could be got, 12953-4, 13032.—£3 11*s.* 11*d.* could not always be obtained wisely, average of £3 10*s.* 9½*d.* obtained by investing partly under new Act and partly under old Act, 12955-6.—Some Colonials gave as good return as investments authorised under 1903 Act, 12958.—People afraid of securities with better returns except debentures of London and North Western, Great Western, and other railways, 12959.—Improved rate of interest obtained since passage of 1903 Act, 12966.

QUESTION OF EXTENDING AREA OF INVESTMENT FOR MORTGAGEES OF IRISH LAND.

Field of investment for trustees enlarged by Act of 1903, 12967.—No corresponding enlargement of field for investment for trustees who were mortgagees of Irish land, 12968-70.—No reason pointing to public inconvenience for restricting trustees who were mortgagees, that would not apply to trustees who were vendors, 12972-3.—1903 Act did not interfere with other Acts, only extended them, 12977.—Difference between £3 6*s.* 6*d.* (the percentage from all trusts invested in securities other than those authorised by Act of 1903), and £3 11*s.* 11*d.* (the interest on stocks included in the 1903 Act) represented the extension of interest brought about by enlargement of trustee facilities, 13030-5.

INVESTMENT IN RAILWAYS—COMPARATIVE MERITS OF DIFFERENT SECURITIES.

Debentures or fully-paid shares of railways having paid dividend on ordinary shares for ten years, preceding date of investment were available under the 1903 Act, 12987.—Interest to be obtained up to date from English railways under that rule, £3 13*s.* 6*d.*, £3 10*s.* 8*d.*, £3 10*s.* 3*d.*; stocks quoted were the Great Central 3½ per cent. Second Debenture 1899, and Midland Railway of England 2½ per cent. Preferred Ordinary, 12988-12990.—Return from English railways slightly going up, 12991.—Stock of Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway available under the Act if railway had paid dividend on ordinary shares for last ten years, 12992.—Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland available, 12993.—Its Debenture Stock would not return much over £3 13*s.*, 12994.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

Usefulness of Public Trustee's office as a protection against improvident sales had not been considered by witness, 12998.—Idea of office was to provide trustee for people having difficulty in finding one, 12999.—Questions put to witness mostly referred to return obtainable on money, question as to number of years' purchase had never been put, though it must have been in applicant's mind, 13000, 13013.—Advantages accruing to investors under Act of 1903 not generally known, 13001.

EFFECT OF LARGE INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR TRUST SECURITIES.

If £20,000,000 were thrown on market at once it would affect the rate of interest, but if it came in at the rate of £5,000,000 a year, witness did not think there would be much difference, 13008.—No reason why larger sums should not give as good a return, 13009.

BLACKER-DOUGLAS CASE—DECISION OF THE COURT IN CASE OF CERTAIN SECURITIES AUTHORISED BY SECTION 51.

Blacker-Douglas case, Canadian Pacific held by Court of Appeal not to be under Act, Kingstown Urban Stock held to be under Act by Court of Appeal, but not by Master of Rolls; Buenos Ayres Railway stocks held to be under Act, but impossible for Public Trustee to approve, 13010.—In witness's opinion they were first-rate securities, 13011.—Enlargement of area of investment by legislation would be beneficial, 13012, 13018.—Reason for Court's disapproval of Buenos Ayres Railways had reference to the question whether laws of country would allow of realisation, 13015.—Counsel advised that he did not know Buenos Ayres laws, but in face of Court of Appeal's decision could not permit investment, 13016-9.—Court's judgment given on information brought by Mr. Blacker-Douglas's counsel, 13020.

SATISFACTION OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE REQUIRED AS TO REALISATION OF SECURITIES.

Under Act of 1903 Public Trustee's permission had to be obtained to certain investments, 13047.—Master of Rolls and Court of Appeal considered this a wise provision, 13048.—It prevented a man investing where the sum invested could not be realised in case of sale, 13049.—Private trustees need not care so long as they were within the investments authorised by the Act, 13050-1.—Some of the investments contemplated by the Act of 1903 might possibly be worthless or very bad, Public Trustee brought in to eliminate those not likely to realise sum invested, 13052-4.—Certain investments contemplated by the Act would give 4 per cent., but would not be sound, price and circumstances of investment must be considered, 13055-6.—No prudent man would invest at very high premium if original sum was to be realisable, 13058.—Twelve applications for permission to invest had been granted by Public Trustee and £51,800 invested, 13059-60.—Trustee securities could be unsafe as regards realisation if at a high premium, although safe as regards returning interest, 13077-8.

M'CLINTOCK, Mr. A.—*continued.*

Average Rate of Interest a Landlord might hope to obtain.

Witness did not know any good 4 per cent. securities authorised by section 51 of Act of 1903, London ground rents might yield 4 per cent., 13061-3.—He was investigating one for a client at present, 13064.—It did not occur often, but large estates had sometimes been invested at such rates, 13065-6.—One of the first estates sold yielded something like 4 per cent., 13067-9.—But that only meant it could be done occasionally, 13070-1.—Small sums easier to invest at a good rate than large ones, 13072.—Therefore, more difficult for a big landlord to average good rate of interest on sale than a small one, 13073.—Landlords of all classes could expect to get 3½ per cent. in trustee securities, including those under 1903 Act, 13074-6.

WALDRON, Mr. L. A.

Rate of Interest Derivable from Trust Securities.

Rate of interest derived by landlords re-investing money in case of settled estates, 3½ up to £3 13*s.* per cent. easily got from highest securities, money mostly put in Irish securities, prior charges of the great Irish railways could be got to yield up to nearly four per cent., witness had invested in five per cent preference of Midland Great Western which returned fully four per cent., and was full trust security even under English Trustee Acts, 13082.—Average yield since 1903, 3½ per cent., witness had invested £50,000 from Lord De Freyne's Estate at £3 9*s.* or £3 9*s.* 6*d.* in strictest trust stocks dividing it between Dublin Corporation Stock and 3½ per cent. stock of Rosslare and Fishguard Railway, 13083.—Enlargements under 1903 Act available, but it was desired to keep in what was practically a Consol security, 13084.—Debenture Stock of Midland Great Western of Ireland Railway paid 3¾ per cent., 13085.—Safety of principal as well as question of interest considered, 13086, but easy realisation of capital less important in trust than in ordinary investments, 13087.

Certificate of Public Trustee as to Realisability of certain Securities.

Provision requiring Public Trustee's certificate was designed in view of enlarged powers of investment under 1903 Act, permission to invest in ordinary stocks of railways and foreign and Colonial railways had been destroyed by Court of Appeal, 13088-91.—Admission of "Light Railways" only other alteration made by Act, 13090.—Practical effect of Act of 1903, was an extension in case of light railways, other increased powers had been killed by Court of Appeal, 13092-4.—Which forbade Public Trustee to invest in foreign railways, and by implication in English or Irish Railway Ordinary Stocks or even preferred ordinary stocks of English railways, 13095.—Great Western ordinary stock gave nearly 4½ per cent. and Great Northern of Ireland ordinary stock 4½; both were better securities than uneconomic holdings, 13096.

Trend of Rate of Interest.

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Effect of a large amount of Purchase Money being placed on Market for Investment.

Enormous increase in field of investment, railways of England alone involved hundreds of millions, £10,000,000 would make no appreciable difference, 13140.—Output of gold might affect the question, 13141.—Increased demands of labour affecting outgoings and rise in local taxation must be taken into consideration with regard to railways and all securities, 13142.—All securities were uncertain, 13143.—Rapid sale of Irish land throwing large amount of money on market would not tend to appreciate market in witness's opinion reasoning from past experience, 13129.—Tendency of a number of purchasers was to enhance price of article sought, but it was not likely that £20,000,000 would come for investment at once, and the £15,000,000 invested from land sales had not prevented stocks from falling, 13099, 13101.—Issue of Government stock before money was realised for investment might have decreased the purchasing power of the market when landlord was investing, therefore decreasing price and enhancing return, 13100-1.—Investment of Church Surplus and Maynooth Grant had not enhanced prices, 13101.

Court Brokers.

As to concentrating work of investment in the hands of a few brokers' question, witness's view was coloured by fact that he was one of the few, no reason to alter present practice, ordinary unembarrassed individuals could employ their own brokers, the court practice universal and ancient, 13102-4.

Utility of Office of Public Trustee.

No beneficial results from Office of Public Trustee, 13105-6.—Court of Appeal decision practically nullified advantages, in any case the Public Trustee's certificate was an absurdity, 13107.—General opinion in favour of office of Public Trustee for the purpose of guarding trust money, 13108.—Enlargement of functions of office in that direction would be serviceable, but foreign to the present inquiry, 13109-11.—Office of Public Trustee an advantage for people requiring a trustee, but not for reviewing securities, 13121, 13127-9.—Small Irish landlords not ignorant of Stock Exchange transactions, 13122.—Small landlords in remote districts knew their own railways' debentures, 13123.—Advertisements from people outside Stock Exchange misled others besides small farmers, 13124.—No necessity for Public Trustee, investors might be advised to go to a bank or a broker, 13125.

Comparative Merits of Different Securities.

Bank shares the most popular security with small investors, witness would not advise securities with uncalled liabilities, 4 per cent. was the highest witness would advise, Great Northern Railway of Ireland and Great Western Railway of England paid at present 4½ per cent. on investment of ordinary stock, 13131-2.—4 to 4½ per cent. could be got on a safe investment, 13133.—Nothing was "safe," Russian Bonds considered "safe" had dropped 25 per cent., 13134.—Using the word relatively, 4½ per cent. on foreign railways might be said to be safe, 13135-6.—4½ per cent. on railway ordinary stock was preferable to investment in a western estate in Ireland, 13137-8.—Possibility of reversal of judgment bearing on section 51 (*f*) of Land Act; as judgment was not appealed against it was probably considered it would be upheld, 13144.—Witness had no strong views as to enlarging field of investment in Blacker-Douglas case, Parliament's intention should not be frustrated by a legal decision, 13146.—Enlarged field of investment would be advantageous on the whole, 13147.—Cost of investment, roughly, one per cent., 13145.

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Analogy existing between legal powers of Land Commission and of Board.

Powers of Land Commissioners under Irish Land Act of 1903 enabled them to purchase congested, tenanted or untenanted land for improvement, sale or restoration of evicted tenants; powers analogous

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to those of Congested Districts Board; primary duties of Land Commission were judicial; to invest them with administrative and mercantile functions put them in false position, 13149.—Land Commission and Estates Commissioners were the same; Land Commission was the body authorised to purchase under sub-sections 6, 7, and 8, 13150.—Section 23 referred to Estates Commissioners, but was still in name of Land Commission, 13151-2.—Land Commission included Estates Commissioners, 13153, 13434.—Who were agents of the Commission, 13288-9.—Section 6 enabled Land Commission to purchase generally; section 8 enabled them to purchase untenanted land required for facilitating re-sale or re-distribution of estates purchased or proposed to be purchased by them; Section 23 delegated jurisdiction, powers, and duties of Commission under Act to three members, entitled "Estates Commissioners," 13153.—Matter might be put in two ways, powers of Estates Commissioners and Board were analogous or Board had to purchase through the Land Commission; Land Commission was a judicial body which transferred land from landlord to trustees of Board, 13154-6.—Witness could not say body with judicial functions could perform duties better than body without, 13157.—Estates Commissioners' powers analogous to Board's, though larger in area, 13158-62.—Estates Commissioners when possessing untenanted land could settle claims of small holders round about, as well as put "congests" on land, 13161.—Also create new tenancies for sons of tenants; Board had similar powers in a more limited way, 13162-8.—Board could enlarge neighbouring holdings under £5 valuation, and create tenancies for tenants' sons, 13167-8, 13175.—Only after settling claims of "congests," 13169-72.—Judicial powers of Land Commission to facilitate transfer were available for Congested Districts Board, Board had got advantage of powers for past three years, 13173A-4.—Board might sell any portion of land purchased outside scheduled area not required for tenants in scheduled area, 13176-8, 13187.—Law required county to be ransacked for "congests"; in practice once a number were settled remnant of land was considered available for tenants round about, 13179.—Matter was within witnesss' official purview, 13180-1.—Reason of practice was inability to settle "congests" on land, 13182.—Effect of Act was that land purchased for relief of "congests" went to relieve small holders outside scheduled areas, 13184-5.—Persons outside area as much in need of large farms as "congests," 13186.—Objections to union of judicial and administrative powers in Land Commission; purchase powers should be transferred to Board; Land Commission's purchase powers put them in a false position, and should be transferred to another body, 13188, 13232, 13239, 13243-6A, 13248, 13353-5, 13516.—If Land Commission possessed property they would have to hear the case, be defendant, and witness to value in fair rent applications, 13204-5.—De Freyne Estate would have been a case in point, 13192-7, 13199, 13200-1.—Difficulty not likely to arise outside congested areas, majority of tenants usually signed undertakings to purchase at fixed prices before Commission purchased land; this could not be done with congested estates, as holdings ultimately vested in tenants might be totally different from their original holdings, 13206.

Question of a Fair Rent being fixed against Board.

Fair rent cases would now be fixed against Board, 13202.—Cases had occurred on other estates, 13203.—Suggestion for tenants to lose rights of going into court in cases where land was bought by some body for improvement purposes and for reselling to tenants would be at variance with principles of justice, 13207, 13209, 13214, 13216.—Tenants lost rights of going into court when they became purchasers, 13208.—Board had often been sued by tenant for fixation of rent, 13210-1.—Cases had been given against Board by Land Courts, 13212, 13217.—De Freyne tenants were an actual case, 13213.—Men knew instalments went up in proportion to improvements made on holdings, 13215.—Case brought up was a pending case, with which Board had no privity at first, 13218-9.—Tenants continued proceedings when Board bought estate from Lord De Freyne, 13220.—Matter was all in witness's statement, 13221.

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De Freyne Estate bought *in globo* without agreement between landlord and tenant; congested estates always bought that way; rent could not be fixed till amount of improvements was known, 13222-2A.—Estates Commissioners buying estates *in globo* stood in relation of landlord to tenant, and tenants had right to apply for fixation of rents, 13223-4.

Purchase Powers should be vested in Board—Judicial Powers in Land Commission.

Purchase, not judicial, functions of Land Commission should be transferred to Board; separation of judicial functions from personal interest always observed in English legislation since time of Conquest, 13224.—Estates Commissioners dealing officially were in same position in principle as judge having interest in company; Railway Commission Acts provided that a Railway Commissioner must sell out all his railway securities within three months of his appointment; magistrates prohibited from adjudicating in cases where they were not merely directly interested, but also where they were interested in principle; Licensing Acts disqualifying brewers, Factory Acts disqualifying manufacturers, and 17 George III. disqualifying hat-makers in apprentice cases, etc., showed that the principle was a living one, and applied to Land Commission to-day; case cited by witness of tenant against whom Land Commission had issued a Civil Bill *re* payment of tithes, and withdrawn proceedings; question of tithes came up again a few years later, and judge declined to hear case, holding that Land Commission having issued a Civil Bill he was himself through the Land Commission a party interested, and therefore disqualified from adjudicating; same principle applied to fair rent applications and all sections of Act making Land Commission judge between landlord and tenants; Act of Parliament might be passed extinguishing tenant's right to have fair rent fixed in cases of estates bought by Land Commission, or authorising Commission by statute to hear such cases in spite of their interest in the matter, or even allowing Commission to remain passive while tenants fixed their own rent; in the latter event tenant would have small inducement to purchase; any such Act would be contrary to principle and precedent, and prove incongruity of Land Commission's position; if Parliament's attention had been called to the position Commission would never have been given purchase powers, 13225.—Tenant could select County Court Judge as his tribunal if he liked, 13226.—Practical difficulty would be got rid of if case were transferred to County Court; principle still wrong, 13227.—Case could not be so transferred without new Act of Parliament, 13228.—Estates Commissioners had not bought any congested estates up to 31st March, 1906, so difficulty had not arisen, 13229-30A.—For non-congested estates there were the agreements entered into by tenants before sale, by which at least three-fourths of the tenants agreed to purchase at price named, so were precluded from having fair rent fixed, 13231, 13233-4A, 13515.—Difficulty more likely to arise on estates that required so much improvement that price could not be arranged with tenant beforehand, 13232.—Amount of land purchased by Commission small compared with what was sold direct to tenants, 13247.—Board had no desire to obtain general powers of purchase, but for sake of justice and equity, all purchase powers should be transferred to them even outside congested areas, or at any rate, powers should be given to some body that had not judicial functions, 13248-54, 13517-8.—Landowning and judicial functions of Commission clashed, 13249-50.—At present there was one body dealing with congestion, and another stereotyping it by transfer of land from landlord to tenant; witness would reduce that by giving Board power to step in wherever there was congestion and improve estates, 13495-6, 13500-1.—Compulsion not suggested, only power for Board to step in with agreement of landlord and tenant, 13497.—Board would not step in simultaneously wherever congestion existed; it was a question of time, degree, and amount, 13498, 13501.—Overlapping of Board and Estates Commissioners at present would be prevented by adoption of witness's plan, 13519.—Judicial functions of Commission would be exercised all over Ireland, 13520, 13523-4.—Purchase power all over Ireland would be exercised by Board; that was the way to obviate friction, 13521-4.

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Procedure for *in globo* Sale.

In case of purchase of estates *in globo* Commissioners had power to appoint negotiator cognisant of estate; he made arrangements with tenants, and got them to sign agreements; when three-fourths of tenants had signed case was taken to Land Commission, who were asked to buy, 13235.—Agreement was to effect that tenant would pay a certain price if Commission bought land, 13236.—Three-fourths of tenants' and landlords' agreement to proposed price necessary before purchase by Commission, 13237-8.—Commisisoners could give no answer to landlord offering to sell estate until they obtained tenants' agreement; witness would have thought second applications for fixing of fair rent in De Freyne and other estates unnecessary; he could not induce tenants to withdraw applications which were now pending, 13239.—Witness's opinion was in opposition to Act of 1903, which was admirable, but had its weak points, 13241-4.

Arrears of work in Land Commission would be further delayed by transfer of Board's business to Commission.

Block of business in Land Commission on 18th August, 1906; applications received for sale of estates of value of £42,332,967; £13,062,704 advanced after three years' operations at rate of under £5,000,000 a year; unvested applications pending worth £29,270,263, or five years' arrears at present rate; Commission had so much work they could not take any more from Board, 13254-9, 13275, 13479, 13548.—To transfer Board's business to Land Commission, even if Commission's staff were doubled, would be unfair to landlords of the £29,000,000 worth of property, whose incomes were reduced 20 per cent. pending sale; while family charges and mortgages carried interest at 5 or 6 per cent; one landlord's income wiped out by difference between interest and rents, 13259-60, 13454, 13456.—Board bought about £500,000 worth of land per year under Act of 1903 with present staff; 1½ millions in three years, 13260-1.—Transfer of work to Commission would greatly retard rate at which purchase should be carried on, 13262-2a.—Dealing with congested districts more difficult than the mere transfer of estates, 13262a.—If Land Commission's staff were doubled and Board's work were transferred to them they would still have nearly three years' arrears, which would be worked off at the rate of £10,000,000 a year; present rate of progress would not be retarded, 13263-7.—The first strengthening of staff should be to get rid of arrears, 13463.—Estates Commissioners dealt with £5,000,000 worth of land in a year; they had bought themselves a little over £3,000,000 worth in three years altogether, 13268-9.—All land bought by Board was paid for by Commissioners out of Land Purchase Fund, 13270.—If there were a transfer Commissioners would have to do work of improvement and re-arrangement, for which they had no staff at present, 13271-2.—Progress with that class of work much slower than with ordinary purchase, and would be retarded by being given to Land Commission even with increased staff, 13274.—If Board's business were subordinated to that of Land Commission the most poverty-stricken districts would be abandoned to their fate, 13275-6.—Unfair to tenants of the £29,000,000 worth of property, most of whom were paying 3½ or 4 per cent. on purchase price of their holdings, 13458-9.—If transaction were completed they would pay 3¼ per cent., and annuities would run, 13460.

Purchase Powers of Land Commission should be transferred to Board.

Land Commission's power of land purchase should be transferred to Board or similar body, funds of Board increased, definition of congestion amended or dropped, so that they could act in any townland or village they liked, and also have function of restoring evicted tenants, 13277-84, 13356, 13442, 13492.—Board should deal with congestion as at present, but have land purchase powers all over Ireland, 13285-7.

Definition of Congestion needed amendment.

Definition of "congestion" at present merely empirical; if Boards' duties were to be extended definition must be altered; should be restricted to uneconomic holdings whose occupiers were not merely local labourers, but tenants whose main income came from land, and was eked out by other employment, 13290-1.—Fisherman making £30 or £40 a year should not be classed as congested; main part of his earnings would not come from him, 13292-3.—Witness only suggested lines of definition; any area was congested where people depending on land could not pay rent and make a livelihood out of it, 13294.—Single holdings or small number of holdings would not be deemed congested; definition should include cities or towns; for extension of holdings powers should be given to purchase untenanted land without limitation of area. Scotch definition of congestion was any area in crofting parish that Commission might determine, having regard to the population and valuation, that seemed to exclude untenanted lands for extension of holdings which Commissioners had express powers to purchase; crofter a tenant of a holding up to £30 valuation, 13295, 13585.—For unit of congestion witness would adopt neither electoral division nor townland, but have Scotch system enabling Board to define unit themselves, 13583, 13585.—£5 the unit in Ireland, 13584.

Compulsory Purchase.

Witness's experience of land purchase for railways showed landlords got generally twice the value of property sold, and were amply compensated, 13296-300.

Board should have right of pre-empting all grass lands, and have same powers as Land Commission under Clauses 6, 43 & 44.

If Board had similar powers to Land Commission compulsion would be unnecessary; they should be entitled to pre-empt any grass lands going for sale, 13300.—Land Commission had power to re-sell to tenants in certain cases at loss not exceeding 10 per cent., enabling them in effect to give landlord a bonus of 22 per cent., 13301-2, 13343-7.—Lord Lieutenant's and landlord's sanction to treating estate as congested necessary, 13303-4, 13347.

If compulsion was necessary Land Commission should be arbitrators.

If compulsion were necessary Land Commission should be arbitrators; additional reason for not giving them purchase powers, 13305.—Amount awarded by arbitrator under Clauses Act never shown in detail, 13305.

Acceleration of legal procedure of purchase by Board.

Witness had made suggestions in memorandum which would enable estates to be vested in Board within six months of acceptance of offer; this involved slight alteration in procedure of Land Commission and radical alteration in legal status of Board, which should be made a corporation, 13305.

Local Representation on Board.

Board would be stronger if local representatives were added; local representation would facilitate communication with portions of country represented, 13305.—Limited number of local representatives suggested, who would go out of office and be replaced by others from a different locality, 13377.—They could be appointed by County Councils or Grand Jury alternatively, 13378.—Chairmen of County Council in each county with congested districts could be *ex-officio* member of Board, 13379-82.—All counties had congested districts; rota of all Ireland should be taken; four members appointed each year going out to make room for others, 13383.—West, South-West, and North-West most congested, 13384.—Districts should be scheduled where there was great congestion; all Ireland would be brought under action of Board, 13385-6.—No precedent for partly-elected Government Department; not an objection to scheme, 13387.—Local representation could be had without local taxation; possible future taxation on foot of the guarantee would be justification for witness's scheme, 13388-91.—Did not occur to witness that Board derived power from not being representative, 13392.—Local representatives might be parochial at first, but improved when they had been a little time

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at the work, 13393.—Three years might be the right limit of service, 13395.—A man of large mind or large wealth would not be influenced by fact that he was liable to his constituency, 13394.

MODE OF OBVIATING INCONVENIENCE ARISING FROM PERIODIC MEETING OF BOARD.

Difficulty of management by meetings at long intervals might be overcome by appointing committees to meet frequently or by delegating powers to deal with pressing matters to a chairman or a committee of superior officers of the Board, 13305.

BOARD NOT INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL AS TO APPLICATION OF REVENUE.

Board not independent of Parliament in matters of finance; accounts audited by Government auditors; this should be continued, 13305.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Administration expenses taken at sum of £31,000 were applicable to capital as well as revenue; nine-tenths salaries paid applied to capital, one-tenth to revenue, 13305.

TRANSFER OF LAND COMMISSION'S POWERS TO BOARD FOR PURCHASE AND SALE OF ESTATES WOULD NOT ADD TO LIABILITIES AUTHORISED BY PARLIAMENT EXCEPT FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Transfer of Land Commission's powers to Board for purchase and sale of estates would add little to votes or liabilities already sanctioned by Parliament; purchase of tenants' interests in holdings and additional subsidies for improvements the only things to be provided for; money for tenants' interests could be got by advances on Church Surplus, 13305-6, 13309.

CHURCH SURPLUS FUND.

Church Surplus had charges on it; they were floating and fluctuating, and affected other securities as well; Board had statutory first charge of £1,500,000 on it, 13307-8, 13311.—Liability of Government in respect of advances on purchase and re-sale of holdings covered by rates and land itself, 13310.—Act of 1891 gave Board power to use interest at 2¾ per cent. on £1,500,000 of Church surplus, and Land Commission the power to use the principal at direction of Board, 13312.—Income of Board diminished by paying out capital; benefit got on re-sale to tenants, who would be charged interest on money expended, 13313.—Portion of £1,500,000 would be used as floating capital, 13314.—Board's staff would have to be increased; increase necessary whether Board or Land Commission did work, 13314.

CONGESTED ESTATES AND RESERVE FUND OF ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Estates Commissioners stated in their report they had not treated as congested any estate in Ireland, 13314, 13341-2, 13347.—Treasury rules enabled them to use a reserve of £250,000; £25,000 or £30,000 advanced to evicted tenants, etc.; £220,000 or £230,000 remained, which, if spent on improvements at rate of 5 per cent., would have improved £5,000,000 worth of property.—Under section 5 of Act of 1891 £40,000 paid by Exchequer to Treasury every year till a sum of £200,000 was reached; this was origin of reserve fund; under Act of 1903 Treasury might advance sums out of reserve for improvement of estates and untenanted land as required by Land Commission; reserve had amounted to £250,000 in Treasury's hands, 13314-7.—This fund was to enable Land Commission to improve estates in same way as Board; they had also further powers to advance money to restore evicted tenants, etc., 13318.—They could use the capital of the fund, 13320.—It might be repaid from profit on re-sales, 13321-2.—Treasury maintained land purchase fund must be paid out of enhanced price before reserve fund was recouped; their contention was that supposing Commissioners bought an estate worth £40,000, paid that sum to the landlords, agreed to sell to tenants at £38,000, then expended £4,000 on improvements and re-sold to tenants for £42,000 the purchase fund must be first repaid its £2,000 loss, leaving only £2,000 to recoup reserve fund, 13323-30.—Act of 1903 expressly stated that profit made from improvements must be repaid to the reserve fund that had disbursed the money for those improvements, 13331-4, 13347.—If that was not done reserve fund would be eventually depleted, 13333.—Had Commissioners adopted Treasury rules under protest they could have dealt with millions of pounds worth of estates and reserved right to open question on a Petition of Right; present unfortunate result the effect of crushing weight of Commissioners' labours, 13335, 13348.—Whole question one of price on re-sale, 13337.—Landlord would not agree to estate being defined as congested unless his price were already fixed, 13338.—Nothing but the price would prevent his agreeing to have it classified as congested, 13340-1.

QUESTION OF DOUBLE BONUS IN CASE OF CONGESTED ESTATES.

Bonus of practically 22 per cent. was a reason for vendor to agree to having estate scheduled; he never consented unless assured of getting as high a price as if he sold direct to tenants; up to 31st March, 1906, Estates Commissioners certified four estates as "congested"; they found it impracticable to deal with three of these as congested; in one case the Lord Lieutenant relaxed conditions of re-sale and allowed loss up to £2,545; offer of £50,913 had been made and accepted; advance for purchase not yet made on 31st March, 1906, 13347.

SPECIALISATION OF DUTIES AND EFFICIENCY.—TRANSFER OF BOARD'S FUNCTIONS TO LAND COMMISSION WOULD BE FALSE ECONOMY.

Mixing of judicial and purchase functions in one body another cause of Commissioners' inactivity; specialisation of duties essential element of efficiency in extensive operations; transfer of Board's duties to Estates Commissioners not a remedy; reasons for proposed dismemberment of Board should be revealed in order that Board might reply to them before this Commission; they did not abuse or neglect their duties; efficiency would be impaired by any change; economies in administration at sacrifice of efficiency would be wrong, 13348-53.—If Board got facilities they deserved they would be as efficient as anyone could desire; with certain statutory facilities and as much money as could be provided for purchase and improvement their labours would be enormously increased, 13353.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS SUMMARISED.

Land Commission should not have power of restoring evicted tenants to unoccupied lands, 13353-5.—Board's legal powers should be increased or altered as suggested in Memorandum E.; local representative members should be added; if necessary Board should be able to define congested areas themselves, as Scotch Board did, such definition to be approved by Lord Lieutenant; financial arrangements under sections 43 and 44 of Act of 1903 should be amended and apply to Board, whose income should receive necessary increase, 13356.

TREASURY CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURE OF BOARD AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

Board at present enjoyed practical immunity from Treasury control; if their powers were extended they should not enjoy that freedom for larger funds, but might still for their present ones; no difficulty in keeping separate accounts, 13357-63, 13376, 13411.—Estimates had now to be approved by Treasury, 13364.—Witness not anxious to get rid of proper control, 13366-7.—For the additional funds Board could be a regular Government Department, 13368, 13374-5.—Parliament would sanction extended powers of Board if this Commission recommended it, 13370-1.—Control not objected to if Board's powers were clearly defined in the Act, 13372.—Relations with Castle would not hamper Board if it remained as at present and were strengthened by local representation; Estates Commissioners were in same position themselves, 13373.

Business proposed to be transferred from Land Commission to Board—Distinction between Judicial and Executive Functions of Commission.

Estates Commissioners' operations apart from direct sales comparatively little, 13396.—They had £42,000,000 worth of land on their hands, Board would not have that, it was not proposed to hand over vesting of land direct from landlord to tenant, which was purely judicial, only the purchase of land by Commissioners for themselves, 13397-405.—£2,800,000 out of £15,000,000 taken over by Commissioners for themselves, 13426.—For the sake of consistency everything but the judicial work should be handed over to Board, purchase of estates not part of work of a judicial body, 13406-10, 13441, 13474, 13510-4.—Broad distinction between judicial and administrative functions of Estates Commissioners, 13417.—Case would be met if Board had ample powers of purchase throughout Ireland for relief of congestion, 13414-6, 13419, 13471, 13494.—Board had now certain powers of purchase outside congested districts as well as within them, it would not be much extension of their powers, 13412-3, 13418, 13425.—Power at present circumscribed, 13420-1.—If an estate were purchased in Leinster, any congestion in its neighbourhood must be relieved before people from Connaught could be brought there, 13422.—Transfer of Estates Commissioners' powers to Board not necessary for relief of congestion, 13424.—Estates Commissioners should not be relieved of judicial functions, 13427, 13440, 13493. —Distinction as to which were judicial functions one of the difficulties of the Act, 13428.—Ascertainment of value was one, 13429-30.—Investigation of Title another, 13431-33.—The law declared Estates Commissioners under control of Lord Lieutenant so far as they were executive, that did not make all their proceedings executive, 13436-9.

Identity of Estates Commissioners and Land Commission.

Commissioners a party to all official acts of Land Commission, vesting orders signed by Estates Commissioners were in name of Land Commission, 13445. —Estates Commissioners were agents of Land Commission, section 23 (1) of Act said jurisdiction, powers and duties of Land Commission were to be performed by them, 13485-8.

If there were no Purchase Arrears Estates Commissioners would be better occupied in dealing with Fair Rents Arrears than with Board's work.

Prolonged delay in fixing fair rents, 13446-7.—Some notices would not be heard for two years, 13448. —Estates Commissioners could not take over that work even if they had time, 13449-50.—They could not take over Congested Districts Board's work under existing law, 13451.—Fixing of fair rents more germane to their functions than land purchase, 13452-3, 13457.—Lay Commissioners fixed rents, all appeals heard by legal officers, in practice Estates Commissioners did not do it, 13453.—Owners of property had to take 3½ per cent. instead of full rent till sale was completed, 13455.

Suggested transfer to Department of Agriculture of some of Board's work.

Department of Agriculture willing to take over some of the work of Congested Districts Board, 13464.—Board's freedom from Departmental control found very useful in delicate matters such as migration, &c., such work could not be done better than by Board, 13465-7.—Would be done as well if Board were strengthened as witness suggested; the strengthening would not spoil its character, 13468-70.

Question as to Board dealing with Congestion outside Congested Districts.

Not well for Estates Commissioners to deal with even isolated cases of congestion, 13472.—No reason to confine Board's activity to the West, congestion all over Ireland, with sufficient funds they could deal with all, 13475.—Board and Land Commission the only public bodies in Ireland dealing with land purchase, 13476.—Little purchase done by Land Commission before creation of Estates Commissioners, although they had power, 13477-8.—Witness proposed to keep the same number of public bodies, but have their functions distinct, 13480-1.

Financial Difficulty impeding Operations of Land Commission.

Arrears of Estates Commissioners' work could not be cleared off in one year, even with increase of staff, 13482.—Difficulty of raising loans had some bearing on activity of Estates Commissioners, 13484-5, 13503-5.—Commissioners themselves stated it had not, 13506.—Delay in dealing with £30,000,000 worth of property caused by lack of staff to cope with work, 13502, 13548.—Difficulty of obtaining loans would not be got rid of by transferring work to Board, 13507-8.—There was an appeal from Estates Commissioners to Land Commission, 13490.—That was an appeal from one judiciary to another, 13491.

Board not empowered to hold land in their own Name.

Board could not hold land in their own name but in names of trustees, 13529-30.—Board ought to be a corporation entitled to hold land and execute conveyances under their own seal, at present practically every document had to be signed by the two trustees, who thereby incurred a nominal responsibility in respect of lands vested in them, 13531.—Enormous delay and inconvenience caused by antiquated fashion of having trustees, 13532.—Public Trustee could not be used in place of them, he only dealt with money, 13533.—Trustees were members of the Board (Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Geoghegan), and were generally available, but not always, 13534.

Board could not act through Committees.

Committees appointed by Board had no legal status and could not dispose finally of matters referred to them, 13535.—They were appointed, and their recommendations were confirmed by Board, 13536-7.

Departments blocked by rush of business under Act of 1903.

In consequence of enormous success of Land Act, some offices, such as Registration of Titles Office, were entirely blocked, staff of these departments should be increased, 13537.—It was not want of money that caused delay, Estates Commissioners unable to deal with what they had, 13538-9.—Lack of sufficient staff in central office real cause of delay in registration of title, 13543.—Reading of title and final settlement now taken together, in some of Board's cases *prima facie* title had been investigated and estate actually vested, although title of incumbrancers and title to money had not been dealt with, 13545.—In case of estates bought by Board two years taken between time of originating request and time when vesting order was made by Estates Commissioners, 13547.—Board in same position as private purchaser in regard to vesting of title, recent rules gave them priority over ordinary cases, 13549-50.—Notable progress made within last two months, vesting of Board's cases now nearly up to date, 13551-3.—Commissioners intended to give priority in future, it might be necessary to make application to them in each case, 13554. —Difficulty in Registry of Titles Office still existed, 13555-6.—In case of purchase of tenants' interests in farms for enlargement of holdings Board had to make inquiry into title themselves, 13556-7.—In case of sale vendor gave an abstract of title to Board or got it registered in Registry of Titles Office, delay in obtaining certificate caused by press of business in office, 13558.—Conveyancing a particular branch of solicitor's profession and generally well known, 13559-60.

Compulsory Migration of Tenants on Estates Purchased.

Settlement of a whole estate often prevented by a residue of tenants who would not migrate, a tenant with a holding in patches scattered all over the estate might have to be migrated to some other portion of the estate or to some distance, Board had certain powers, but they were cumbersome and

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unworkable, if three-fourths of tenants on a townland purchased by Board requested it, Board could serve a notice to determine tenancy on any holding, 13565-8, 13571-2.—Every notice must contain undertaking to give tenant another holding in the neighbourhood of not less value, within period mentioned in notice, or as soon after as practicable, 13568, 13573.—New holding might be in non-congested area provided it was in neighbourhood, 13569.—Practically three-fourths of tenants could never be got to sign a round robin for migration, 13570, 13574.—Board should be able to act without the tenants, 13570, 13574.—They had never been able to exercise their power, 13575.—Compulsory migratory powers desirable, might be difficult to migrate bodies of tenants in some districts, beneficial in others, 13576-7.—County Court Judge fixed amount of compensation for a migrant in case of a difference, 13578.—"Townland" substituted for "estate" by Act of 1903, it was still an impracticable unit, 13579-80.—Three-fourths of tenants could not be got to sign requisition even on townland, 13582.

Piers and Tolls—Board should have power to take Leases for Sites for Piers for Long Terms and make Bye-laws and levy Tolls.

Board of Trade should grant leases for piers for any term they thought right, Congested Districts Board should have power, with approval of Lord-Lieutenant, to levy tolls on piers they built themselves and make bye-laws for regulation and management, 13588-9.—Piers not built by Board were under control of County Council as a rule, 13590, 13592.—Board would have no objection to County Council taking over their piers, but the Councils usually objected, as tolls were insufficient to pay expenses of toll-keeper, and there were legal difficulties, 13591, 13594, 13601.—Many piers within Board's jurisdiction were property of County Councils, 13592.—Board unlikely to erect piers unnecessarily, 13593.—Board had applied in case of pier at Glengariff for lease of foreshore to enable them to charge tolls, Board of Trade refused on ground of difficulty as to charging tolls, 13596.—At present Board could build a pier, but not charge tolls, 13597.—Having built a pier they must maintain it, if built without agreements with County Council, and could not levy toll to recoup themselves, 13598-9.—Piers necessary for relief of congestion, 13600.—County Council maintained them if they were able, 13601.

Regulations as to Turbary on Untenanted Bog.

When Board bought an estate containing a large tract of bog held in commonage, they should have power to restrict tenants to particular plots to cut turf, legislation needed for compulsory powers, they could do it by agreement with tenants, but not without, 13604-9.

Compulsory Vesting of Holdings in Tenants.

Compulsorily vesting holdings in tenants meant a compulsory annuity, 13610-11.—Board should be able to fix what a man was to pay, such power must be safeguarded by power of appeal for tenant, say, to Land Commission, 13612-3.—Land Commission were appointed to deal with fixing of rents, they were not responsible to State for rent, the tenant was responsible, and after the tenant the rates, 13614.

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Schemes for Agricultural Improvement.

Witness had charge of agricultural improvement works while performed by Congested Districts Board, 13615.—Schemes were submitted for Board's approval, varied as occasion arose; as a rule particular line of action decided on and adhered to, 13616.—Schemes confined to congested area, but not to any particular part of it unless special scheme applicable only to one district, 13617-20.

Horse-Breeding Scheme.

In matter of horse-breeding Board supplied stallions, maintaining stud farm, and from 1892-1903 inclusive, put out on average twenty-six stallions a season, these being sent to stand at certain centres during season, 13621.—Greatest number in any one year, thirty four, 13624.—Distributed over congested areas generally, 13625.—Sometimes Board arranged with people to maintain stallions all the year; this scheme far better and more economical, and gradually developed, 13621-3, 13644.—From beginning to end seventy-two stallions passed through Board's hands, 13626 7.

Breed of Sires.

Different breeds composing total were: forty-one hackneys; seven thoroughbreds; one Cleveland Bay; six hunters; two Shires; eight Welsh ponies; four Arabs; one Barb; one Connemara pony; one Norwegian, 13628, 13637-8.—Number of hackneys decreased towards the end; experiments in breeding stallions suitable for improving Connemara pony never perfected, 13629.—Barb bought from Lord Harrington for purpose of breeding polo ponies proved very unsuccessful; cross with Connemara mares did not seem to suit, 13630-3.—Welsh pony was most successful in district from Westport to Galway, thoroughbred in Kerry, and hackney in Donegal, 13634, 13636.—More people in a district spoke well of Welsh pony than of any other breed, 13639.—Class of horse to be bought as sires determined largely on advice of Mr. Wrench, 13640.

Measure of Success achieved.

In poor districts average increased value of improved foals would be from £4 to £6 per head, in witness's opinion results did not justify expenditure, 13641, 13644.—In some districts stallions stood at fee of 2*s.* 6*d.*, very frequently at 5*s.*; unwillingness to pay more showed that people did not value sires they would often pay more for services of a jackass, 13642.—In Leitrim, Sligo, East Donegal, etc., farmers would give more, many up to £1, 13643.

Expenditure on Horse-breeding.

During years of agricultural work £60,000 spent on improvement of horse-breeding, including capital expenditure on buildings, and there was a large stud, including asses, at time of transfer to Department of Agriculture, 13672-3.—New Department got buildings and outlay on them for nothing, 13675.

Cattle-breeding Scheme.

With regard to cattle, bulls were sold right out on deferred payment system and at reduced rates; price for shorthorns ranged from £12 to £18, according to quality and amount of benefit likely to accrue to purchasers; farmers were bound to keep animals three seasons and to let it out to small occupiers up to authorised number; penalty exacted in case of non fulfilment.

In twelve years 1,026 bulls were issued at average net cost to Board of £21 per head, this covered expenses of freight, loss of bulls, etc., 13645-6, 13648-9, 13654.—Great trouble experienced owing to want of knowledge on people's part as to proper keeping of bulls, 13646-7.—If bull died, and Board thought there was no actual negligence, people were treated leniently, 13654.—Bulls were sold at reduced rate, but price was gradually improving, 13687.—£21,679 was total loss on cattle scheme in twelve years, accounting for 1,026 bulls, 13651-3.—This sum was difference between payment and price received for bulls, 13655.—During Board's agricultural work £52,000 was spent on improvement of cattle, 13672.—The Board never had bulls of their own standing for service except to put down at Gorumna to introduce them, 13656.—Animals mostly bought in Ireland, 13657.—Price of Kerry bulls averaged from £18 to £24, 13658.

SPECIAL KERRY SCHEME.

Special Kerry scheme in order to improve and not injure pure local breed; three gentlemen asked to advise Board—Mr. J. Robertson, late Mr. Butler, and Mr. P. O'Mahony—they assisted as to purchase and allocation, 13659-6.—Thirty-five to forty bulls placed in district entirely free of cost to people who maintained them, plan pursued for three seasons; people did not value, and refused to buy bulls, so that scheme was altogether withdrawn, 13660.

MEASURE OF SUCCESS.

On the whole cattle were successful and effected great improvement in live stock, particularly in Connemara, but scheme did not pay its way, 13661, 13664-5.—Each bull might produce seventy calves in the year, and these on an average were 30*s.* a head superior to ordinary local calves; in Donegal price even more improved, 13662-3.—Breed in Kerry not improved because people would not buy bulls; witness had not received complaints that bulls were unsuitable because too much pampered, only that they frequently became wild, 13667-71.—They were not more successful with any particular breed, except that they failed in Kerry owing to want of appreciation; they decided what breed was suitable to particular district; in Cahirciveen Peninsula, for years, only Kerries and Dexters supplied, though farmers wished to buy Galloways; they tried not to supply several breeds in one district, and where shorthorns were suitable refused to supply Aberdeen Angus, because productions were sold off as stores, effecting no permanent improvement, 13678-9.—A few Aberdeen Angus had been supplied in dairying districts, but they became more strict about it, 13680.—Efforts on the whole very well received, except in Kerry, but they were subsidising the industry very largely, 13681-3.—It was difficult to sell an animal at its true value owing to large number of badly-bred bulls, 13683.—Expense of keeping bulls themselves would have been enormous, 13684.—Alternative was subsidy system, as practised at present by Board of Agriculture; it consisted in paying subsidy to purchasers on condition of keeping bull; much more expensive than Board's old scheme, 13685.—Board tried to get as good a bull as they could for the district; never got two good bulls, 13686.—People became more ready at end of time to pay more for advantage of good bull, therefore price of shorthorns was gradually raised, 13687.—Fees for services not raised; farmers were not allowed to charge more than maximum fixed by Board, 13688-90.—People would not pay such a fee as would justify owner in buying bull at full price, 13691-2.—About fifty springers had been bought in Kerry and sold in Connemara to see how they would work with Galloway bulls, but people would not buy them at price to cover cost and freight, 13696.

USE OF BADLY BRED ANIMALS FOR BREEDING SHOULD BE PROHIBITED.

Witness thought there should be a law to prevent people keeping a sire for service for hire unless approved by competent authority, 13693, 13696.—In Kerry, bulls ran wild, no service fee charged, 13694.—Horses and bulls could be prevented from running at large, 13695.

SHEEP-BREEDING.

With regard to sheep, 700 rams in all were sold, mostly black-faced breed, sold at about two-fifths of original price, but only to farmers under £20 valuation, 13696.—Efforts to improve breed of sheep had been successful, particularly in Donegal, 13724.—Price had probably improved, but there had been general rise in price of sheep owing to increased price of wool; there was strong evidence that Board's work had been appreciated, 13726.

SHEEP DIPPING.

Owing to prevalence of sheep-scab issue was stopped until scab was reduced, and Board gave attention to sheep dipping, making good impression in Donegal, Galway and Mayo, but not in Kerry; in 1903 thirty-three portable apparatuses were at work in congested districts, and 70,000 sheep were dipped at loss to the

Board of ½*d.* per sheep, 13696.—Dipping only compulsory in counties where Councils adopted it, but this was largely done, 13697-8.—Scab greatly reduced where dipping was adopted; still bad in Kerry, 13699-700, 13721.—Witness did not think there was much in England, 13722.—It could be stamped out, 13723.—Population very largely ignorant of principles of stock keeping and agriculture, and disposed to leave things alone, 13701.—In Donegal sheep ran indiscriminately over the hills, so that small benefit would result from dipping unless universally adopted, 13702.—Order had been issued prohibiting import of sheep into certain northern English counties unless certificated to have been dipped in Ireland, 13703.—Dipping apparatus portable; they started with fixed station, but this was open to objection, so agricultural instructors trained men to dip and supplied them with portable apparatus; sheep dipped at suitable places at charge of 1*d.* per head, of which ½*d.* was returned by Board to dipper, 13704.—Transit expenses allowed at 4*d.* per mile after five miles, 13708.—Machines had been turned over to Department and by them sold to farmers, who now used them; price raised to 1½*d.*, which covered all expenses, 13706, 13709.—Sometimes farmers let out machines as well as using them themselves, 13716-7.—Work on part of Board stopped when agricultural work was transferred to new Department, 13715.—County Councils now doing work with various methods, 13711-2.—Usually rural inspector appointed, who arranged centres, where he went with appliances and gave certificates for dipped sheep; in his absence sheep might be dipped in presence of police constable, 13718.

PIG-BREEDING.

As to pigs, net sum spent was £903, boars sold from 30*s.* to £2 on deferred payment system, with penal sum for non-fulfilment of conditions; pig-breeding in Ireland fluctuated, 13727-8.

POULTRY FARMING AND EGG DISTRIBUTION.

In case of poultry, main work was provision of poultry farms, at cost of about £6,000.—Cocks and hens distributed to small occupiers on condition of distributing eggs to others; 1*d.* afterwards reduced to ½*d.* paid them for every egg given out; latterly small bonus given instead of payment for each egg, 13728.—They could not tell that eggs so given out were used for breeding; there was a good deal of fraud, 13729-30.—System now under County Councils, 13731.—Small farmers had to pay 1*s.* a dozen for eggs, and poultry farmer got a lump sum; greatest number of eggs issued was 130,000 at cost of £548 in 1900, 13732.—They always had pure breeds of poultry; some crosses given out, 13740.—Pure-bred cockerels not too delicate, 13741.

DIFFICULTIES TO BE CONTENDED WITH.

Witness did not think scheme had effected any permanent improvemnt, 13733, 13747, 13756.—One reason was that in selling eggs no more was obtained for large eggs than small, therefore it paid better to keep birds which producing small eggs needed little food, 13741. Witness did not think there was any truth in theory of eggs for breeding being eaten; people were glad to get change of blood, but took to in-breeding again, 13762.—Produce of eggs introduced by Board was nearly always more valuable than native fowls, therefore people sold them and bred from their own; extra price did not pay for extra cost in rearing, 13762-8.

MARKET FACILITIES COULD BE BEST PROVIDED BY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Market facilities and better market system were the crux of situation, 13742, 13748, 13769.—Organisation was required, enabling farmers to get better prices for good articles, 13743.—Remedy lay in action of co-operative poultry societies, 13748, 13754.—Agricultural Organisation Society and Agricultural Department were at work at it, 13745, 13771.—There had been slight improvement, 13770-2.—Where there was a demand for large egg a slight improvement in breed had resulted, 13773.—Different breeds were good

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for eggs and for table purposes, which increased difficulty, 13774-5.—Where chickens were sold as chickens there had been development and maintenance of good stock, but it had no effect on country generally, 13776.

Fattening Station at Carrigart.

In Carrigart district, the Board had started fattening station, with good results, 13734.—Establishment afterwards let at nominal rent with appliances and plant, first tenant gave it up, the next made a living out of it, 13735-9.—In Carrigart district demand from Rosapenna Hotel tended to keep up improved quality of fowl, 13749-52.—Barter tended to interfere with better system, small farmer too much in hands of shopkeepers, 13754-5.—Local traders were opposed to co-operative societies, 13755.

Bee-Keeping.

In Bee-keeping, net expenditure was £1,685; permanent bee expert gave instruction and there were local instructors, hives supplied on deferred payment system, and depôt kept for sale of honey, which just paid expenses; efforts also directed to eradicating foul-brood, 13777.—Many people who kept bees had dropped them, 13778.—Industry might be extended with advantage, but could easily be over-done, Board had been very successful in it, 13780-3.—Honey from Fanad district in Donegal was generally considered the best produced, 13783-4.—Agricultural Department took an interest in bee-keeping and number of County Councils employed instructor; the whole of the time of Mr. O'Brien, formerly attached to Congested Districts Board as instructor, was still given to, people in congested area, 13779.

Agricultural Shows.

As to Agricultural shows, work consisted simply in giving annual grants to shows, amounting, in 1903, to £326; work now done through County Councils and Department, 13784-5.—Small shows did more good than big ones, 13787-8.—Board had tried to encourage principle of giving better grants to particular districts in turn as at Milford and Carrigart, 13789-91.—Witness could not speak of Board's work later than 1903, 13792.

Agricultural Instructors and Example Plots.

Agricultural instructors were allocated to different parts of congested districts, giving advice and instruction, in addition there was system of example plots, 13792.—In regard to selection of instructors Board advertised for applicants, and these were selected provisionally, after interview, by witness, final choice lay with Board, 13793-4, 13811.

Method of Selecting Instructors.

Some belonged to respectable class of small farmers; no literary qualifications necessary, except letter-writing and account-keeping, 13796-7.—Good practical knowledge of agriculture necessary, applicants furnished testimonials from people in their districts, 13797-800.—Came from different places, 13810.—Pay commenced at £70 per annum, rising to £90, 13801.

Area of Work.

Each had a district in which he dealt with example plots, etc., and a wider area for inspection of live stock, 13802, 13805.—Board had three instructors in Donegal at one time, 13803.—Scheme now carried out by County Councils; Department were keeping on certain number of men formerly employed by Board; there was now one instructor in Donegal, 13806-8.—Ten instructors was largest number at any one time, witness had engaged about fifteen or seventeen himself, 13804, 13809.—Not prepared to express a view on method pursued by County Councils, as he now belonged to Department, 13813.—Instructors were largely engaged in sheep-dipping, 13815.

Fencing of Mountain Runs; Loans Issued.

As to fencing, there was scheme in operation in Donegal for fencing mountain runs; 153 loans issued, total amount being £1,818 4*s.* 11*d.*; average worked out at £12 11*s.*; after seven years total amount of arrears was two instalments of £1 5s. each, 13815.—Period of loans varied in proportion to amount, loans exceeding £35 not generally issued to avoid clashing with Board of works, which had fixed that limit, 13852.

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Advantages of Scheme.

Great advantage of scheme, the most effective means of preventing and dealing with sheep-scab, 13817, 13824, 13833.—It was iron-wire fencing, used to fence in mountain-grazing and separate grazing from crops, 13818-9.—Mountain grazing not strictly commonage, but used so; nominal divisions, but sheep allowed to graze over the whole, fences in the arable land insufficient to stop them, therefore people refused to adopt better methods of cultivation, 13820, 13822.—Farmers wished to fence in mountain-grazing, so that each might have his land to himself and sole benefit of his own improvements; some would put on many more sheep than they had a right to, stint of each not always plainly stated in fixing rents, 13820-22.—Fencing stopped quarrelling and litigation, also damage to ewes from being chased by dogs, 13822.—System of great advantage where there were large flats; Department had voted £10,000 towards its continuance they received numerous application for loans, 13832-47.—It would be practicable to fence flat between Dungloe and Doocharry, people would make more use of it fenced than unfenced, 13837-43.—Policy of fencing perfectly sound, there was unanimous testimony to good done, 14884.—Each holding fenced by wiring line of nominal division; sometimes several persons joined to fence bigger area, and received loan in partnership, this often worked well, 13823-4.—They took in graziers when their own stock was insufficient 13826.—All expenses of fencing paid by people, except skilled superintendence of Board's instructor, they had local foremen trained under him who received 3*s.* per day, expense covered by slight addition to cost of fencing, 13826, 13846-7.—There was no regular inspection, fences were the property of tenants, 13829-30.

Maintenance Question.

Life of wire-fence depended on maintenance, some had lasted forty-five years in good state, 13849-50.—Board could not force people to paint, etc., but they generally did it themselves; fences would last longer than period covered by loan, 13851.—It would be a wrong system to force people to maintain fences, they had spent money on putting them up and knew their value, 13853-6.—Preliminary joint undertaking of tenants and proprietor to maintain fences not desirable, there would be difficulty and expense in enforcing it, 13857-61.—Landlords would be foolish to co operate, 13869.

Cost of Fencing.

Cost of fencing was 4¼*d.* to 4½*d.* per yard, *i.e.*, cash for material that was for 3 ft. 9 inches fencing; 2 feet fence was 2½*d.* per yard, 13781-5.

Scotch System.

Protection of grazing was suitable to conditions, fencing expensive, but there was greater tendency to carry out improvements, such as surface-draining when land was fenced, 13862-4.—Policy was opposed to Scotch system, which consisted in jointly employing shepherd, 13833-4.—Difference arose largely from customs of people, they would not easily co-operate, 13867.—Scotch system could still be introduced, as shepherd jointly employed might look after sheep in separate lots as well as if they were running about; it would be a good thing to introduce it gradually, 13835, 13870.—Shepherd necessary in lambing time, 13836.

Potato-Spraying.

As to potato-spraying, agricultural instructors gave instruction in every part of congested districts; people had ample opportunity to learn, 13875.—Two years ago instruction in spraying transferred to Agricultural Department, 13880-1.—In some districts it had fallen off greatly; witness thought three or four years ago two-thirds of people sprayed, in the past season about one third, 13876-8.—This referred to con-

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gested districts of Glenties Union, 13879.—Falling off due to the fact that when there was a good year, people thought there was no need to spray, witness was not aware of complaint that Department did not carry out work as Congested Districts Board had done, 13883-4, 13906.

Provision of Machines and Facilities for Repair.

Spraying machines were better than brooms, as they reached under-surface of leaf, but many of the large number of machines issued by Board lay idle, because people would not take the trouble to remedy the least thing that went out of order, 13885-9.—Board had arranged to send machines for repair to Dublin, at small cost, but people would not even do that, sometimes instructor repaired them, or tried to get people to mend them themselves, 13890, 13947.—If depots were established where necessary parts could be got, they might be more ready to have them repaired, but there was no difficulty about getting local people to keep parts if there were the least demand, 13899-00.—It would be a good thing to get hold of tradesmen in suitable parts and give them instruction in repairing, 13950.—They might have some one to stir up people to get machines put in order before they were needed, provided it was not carried too far, 13948-9.—Witness was not in favour of selling machines below cost price; if people believe in spraying they would not be deterred by cost, 13892, 13940.—One of worst things ever done for Ireland was gratuitous spraying of potatoes, which took place few years ago, 13925.—Hand-spraying machine cost 35*s.*, cart-spraying machines were not suitable to congested districts, 13895, 13897-8.—Four men could join together and easily pay price, 13926.—Great number of machines had been sold at reduced price, 13946.—Cost was not a serious consideration when compared with advantage of two or three extra tons of potatoes, 13927.

Efficacy of Spraying.

Witness thought people were convinced of effectiveness of spraying, 13906, 13910.—He himself had no doubt of it, from personal experience, 13911-14.—Board had done as much as could reasonably be expected in pushing on spraying, 13922.—It should be encouraged by advice and instruction, not by compulsion, 13930-4.

Mixture Used, Testing, etc.

Witness did not think that sulphate of copper, sold in shops for spraying was adulterated, it was so easy to recognise, and samples could be sent to Department for examination, as was advertised in leaflets, 13902-3, 13915.—Board had done same work free of charge, and had very few adulterated samples; dealers did not dream of selling adulterated stuff, 13904.—Any complaints as to bad spraying-mixtures sold probably suggested as an excuse; Board's instructors always advised making mixture instead of buying it ready-made, and showed how to tell good materials, etc., 14016-8.—Stuff sold was not bad, but Board's method better, there were well-known makers, whose mixtures were used; enormous number of people were taught how to make it, so that manufacturers complained, 14019-23.—Ingredients obtained in all districts without difficulty, 14024-7.—It would be much easier to tell bad sulphate from good than to tell bad artificial manure, 14033.

Yellow Blight and Stalk-Disease.

Existence of two other diseases affected spraying, stalk-disease and yellow blight; no effectual method of preventing these, 13895.—In wet years, great harm done by yellow blight, and people, not distinguishing between it and ordinary potato disease, found spraying ineffective, and so condemned it, 13896, 13907.—Witness had seen holdings in West Galway so small that potatoes were grown over and over again, without rotation, 13988.—Had no evidence to show that this induced potato disease, but it was almost certain to produce yellow blight, 13989-92, 13995.—Spraying no use against yellow blight, even to plant potatoes in ground which had not been under potatoes for years did not give immunity, 13997-9.—Yellow blight as frequent in Connemara as the other disease, and stalk-disease also common, 13933-4.—In ordinary seasons yellow blight did not do very much harm, but stopped growth, 14000-2.—It showed fairly early in the year, 14003-4.—Blight had rather extended than diminished since 1891, which was first year when spraying was introduced, but it did not produce same bad results, 13915-6.—Owing to amount of disease this year, spraying would go up next year; fine seasons produced carelessness, 13908, 13935.—People would not assume spraying to be a benefit without having used it, 13918.—In West Ireland spraying told every year, sprayed crops were superior, if not larger, 13919.—Blight was not peculiar to Ireland, but more in proportion to crop, 13936, 13939.—Board had spent about £4,800, not recoverable, in encouraging spraying spread over twelve years, 13941-3.

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Work of Parish Committees.

Witness had had little to do with Parish Committees, understood their principle was to offer inducements to people to do what otherwise they would not do, 13952-4.—They had had too much of prizes, people ought to be taught and not bribed, it would be demoralising to bribe them to spray, 13955-6.—Prize system became bribery, if given simply to bribe people to do what otherwise they would not do, 13957-9.—Strong measures should be taken to avert blight where it was very bad, but it would be impossible to enforce compulsory system, 13962-3.

Effect of Weather on Spraying.

Spraying could be done in bad weather, but was more effective in good; witness had seen Burgundy mixture applied, and remain uninjured by heavy rain, 13964-66.—People were told, how, and under what conditions, to apply mixture, there was no difficulty, 13980-2.—Mixture must be properly applied, and separate solutions mixed immediately before spraying, 13976-8.—Mixture could be prepared in a night, or a year before, 14030.—Ordinary Bordeaux mixture, made of copper sulphate and lime, but Burgundy mixture had soda instead of lime, 13967.—Small holders good judges of weather, would know when Burgundy mixture must be applied, 13879.—Small occupiers could get sufficient good weather to spray, if machines were available, 13968-0.—There should be a machine to every three or four people, 13972.—There was a period of about three weeks when first spraying should be given; spraying period varied from beginning of June in Kerry and Cork to middle of August in the North, 13972, 13983.—It was a fairly busy time, but in Donegal and congested districts generally, other farm operation would not interfere, 13974-5.—Witness had never known a season when it was not possible to spray his crops, 13986.—Instruction in spraying must go on every year, and would do great good; Department's instructors engaged in it, 14029.

Early Potato-Growing.

With regard to early potatoes and market-gardening, Board appointed expert horticulturist and market-gardener, and supplied small quantities of early potatoes to suitable districts; nothing done in way of trade; work of same nature carried on by Department, 14034-5.—April and May frosts a difficulty, but not a fatal one, 14036-8, 14045.—Trade was going on in Bandon district, in Clonakilty, Sligo, and Arran Islands, 14040.—This referred to efforts of Department, 14041.—West of Ireland generally not suitable for potato-culture, but there were districts very suitable, 14043.

Fruit-Culture.

As to fruit-culture, Board's horticulturist supplied fruit-trees, with instructions for cultivation; from 1901-3, numbers sold were: 6,680 apple trees, 538 pear, plum and cherry trees, and over 3,000 currant, raspberry and gooseberry bushes; in most instances fruit intended for domestic consumption, 14046, 14049.—Trees sold at cost price; technical instruction the only cost, 14047-8.—Board continued fruit-culture largely in some districts, 14055.

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PROVISION OF SEEDS AND ARTIFICIAL MANURE.

Seed potatoes and oat seeds supplied at cost price, also suitable artificial manures, till local traders were induced to supply them, 14051-2.—Total quantity of seeds and manures sold amounted to £5,036 in twelve years, and quantity of seed potatoes to £1,800; in 1903 work was transferred to Department of Agriculture, who now only supplied samples of new varieties to be tested, 14052-4.

SALE AND LOAN OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Small store of machinery for sale and loan kept at agricultural instructor's residence, lent out to small occupiers, or sold; Board sold about £2,000 worth; purchased total quantity, £2,679, some of this stock for experimental purposes and lending, 14055.—Satisfactory implements always sold at cost price, 14056.—Facilities much appreciated, especially loans of expensive implements at small charge, 14057, 14061-3.—Board did not desire to do trader's work: it introduced implements, and then handed over work to agents, 14059.—Introduction of machinery induced more thorough method of cultivation, 14060.—Work had now ceased; there had only been eight or ten depôts in congested districts, 14063.

SIZE OF FARM WHICH COULD BE WORKED BY SPADE LABOUR.

In regard to size of holding which could profitably be cultivated with spade alone, witness thought that even on very small holdings in congested districts, where owner did not own a horse it would pay him to hire one or use cattle, 14075-87.—Economy required that plough should come in the moment it could be used; ploughing less efficacious than thorough digging, but people would not dig thoroughly, 10488-9.—Horse could not be kept on holding of two acres, difficult to keep one on holding under £10; on holdings below that it would be hired or interchanged, 14091-2, 14098-00.—There were little holdings among rocks, etc., where cattle or horse could not be used, 14096.—In West Mayo people with holdings of £3 or £4 had a horse, used for carting seaweed, etc., 14100.

PLANTATIONS ON BOARD'S ESTATES.

In forestry, principal work was in connection with Knockboy, it had not been initiated by Board, and was dropped as unsatisfactory; also there was a scheme for encouraging small plantations, trees supplied gratuitously if occupier fenced suitable land; witness could not say how work had succeeded, 14064.

RE-AFFORESTATION.

Soundest system was that of Dr. Schlich whose idea was to purchase stretch of not less than 50,000 acres, not necessarily unoccupied, and take about 5,000 acres at a time, fence it off, and induce people to give up grazing rights by promises of employment, etc., during plantation; having dealt with one area, trees would have developed so as to give further employment and another area would be taken up, thus people would not object to give up grazing rights, 14065-6.—It would be more difficult to purchase, with increased number of small proprietors, there was great prejudice against surrendering grazing-rights, 14068-9.—No attempt of the kind made, to witness's knowledge, 14067.

AMOUNT OF MONEY REQUIRED FOR AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Net expenditure of Congested Districts Board on agricultural work, with which witness was connected, averaged £11,000 per annum; more work would require more money, 14101-3.—Board could have spent more advantageously, but some expenditure might be curtailed, 14104-5.—Assuming Board performed its old work, expenditure might reach £11,000 to £12,000, 14106-7.—In matter of estimating money necessary for agricultural improvements by area test, scattered districts were more expensive to work than a large congested area lying together, Department of Agriculture might be able to say what was their expenditure in proportion to valuation, 14108-11.

PORTER, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

QUESTION OF RESIDENT AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS.

Witness thought a chief agricultural inspector resident in each district would be unnecessary, and would result in disastrous divergence of schemes; agricultural improvement depended chiefly on local instructors, who had greatest influence with the people. 14112-7.

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RUSSELL, Mr. G.

CREDIT FACILITIES FOR SMALL HOLDERS IN THE WEST.

Witness had had general supervision of organising agricultural banks since Irish Agricultural Organisation Society began work in Ireland; had noticed matters affecting life of small farmers in congested districts; branches of local banks were too few to benefit outlying districts, where farmers were obliged to borrow off moneylenders, or obtain loans from banks at great difficuly and expense; usurer, or gombeen man, however, was disappearing, 14118.—This was due to public opinion and establishment of co-operative societies for sale of eggs and purchase of agricultural requirements, also obtaining of cheaper credit, 14119-20.—Farmers needed flexible system of credit, as farming was so uncertain; in West of Ireland there were large joint stock banks, well-conducted, but their system was not sufficiently flexible; interest on small loans was high and they did not cater for small farmers; borrowing attended by expense in travelling, "treating" sureties, etc.; in one case, incidental expenses and interest amounted to 42 per cent.; system of three or four months' bills quite unsuitable for small farmers, who frequently required eight or nine months to get return for money, 14121.

LOAN FUND SOCIETIES.

Loan Fund Societies were established over the country, a central office in Dublin and about 120 branches supervised by Charitable Loan Funds Board; danger of system fully exposed by report of Commission of Inquiry, 14121-2.—Amount of funds small, negligible as means of meeting farmers' necessities, 14123-6.

LOCAL MONEY LENDERS.

Local money lenders deducted 1*s.* to 4*s.* from every pound lent, repayable in weekly or monthly instalments; money lender often a publican, 14121, 14126.

MOCK AUCTIONS.

Farmers driven to extraordinary devices, such as "Mock" auctions; they drove cattle to market, one man offered them for sale as if he were owner, others bid up to a good price, auctioneer would pay cash to supposed seller, and give credit to supposed buyer, men drove cattle back and divided money, less various discounts, interest, and fees, 14126.—Auctioneer got as many names as possible to back bill, which he got when he gave credit, received interest, auction fees and discount, eventually sold up man if he could not pay, 14133-4.—Some such sales were genuine, but in Ulster they were used mainly as means of raising money, 14135.—Buyer and seller often shared money between them; men would borrow money from bank, one being ostensible borrower, but dividing money on joint responsibility, 14136.—Trust Auctions really worse than gombeen system, 14127.—Such conditions offered excellent field for introduction of agricultural banks, 14128-9.—System had spread from congested districts into Meath and Cavan and might go further, was doing great harm in Ulster, 14130-3.—In many districts it was ruinous in operation; men would auction crops in the ground; one man had raised £75 on a single cow by pretending to sell it at various auctions, 14130.

Shop Credit.

Worst result of lack of cheap money was running up long bills, high prices and high interest added to goods given on credit so frequently as to make introduction of new system desirable; 25 per cent. added for six months' credit not uncommon, 14130.—Tremendous difference between payment by cash and deferred payment, 14131.

Barter System.

Barter system also an evil; tradesmen took eggs and allowed so much off groceries, etc., in amount booked; in many parts of Ireland egg was current coin, 14131.—Farmers lost on all barter of agricultural produce for groceries, etc., 14136.

Agricultural Banks.—Principle on which Banks were organised.

Agricultural banks and societies introduced by Irish Agricultural Organisation Society as remedy; system adopted known as the Raiffeisen, most suitable for small farmers; method was to join number of small farmers together, thus creating large security, and enabling them to borrow a large sum of money at low rates; this was lent out to members through Committee elected by themselves; system established in congested districts by aid of Congested Districts Board; societies registered under Friendly Societies Act, permitting unlimited responsibility; generally found possible to borrow money at 3 or 4 per cent., and lend it to members at one penny per pound per month, 14136.—Societies managed by committee, who admitted members and granted loans; small entrance fee charged; area restricted generally to a parish; members whose circumstances were unknown to committee not admitted, 14138, 14166.—Banks had no capital to start with, when a man joined he became responsible to unlimited extent for debts of society, 14299.—Procedure of admission—seven men applied to Registrar of Friendly Societies for registration, these were chosen at first public meeting and afterwards admitted others; organiser must ascertain that these seven were trustworthy, and they could refuse to admit any one they did not trust, 14301.—These official members took their share of joint and several liability; finest thing in system was willingness to take responsibility on behalf of neighbours, 14302.—Witness lookeed to an important future for system, in ten years there might be between two and three thousand societies in Ireland, 14304.

Source of Funds.

Money in congested districts obtained from (*a*) local deposits—people who had a little money to spare deposited it with local society and received interest; (*b*) advances from Congested Districts Board in small sums of £50 to £100 at 3 per cent., as a nucleus of capital, total sum advanced in this way being £6,430; (*c*) Joint Stock Banks, 14136-7.—Banks, with one exception, willing to lend money to properly constituted societies within their areas at 4 per cent. on overdraft, 14138.—Department of Agriculture voted £10,000 in its first year towards capitalising agricultural banks; amount lent out to societies in poor districts in the same way Board had done, 14286.—Board had advanced in few cases as much as £200, but Department did not allow more than £100 to banks outside congested districts, 14287.—The Board had always been most enlightened with regard to banks in the West, 14288.

Security for Advances.

Advances not made except to members of society; insistence on good character created security; interest charged very low; not deducted beforehand, but payable whenever loans or instalments were repayable, 14189.—Agricultural Banks generally opened account with nearest branch of a Joint Stock Bank, 14141-2.

Conditions on which Advances were made.

Application for loans made on forms, stating length of time required, purposes, etc.; Committee might alter length of time, or amount, if unsuitable, time allowed and method of repayment adapted to purposes, and farmer's needs met in every way; if repayment was by instalments, interest was only charged on money which borrower had actually had the use of; greatest care exercised in management; Committee knew a bad debt meant a levy among members; money only lent for productive or profitable purposes, or for saving to borrower, 14140.—Purposes for which loan was required must be such as, in committee's opinion, would enable borrower to make profit and pay society back; to serve on committee was education in business methods for farmers; borrowers were safeguarded from making bad investments, their sureties were bound with them for repayment and to see sum applied to specified purpose, 14143.

Question of Sureties.

Two local sureties had to be provided, not necessarily members of society, 14144-5.—Witness did not think this an excrescence upon Raffeisen system, it inspired confidence, he would not like to be responsible for starting association without sureties, 14146-52.—Sureties got no advantage, they were prepared to go bail, perhaps in hope borrower would go bail for them another time, 14147, 14153-4.—Clergymen or landlord might be surety for tenant; small farmers could not get money so cheaply from ordinary bank, even with landlord's security, 14157-8.—Witness wanted to make system absolutely safe, having advised both Board and Department of Agriculture to advance money; sureties were necessary as extra security, 14159, 14164.—If a man could not get two sureties he would not like him to borrow, 14160.—They were not a source of expense to borrower as under old system, 14162-3.—If borrower failed to meet obligation co-operative bank could recover from sureties if it chose, 14165.—Feeling of responsibility on part of committee not lessened by having sureties; Witness always explained carefully all obstacles in way of a call on score of unlimited liability, 14168.—Committee was responsible to bank for making good its loan, and sureties were responsible to committee, 14169.—Committee had discretion to accept one surety only, or to accept security instead of surety, in cases of complete confidence to lend without any sureties; it was not advisable to accept land as security, 14170.

Recovery of Debts.

If borrower could not pay at specified time through misfortune committee would suspend proceedings for a reasonable time, 14173.—Proportion of proceedings for recovery on default very small, 14174.—Borrower or sureties had always paid up, 14175.—Witness had not statistics of bad debts, thought there might have been a dozen in all societies together, 14176.—Bank accounts audited every year, 14178.

Extent of Operations.

Number of banking societies in congested districts of which statistics were available at end of year 1905 was 84, membership, 5,056, loan capital, £15,185, of which £6,430 was advanced by Board; £6,520 was local deposits, and £2,235 was obtained through bank overdrafts, that was, at time of audit, 14179-81, 14244.—Number of loans granted in 1905 was 3,352, total amount, £14,331, average being £4 5*s*., working expenses £68, or about 18*s*. per bank; net profit during year, £186 13*s*. 5*d*.

Reserve Fund.

Reserve fund amounted to £288 1*s*. 7*d*.; societies did not aim at large profits, small amount of margin between interest paid and received went to reserve fund, 14190, 14244.—Reserve of accumulated profits at end of December, 1905, for societies in congested districts was £288 1*s*. 7*d*., 14192.—This was not transferred to joint stock bank, but became part of capital, called free capital, and subject to same risks as other capital; it was a guarantee practically, because the money was there, 14196, 14200.—As societies went on reserve mounted up and created free capital, on which no interest was paid and which could be used to lend money at even lower rates; in twenty-five years all societies would have large free capital; liability, but also membership, was increased, 14202.—There were twenty-seven agricultural societies, with membership of 3,129 and turnover of £7,155 in 1905; twenty-six co-operative dairies, either wholly or partly working in congested districts, with membership of 5,975, and turnover of £84,337, these added to credit societies made total of 137 co-operative societies working in congested districts, with membership 14,150 and trade turnover of £105,823, 14268.—Borrowing was very necessary to farmers, and rather a good sign if for productive purposes, 14262.—System was spreading rapidly inside congested districts as well as outside, 14265, 14271.—Witness would give figures from reports of Society with reference to loans, etc., added yearly; could give similar table for rest of Ireland, separating congested districts, 14258, 14265.—Amount of capital in banks outside congested areas was larger than inside, 14267.—Not more than 5 per cent. of members of banks would be members of creameries; there were two creameries only established in connection with banks, 14270.—Farmers in poor districts were more inclined to start banks, relief was so much greater, 14273.

AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL ADVANCES.

Some loans were very small, £1 or £2; they were generally only for a year, mostly to buy young pigs, 14245-6.—Hard to realise great advantage to small farmers of receiving loan of two or three pounds at reasonable interest, 1425.—Number of members were clergymen and schoolmasters, who came as members of committee and did not need loans, 14248. —Amount of local deposit very satisfactory, showing confidence created, depositors might be members of society or not, 14181-3.

INTEREST ON DEPOSITS.

Interest paid, 3, 3½, or 4 per cent., 14184.—Average rate allowed on deposit by joint stock banks in same district 1½ per cent., 14185.—Members could generally invest a few pounds more profitably in own business than in agricultural banks, 14186.—Small farmers very poor, if sometimes daughters received large dowries there was considerable juggling over it, 14186-9.—Much money could not be expected from local sources; for some time agricultural banks must depend on aid given by Board and overdrafts from joint stock banks, 14190.—An occasional instance of bad debt might be met out of reserve fund, 14191.—Most necessary that societies should be closely looked after during first few years and good business tradition created.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, in addition to organisation and instruction, provided rules, ledgers, forms, etc., free of expense and audited accounts; in return a small affiliation fee was payable; societies not advised to start on large scale at first, demand for money might be miscalculated, etc., and sums lie idle; establishment of societies tended to make low rate of interest prevail, 14202.—Small societies had practically no balance at banks, all money was lent out, if depositor wanted to get out deposit at once they used bank overdraft, 14203-4.

WITHDRAWAL OF DEPOSITS—NOTICE REQUIRED FOR LARGE SUMS.

Small sums paid on demand, in case of large deposits notice was required, 1420.—Notice nominally a fortnight, but in case of £50 or £60 deposit special terms, perhaps for three months' notice, were made, 14207.

ADVANTAGES OF BANKS.

To certain extent loans were immensely profitable to farmers; profits varied from 100 to 200 per cent. on outlay; desirable that farmers should be responsible to each other and not to local traders; sense of mutual responsibility was essence of system; societies had been started in poorest districts, and while in two or three instances Irish Agricultural Organisation Society had advised winding-up a society, in no case had there been loss to members or depositors, 14207.—There had never been a call on score of joint and several liability; banks were of great use and steadily growing, 14241.—Instance of good results obtained, one society in Mayo had been means of closing two drinking-shops, as no member found guilty of drunkenness was permitted to receive loan; if Board withdrew aid and Irish Agricultural Organisation Society could not continue work of supervision, etc., banks would lapse into easy-going methods and general lack of confidence result, 14242-4.

RELATIONS WITH TRADERS.

Societies anxious to get power to buy seeds, manures, etc., as in Continental system, 14209.—Might come into conflict with local dealers, but it was absolutely necessary to bring down prices, 14210. —Strong feeling on part of small traders against societies, but it was diminishing, farmers becoming more prosperous had more to spend, 14211.—There was not much hostility to banks so long as they simply lent money, but great hostility to their starting other forms of co-operative industries, 14216-9.—Traders sometimes gave assistance; there were instances where they had become members of societies, 14219.—Banks were really thrift societies as well, 14213-5.—Some towns in Ireland in decaying condition; witness thought there was no connection between that and establishment of agricultural banks and societies; decay was general decay of country; in a few cases butter markets had suffered from starting of co-operative societies, 14223.—There would be diminution in demand for dairy utensils in these districts, 14224.

OVERLAPPING OF CREAMERIES.

Organisation society controlled establishment of creameries, 14225.—With regard to complaint of establishing a creamery in Donegal, and subsequent establishment of another within prescribed limits, there had been an organiser in that district who did not give satisfaction, 14227-8, 14231, 14240.—Overlapping gave great trouble; farmers in one district would refuse to send milk to creamery in neighbouring district and start one of their own; a five mile limit might be reasonable, 14227.—Society had often refused to organise creameries where they thought them undesirable, but farmers could start them themselves; society advanced no money to creameries, 14230.—Organiser explained system of dealing, profits, etc., and tried to get sufficient share capital; experts then might find suitable place for creamery, furnish plans and specifications, advise as to book-keeping, etc., 14231.—There was nothing to prevent other people taking advantage of instruction and starting rival creamery, 14234.—If society refused affiliation, farmers could register themselves free of expense with Registrar of Friendly Societies and start without their assistance, 14235.—Out of 400 creameries number started against Society's wishes might be ten or twelve, 14236.—If two were started in district which could only support one, milk supply became too small and one must collapse, 14237-8.—Therefore also butter could not be put on the market at price to compete with foreign butter, 14239-40.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

With regard to assistance in establishing banks, Congested Districts Board had paid expenses of one organiser operating in congested districts; they selected and controlled him, but had no means of personal supervision; witness would prefer system by which society received a subsidy from Board and employed their own organisers, furnishing their expenses up to that amount, it would be cheaper for the Board, 14274-82.—There was at present a statement of their views before the Board, 14276.—Bank was entitled to receive support from the Board if organiser could get in a district thirty-five members at least; a report was sent in to Congested Districts Board, or to Department, showing number of members, conditions, etc., and they used their discretion, 14295.—Fixed rules would be inadvisable, it was a matter of discretion, influenced by report of organiser sent to investigate, 14296-7.—Organiser very experienced, would soon know if men were reliable, 14300.

RUSSELL, Mr. G.—*continued.*

Improvement needed in Trading Operations in the West.

Three methods of improving condition of small farmers—(*a*) enlargement of holdings; (*b*) technical instruction and improvement of means of production; (*c*) improvement in means of trading, which was most important, 14282.—In matter of poultry, for instance, farmers would not pay attention to improving breed unless this were followed by improved prices; transit would largely be settled by buying and selling in bulk, 14283.—Witness was anxious that farmers should cease to buy on credit from shops and have opportunity of obtaining loans, buying implements, seeds, etc., and selling produce through medium of societies, 14284A.—Thought when they paid cash for requirements, they could make a fairly good bargain, 14285. Efforts made by Board, which did not take into account necessity of complete change of trading system must result in disappointment; witness had examined prices in Galway and also in parish in Connemara, thirty miles off, and found an increase of from 50 to 100 per cent.; calculated that farmers were being allowed by local traders only 3*d*. worth of value for every shilling's worth of produce, 14284.

Educational Effect of Banks.

With regard to educational benefits resulting, they had found men who did not even know what interest was, who afterwards became very progressive, in many cases establishment of agricultural societies followed, 14290.—It was a usual thing for farmers to be in debt, by this system they were gradually helped out of it, 14305-7.

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WRENCH, Right Hon. F. S.

Experience of Witness.

Witness was an Estates Commissioner, and had been for many years member of Congested Districts Board, having been appointed to represent agriculture on formation of Board, and only giving up membership when appointed Estates Commissioner, 14309-10.—Had farmed all his life, on his own account and for other people in several different counties of Ireland, 14325-6, 14417.

Land Purchase Work of Board.

Witness visited, from time to time, estates taken up by the Board for the relief of congestion, etc., such work, being new, was naturally slow at first, and, up to 1898, lands so dealt with amounted to only 15,000 acres, witness therefore, feeling it necessary to secure some larger estates, approached Lord Dillon, whose estate had long been in unsatisfactory condition, and the Dillon Estate was purchased shortly afterwards, 14310.

Land Purchase, not at first contemplated, found later to be necessary.

It was not intended at first that Board should deal with land purchase, necessity was forced upon them, purchase and improvement of estates being bound up with relief of congestion, 14311-14317. 14327, 14356.—Board had too many calls on its income from beginning, hence it was not considered how far enlargement of holdings might involve purchase, 14347-8.—First idea was that land could be dealt with, and people in congested districts elevated, without disturbing the relationship of landlord and tenant, 14318.—It became apparent that this could not be affected without transfer of ownership from landlord to tenant; general feeling was in favour of transfer, 14319-20.

Doubt as to Board's Power to Purchase.

Question of purchase forced itself on Board, and they were of opinion that scarcely any progress could be made without power to purchase; their possession of such power was doubtful, 14322-4, 14349-50.—At a meeting, with Mr. Balfour in the chair, it was decided to purchase landed estates, Board's powers being such as they were, 14351.—Purchasing powers had been definitely conferred on Board by Act of 1896, to which the Ffrench Estate gave rise, 14357-9.—Board's first proposal was for the Ffrench Estate; the attempt being successful, brought on others, 14321.

Provision of Funds for Purchase Purposes.

Up to 1896 land could only be bought with Board's income, and no advance for the purpose obtained from Land Commission, 14360-1.—Power of getting money for purchase from Land Commission was given in 1896, 14363.—With regard to guarantee deposit required by Land Commission previous to 1894, witness thought this guarantee first came into operation on purchase of Dillon Estate, 14364.

Difficulty of Migration without Purchase, Migration Specifically Contemplated.

Congested Districts Board Act specifically contemplated migration, 14329-0.—It was not clearly indicated what Board's functions were for that purpose, 14331.—Witness was member of Land Commission (having been appointed in 1887), when Congested Districts Board Bill was brought in, but could not remember whether Land Commissioners were consulted on the problem of migration, 14332-4, 14344.—Object of Bill was to establish a Board to elevate people, who were existing tenants of existing landlords, 14336-7.—When considering whether to deal with an estate, Board did not first ascertain whether estate had been purchased or not, 14338.—Migration was not discussed at this time, Board did not think it a practical remedy, 14339-41.

Powers and Duties of Board.

With regard to powers and duties of Board under the Act, witness did not think he had ever read over duties conferred on them; at first meeting Mr. Balfour laid down and discussed their duties, 14342, 14346.

Condition of Swinford Union and Port Royal Estate.

Before starting to investigate doings of German Colonization Commission witness and Mr. H. Doran went through great part of Swinford Union, a miserably poor part of Ireland, where the land and migratory labour provided only means of support; and also inspected Port Royal Estate, which had been recently purchased by Congested Districts Board; witness had never seen in Poland or Russia houses so wretched as some of those on Port Royal Estate; the Board's efforts, with those of Mother M. Bernard, and the Parish Committees started by Father O'Hara, had been productive of good, but up to 1898, only the fringe of the question had been touched; at Board's rate of progress at that time, it would take several generations to produce marked effect in purchase and re-distribution of estates; witness thought progress might be accelerated by actually getting hold of a big estate, 14365, 14368-70.—This led up to purchase of Dillon Estate, 14371, 14381.

Defects and Advantages in Constitution of Board as compared with a Department.

Slow progress was perhaps inevitable with a Board so constituted, that was, not of business people; it was more difficult for a Board to carry out work than for a Department, 14365, 14373, 14383.—Had Board been a Government Department, work would have been much quicker, but probably such a body would not have been so efficient for its purpose, 14384-5.—Department had this advantage that it was in daily touch with its officials 14389-90.—There was considerable legal difficulties in the Act of 1891 itself, 14388.—Even after passing of Act of 1896, there was no provision for sale by Board of holdings to occupiers under £10; this rendered progress difficult, 14375-6, 14379.—The enabling Act was passed subsequently, 14377-8.—Witness regarded Congested Districts Board as having an intimate knowledge of the country; some members did not profess knowledge of the land question, 14391-2.—Witness had never been in contact with Board with such knowledge of congested districts, 14394-5.—Constitution of Board was the same as when originally formed, though *personnel* had changed, 14396.

Representative of Agriculture on Board.

Witness represented agriculture, did not think there was such a representative now, 14397, 14400, 14413.—There were two permanent official members, of whom witness was one, 14398-9.—In place of a member of Land Commission representing agriculture on the Board, the Under-Secretary was named under legislation of 1903, this was only real change, 14401—Father O'Hara was appointed temporary member, not specially to represent agriculture, but was placed on Agricultural Committee; at first Board was worked by number of small committees, afterwards every one was put on every committee, 14402, 14408.—Father O'Hara and witness were on the Board at the same time, 14409.—Witness was not aware that section of Act of Parliament reading:—"t shall be lawful for His Majesty to appoint one or more persons, not exceeding three, to be temporary members of the Board for the purpose of the business of the Board relating to fisheries, agriculture, or other special matters" appeared in Father O'Hara's warrant, though he remembered it in his own warrant, 14403.—In 1895 Father O'Hara succeeded Colonel Peacocke, the first temporary member, who was an engineer, 14410-2, 14422.—Witness believed Father O'Hara knew a great deal about agriculture, he was an acute and keen observer, and his knowledge of local conditions was useful to Board, witness used to discuss questions with him, 14414-6, 14418-9.—As to temporary members, the idea was to have members from different districts succeeding one another; they had the same voting powers as others, 14420-1.—Did not come necessarily from congested district, 14422.

Number of Meetings of Board.

Board met once a month in full, and Committees on two days, they had, as a rule, three days a month; special meetings of Board and Committee were summoned when required, 14404-7.

Difficulty in Improving Estates not purchased.

In dealing with congestion, definite propositions to be borne in mind were; (*a*.) desirability that either tenants should have purchased their holdings, or Board have purchased the estate, before effecting improvements out of public funds; in addition to difficulty of allocating improvements should the case come before the Courts for fixation of fair rents, there was inherited distrust in tenant's mind that landlord would take advantage of improvements, and public improvements could not be turned to same account as if made on land where occupier regarded himself as owner, 14423.—The term "allocation of improvements" expressed idea that difficulty might arise in saying what was fair to allow tenant for what he had done when improvements had been carried out both by Board and tenant, while relations between landlord and tenant were controlled by Act of 1881, 14424-5.—Tenant might possibly get credit for improvements effected by public money; in absence of statement that visible improvements had been made by Board, the inspector must allow their value to tenant, as against landlord, 14426-9.—This would not be to detriment of landlord, since he had not made improvements; as far as Board was concerned that was how they spent their money, 14430-1.—Under Act of 1881, landlord could bring tenant into court at end of fifteen years to get increased rent; if tenant had made improvements, he would urge that plea; witness did not recollect any illegal claims having been made to increase rent on tenant's improvements, 14432-5, 14441.—Or on those effected by Congested Districts Board, 14442.—Tenants might believe that landlords would attempt to increase rent in view of Board's improvements, 14436-7.—In case of newly-drained land no doubt land would be more valuable, drainage might be accepted as improvement affecting claim to rent, 14438-9.—There was a danger, if improvements were made before purchase, of such improvements going into rent, 14440.—Sub-Commission, in fixing rent, did so, on value of holding at moment of view, 14443.—If, fifteen years ago, a property had no arterial drainage, rent would be fixed according as Commission found the land; if, during interval Board opened up arterial drainage, Sub-Commission would put a higher value on land, 14444-5.—Drainage would affect character of land, in time, but not at once, 14458.—What must be done in each case was to fix rent of land as it stood, then take off value of improvements to arrive at a fair rent, 14446.—Witness had valued cases that were before Sub-Commission before he was appointed Commissioner, 14448-9.—Procedure was that Land Commissioner valued land as he found it, on assumption that all improvements were landlord's; afterwards tenant proved his own improvements in court, in order that their value might be deducted, 14451-4.—It ought not to be possible for court to suppose that landlord was entitled to higher rent in virtue of Board's improvements, but there might exist some confusion in the mind of person deciding, 14455-7.

Productiveness of Land under Grass and under Tillage.

A second point to be borne in mind was (*b*) that land at present in tenants' hands could, by proper drainage and cultivation, be made to produce at least double its present production; also (*c*) that productive power of certain class of land under cultivation, was far greater than that of same land under grass, 14458.—Cultivation of course included sufficient manuring; this raised the question of stock, 14459-61.—If fifty acres of such land as witness meant were properly worked, enough green crops might be grown to feed large number of cattle; this would be more profitable than grass, 14462.—On holding of thirty acres, if one half were tilled and the other half kept as grass, it would be possible to carry as many head of cattle as if one half had not been tilled; especially where, as so often the case, grass was neglected and unmanured, 14465.—Effect of cultivation would be to put larger quantity of manure on the fifteen acres left under grass, 14466.—This implied better system of agriculture, which was one of Board's objects, 14467-8.

Price of Land.—Landlord ought to get his Net Income.

Another point (*d*) was that many owners of tenanted and of grazing lands in or near congested districts would be inclined to sell if they felt that they would be fairly treated, 14468.—This was written in 1898, and as to price, witness agreed with principle admitted by Land Conference that owner ought to get a sum which, invested at reasonable interest, depending on district, would bring him in his net income, 14473-5, 14571.—This was best basis for purchase, though not basis the Estates Commissioners could approach at present, 14572.—In buying tenanted land landlord's annual income ought to be considered, 14566.—Question would be determined by landlord's books in extreme cases; income might cease some day; in ordinary cases net income would be determined by observations over a series of years, thus avoiding securing a person permanently an income which had been uncertain, 14476-7, 14479.—Given such terms people would not require compulsion, but in compulsory cases witness would give vendor at least his net income, if not more, 14480.—Much could be done both by purchasing grazing lands to be divided into suitable holdings for migration, and by buying untenanted estates and adopting lines of German colonisation, with resident manager to bring about better system of cultivation and to direct improvements, such as increased supply of manure, 14481.

Sub-Division.

Supervision of estates might become necessary if reports were true of holdings on purchased estates being divided; it might also be advisable to take powers to enable Board of Works to advance money for approved co-operative purposes, 14481.—Subdivision might be stopped by annual inspection, not much had been done about checking it at present, but in places like Rosmuck sub-division practically created a rabbit-warren, and strong measure should be taken to suppress it where existing, 14482-4.—Sometimes land was divided and separate dwelling erected, sometimes out-office used for house; the resul was that there was less land to use and an increase of poorer houses, 14487-90.—With regard to powers of checking it, the question had been brought before Land Commission, but no actual steps taken, 14491-2.—There were statutory powers regulating it in fair rent courts by Act of 1903, but they were difficult to put into operation, 14493-6.—No regular inquiries had been made by Land Commission or by Congested Districts Board as to extent of prevalence; there was a system of police reports, 14497-9.—Witness had heard that there was much sub-division in Lettermullen; it existed chiefly in such poor district like this was fishing, kelp, and some peat trading, 14600-1.—All along Spiddal coast turf trade was the great thing, 14602.—Large family looked upon as a fortune in Connemara, where people depended largely upon peat trade and kelp burning, 14603.—It increased a man's wealth to keep his sons at home, but often young men could make better living by going to America or other parts, 14604.—Where work was fishing, etc., family got on better if sons stayed at home, 14605.

Fishing Village suggestion.

It might be possible for Board to keep land on which to build a little village, but it would not be wise to create a lot of houses which, if fish disappeared, might become vacant, 14608-10.—Such a fishing village might be desirable in some localities, 14611-2, 14619.—In case of building village to avoid sub-division, Board, rather than people, ought to build and lay out area, 14614.—People in these places were not exactly farmers, 14615-6.—Sub-division caused a great deal by marriage of sons; it would be a sounder policy to develop fishing industry than to try to make such people farmers, 14618-20.

Purchase of Dillon Estate.

In order to test witness's land purchase recommendations he suggested approaching Lord Dillon as to price of his estate in County Mayo, valued at £20,000 a year and occupied by between 3,000 and 4,000 tenants, 14499.—It appeared that Lord Dillon regarded £13,000 as outside annual net income; in this estate not much could be done to enlarge holdings, but substantial improvements were possible; Lord Dillon asked £300,000 and accepted £294,000, 14500, 14504, 14515a, 15115-8, 15123-8.—It was a bad estate then and a poor one even now, 14505, 14514.—Board got the house and demesne thrown in, 14507.—Witness and Mr. Doran were shown estate books, net income they took on Lord Dillon's statement; they had negotiations with his solicitor, 14508-11.—Every facility for verification of statements had been given by Lord Dillon, 14580.—Witness thought he was absolute owner of estate, 14513a.—Estate was fully tenanted at time of purchase; the landlord's interest was merely the income which Lord Dillon received from estate; they did not purchase tenant-right, as land belonged to tenants, 14516-20.

Value of Landlord's Interest and Tenant-Right.

Untenanted land was more valuable than tenanted, 14519-20, 14538-40, 14547.—Tenanted holding not valued in the same way valuer would say what it would pay tenant to give for it, 14542.—Untenanted land might be worse in quality, and yet more given for it than for tenanted, 14543.—Tenanted land was subject to an interest from which untenanted was free, 14553-4.—In many places tenant's right considered as the double of landlord's, 14562-3.—There could be no certain rule for fixing relative interest of the two, 14565.—Landlord by marking out untenanted land into plots and putting them up to auction might get fabulous prices if there were free market, 14568-70.—There was pretty free market for tenant who wanted to sell; of course tenants paid above price of land where demand exceeded supply, 14575-6.—In purchase of holdings rights would be bought of both landlord and tenant, 14522.—Value of tenant-right depended on circumstances of holdings, in some cases a tenant-right might sell for ten times landlord's interest, there was no fixed principle about it, 14524-7.—When Board bought untenanted land they bought it as it stood at what they considered its value; it must be remembered there was a free market for tenant-right; interests of holding generally put up to auction, 14528-30.—Landlord, if he did the same, would not have a bidder, 14531-2.—Witness could give concrete example of price of tenanted and untenanted lands; on Lord Clanmorris's Estate Estates Commissioners paid £62,840 for 4,047 acres of untenanted land, at £15 10*s*. per acre, and £63,406 for 5,350 acres of tenanted land, at £11 17*s*. per acre, 14533-5.—22 years' purchase given for tenanted land, and 28·06 for untenanted, not on rental, but on tenement valuation; the difference between two numbers would be value of tenants' right; it was difficult to work out what it was worth, 14549-50, 14557-61.—For the rent they gave 23·7 years' purchase, 14552.—Tenants on Clanmorris Estate worked land well, 14545.

Valuation as Test of Value.

Too much faith must not be put in Government valuation known as Griffith's valuation, because it varied in different places, being carried out at different periods, 14555-6.—Government valuation of Kerry very low compared to rental of land, because Kerry, one of the first counties dealt with by Sir R. Griffith, the valuation, generally speaking, was no guide at all, 14583-4.—This arose from lapse of time and difference which had occurred in values, famine had intervened, there was striking difference between this valuation and actual value, 14585, 14990-1.—Great improvements had been made, but valuation had never been altered, 14586-7.—It was no test of letting value now, 14987-8.—Land Commissioners omitted it in their returns as being unreliable, 14989.—Famine made a great difference in the way of valuation; counties valued first were valued lowest, 14994.—Witness did not know conditions on which Clanmorris Estate was valued, etc., 14992.—Did not think that before Famine pasure land was valued low and tillage high and afterwards the reverse, because Armagh, a tillage county, was about the highest in Ireland, 14996.—Griffith stated that his valuation was about 25 per cent. on the average different then; thus it would not represent letting value sixty years ago, 14997-8.—Second term rents nowadays were often below and often above Griffith's valuation, 14999-0.—Prices of stock no doubt higher now than those used by Griffith for valuation in Kerry, 14588-90.—Prices were officially published, 14589.—Cost of labour and production had gone up, 14591.

Importance of Industries.

At time of purchase of Dillon Estates witness reported to Government on German Government's scheme of colonisation in Polish provinces, calling attention to methods adopted for improving agricultural districts; witness had been employed in efforts to relieve congestion for sixteen years and had specially observed lace-making industry of Erris district of Mayo, where last year amount received by lace workers was £6,158; total valuation of district being £4,800, 14580-2.

Three Classes of Congested Districts.

There were three classes of congested districts—(1) inland mountainous estates, such as parts of Kerry and Donegal, with little or no untenanted land fit for agriculture; (2) those lying along Atlantic shores, where people earned living by fishing, etc., and cultivated little holdings for use of own families, such as Island of Gorumna, and promontories of Lettermullen and Lettermore; (3) chiefly agricultural, where holdings had been held in rundale and are capable of improvement, such as Dillon Estate, 14582.

Change in System of collecting Returns of Prices.

Only change in Irish valuation was on buildings, but in 1891 totally different system had been started of collecting prices; prices now published by Agricultural Department were based on actual sales, before then more or less guess work, 14593.—Present system of getting returns from fairs and markets was started with help of Sir R. Giffen about 1887; Department now sent out weekly returns of markets, and prices were based on actual transactions, 14594-5.—Fluctuations would take place in price of stock, for instance, if Canadian cattle were admitted, 14596-7.

WRENCH, Right Hon. F. S.—*continued.*

Reclamation of Inferior Land.

Class I. (in witness's division of estates) was capable of little improvement, as reclamation of peaty land was generally unsuccessful; improvements in dwellings, fences, etc., possible, but such estates to be approached with caution, 14624.—Witness did not believe in reclaiming large tracts of bog, a great deal of small reclamation had been done and was beneficial, 14625-7.—This generally done by people cutting out bog near their holdings; about two feet of it above gravel had to be left, 14630-2.—Occasionally top-soil reclaimed, but a sounder method was to leave sufficient bog to mix with sub-soil, this made fair land, 14633-4.—Great deal of this land more fit for grazing; it was hardly fit to live on and could not grow good crops, except sometimes potatoes, but would graze fair number of cattle, where not too wet, 14628, 14635.—Much could be done by surface draining, 14636.—Rough drainage need not prevent cattle being put on, 14637-8.—Whether peaty soil could be reclaimed depended on nature of sub-soil and lie of land, deep bog might be worth it, 14639-40.—Pure turf bog made miserable holdings, some acres of good land with it were a different thing, 14641-2.—To depend on bog holdings alone would be fatal, and the encouragement of people to reclaim them a mistake, 14643.

Development of Trades and Industries as Remedy.

Most hopeful remedy for Class II. was the development of prevalent trades and industries, as done by the Congested Districts Board, 14624.—Some of family being employed in lace-making, etc., made great difference; people became more prosperous and civilised, 14645.—It was not civilised that animals and people should occupy one room; girls after going to classes, tried to improve home surroundings, 14646-7.—Perhaps industries could not be introduced to really touch population amounting to 175,000, but Board had done a great deal; it was difficult to do more than had been done or to introduce any fresh form of industry, 14651-2.—Not much more than had been done could be looked for, 14653, 14656.—In spots where there were accessories, such as fishing, cottage industries, etc., the western peasants lived better life than those inland, who depended entirely on small holdings; for the former, a small increase of land which might tempt them to try to live on land alone would be questionable benefit, 14624.

Improvement of Holdings.

Remedies available for Class III. were striping of rundale holdings, drainage, especially where dynamite blasting of rocks, etc., was necessary; instruction in better agriculture, growth of forage crops, and so on, fencing of cattle and sheep runs; tenants of large holdings could be migrated and holdings left vacant amalgamated; dislike to migration tended to become a less formidable obstacle, 14644.

Agricultural Instruction.

As to agricultural instruction, witness could not speak of Board's work during last three years, but thought what had been done ought to be continued; example plots and the growing of different varieties of potatoes for people's instruction had done great good, 14677.—All this was essential in congested districts, 14678.

Carpet Industry.

Board had taken up Mr. Morton's suggestion that they should offer him facilities for starting carpet industry in Ireland and it was introduced, 14657.—There were four factories, a small grant was made for building; there was no subsidy now, 14658-9.—Witness was not aware that carpet industry was only one now unassisted by Board; did not know that stocking industry of Glenties had ever been subsidised, 14660-1.

Foxford Woollen Industry.

Foxford had been largely subsidised at first, but not now; some of subsidy, witness thought, had been refunded; loan was certainly repaid, 14661-4.

WRENCH, Right Hon. F. S.—*continued.*

Question as to how long Industries should continue to be assisted.

As to having now given nursing of industries a fair chance, it would be a pity for Board to cease their efforts; teaching of classes, machinery for selling produce, etc., must be kept up, 14666-9.—Idea always was to teach people a thing, and then if possible let them run it alone, 14670.—Instruction in lace-making could not be stopped with fresh girls coming on, 14672.—Industries took long time to start; Clones lace industry was started 50 years ago in famine times; it had gone on for last thirty years without assistance, 14673-5.—Straw-bottle industry had been an unsuccessful experiment; witness could recall no other, 14679-82.

Migration.

As to migration for congestion, it would be better to migrate larger occupiers; for small men a change from, for example, Connemara to Roscommon would be too great, 14683.—Witness knew of people with large holdings in the West who if they could get more central holding would give up Western lands for purpose of helping smaller tenants, they would move to any suitable district, 14684-5.—Such occupiers would be men of great enterprise; but a policy of removing all the more successful and enterprising occupiers from a district would be a misfortune, 14688.—Remaining occupants it could seldom be placed in really flourishing agricultural condition, as they could not compete with more favoured districts; tendency of the age was against farmer who could not produce corn or cattle of best quality, and difficulty of selling bad cattle at any price very great; system of small cultivation might be vastly improved, but people must not be encouraged to believe that, even when they became proprietors, they could compete with experts, either in beef or best class of corn, 14689, 14697-8.

Breeding of inferior Cattle a false Economy.

Difficulty of selling bad cattle had been much driven home of late years, both Congested Districts Board and Department of Agriculture had done immense amount towards improvement of cattle, 14690-1.—Among people themselves there was tendency to improve breed, though many went on breeding bad cattle, 14692.—Character of cattle had changed very much in last fifteen years in congested districts; most notable improvement had been in Connemara; attending fairs, etc., did great good, 14693.—Many small holders produced cattle that practically could not be sold for fattening, but small holding if properly worked, did not of itself prevent their doing so, assuming right class of cattle was got, 14695-6.—Land sales under Act of 1903 had been effected in these districts, 14699-700.—Sales were based upon judicial rents, and therefore all circumstances of holding, district, etc., had been taken into account in fixing rent, 14701.—As to foreign importation, cattle must be graded up to meet it, 14702.—In the finished article it was impossible to compete with foreigners; province of small farmers was to produce store cattle and sell them for finishing, 14703-4.—Many cattle were sent to England and Scotland to be finished; cattle for grazing lands of Ireland nearly all bought in the spring, 14705.—Perhaps one-third of stores were bought by Irish graziers and two-thirds by England at a rough guess, 14710-1.—Small occupier as a rule sold his cattle at autumn fairs, 14706.

Effect on Cattle Industry of cutting up Grazing Lands.

If demand for stores for grazing land were diminished it would have bad effect on breeding of cattle, 14707-9.—Had not examined into probable effect on small holders of transformation of grazing land into small holdings, 14712-4.—In creating small holdings to relieve congestion one could only be guided by what other holdings had done; it would require total change in working of farms to bring about fattening of cattle on half-tillage holdings, because small holders sold their cattle at an early age, 14716.—They had had in other parts of the country opportunities of feeding them on good land, 14717.—Witness did not think grazing lands in hands of small tenant would be able to carry larger number of cattle than in hands of graziers; it depended on the working, but tenant would get crops as well, 14718.—If the land changed hands it would mean diminution in demand for store cattle, not in production, 14719.—Fair knowledge of land unsuitable for tillage might be arrived at by going over Valuation Office books, where land was valued £1 the statute acre, it might be assumed to be good land, 15001.—It would not be hard thing to ascertain, but must be done by actual inspection, 15002-4.—There was fine land in the West and in Galway, 14828.—The land in Roscommon would be classed superficially as good store land; it would be advantageous to stripe it and portion it out in small holdings, 14830-2.—This land grazed stock bought at various Irish fairs from small breeders, 14831, 14833.—If converted into small farms for mixed farming stock would be raised on it, but farmers would have to buy cows first, 14834, 14836.—Market would thus be dislocated, as certain number of buyers of store cattle would be gone; alteration of methods would take time, 14837-8, 14848-52.—Each block of land so broken up meant loss of a buyer for certain class of animal; there might be increased demand for cows, but falling-off in demand for stores to be put on grazing lands, 14840.—It would be possible to get census of numbers and ages of cattle on that land, also where they came from, 14844-6.—Delay in doing so would depend on time of year; in summer the stock would be there, not in winter, 14919.—Witness agreed with Mr. Doran that if Roscommon land were broken up into 30-acre holdings stock raised would exceed present number, even if part were put under cultivation, because there was always some land capable of improvement, 14853.—Result of altering system of tenure would alter system of stocking; middleman would be eliminated, 14854.

Economic Function of Grazier.

Grazier not always a middleman; in good lands of Meath, Westmeath, and Kildare graziers were finishers, 14720, 14726.—Witness believed small holders could not become finishers, even with stall-feeding, on such small holdings as would be created, 14721.—It might be better not to encourage such holders to go in for store-keeping, 14722.—There were really different classes of land, rich fattening land, which it would be unwise to cut up, and lighter grazing farms, formerly tillage farms, and this lighter class, such as was in Connaught, might advantageously be cut up for tillage, 14723-5.—Finishers in Meath and Kildare were not in the majority; there was good land and bad, 14727, 14731-2.—Graziers liked to have different classes of cattle, and so a lot came straight from Western districts to Meath pastures, 14728.—In Meath and Roscommon, for example, there was no difference in process, except suiting cattle to land; on purely store lands cattle were merely prepared for finishing, 14729-30.

Class of Land to be broken up.

As to land which could be broken up, witness thought it important function of Commission to investigate what land was available for migration; while reasonable men wished to break up large tracts of suitable land, now abandoned to cattle and sheep, they did not want to interfere with prosperous part of population or landlords who gave employment on home farms, etc., 14735.

Misleading Nature of Valuation Office Returns.

At present they were making use of returns taken from Government Valuation Office, which were misleading; everything was described under townlands and a demesne might be held in four or five different townlands, appearing in different parts of the book; such land came within their inquiry, and letters had been sent to many people who had not the smallest idea of giving up land, such inquiries disturbed people, and created feeling of uncertainty, 14736.

Grass Land of Roscommon should be Broken up but not the Fattening Lands of Meath.

Land which witness had in mind for breaking up was in Roscommon; in six out of nine electoral divisions, where traces of tillage could be seen, there were more grass lands, lying close, than in any other place, 14737-8.—Process for cattle was just the same here, as in Meath; witness would not break up Meath fattening lands, 14740-4.—Land in Roscommon chiefly grew stores, 14746-7.—Some cattle were shipped to England and Scotland, and some finished, 14748-9.—The entire land should be taken up to make really good example, 14750.—As to breaking up finishing land, every farm in Roscommon contained such land, and land which did not finish, 14751-2.—Where finishing land was in sufficient area, witness would leave it, but where mixed with other land, it would have to go, 14753-4.—Land of mixed character was what witness had in mind to break up; it only reared store cattle to a certain extent, no doubt there was land in Meath of exactly same character, 14758-8.—Abuse of grazing existed in Roscommon if anywhere, because upon this large grazing area there were only a few herd's houses, county was really decaying for want of population, creating tillage holdings would improve financial conditions, and land would produce more, 14759-60.—It would not be so beneficial to treat Meath in the same way, because spots were isolated and broken up, and though witness believed in mixed farming, it might be hard to cut up grass lands there, 14761-4.—Land of varied quality might be broken up and form mixed holdings, the same conditions would apply in Meath as in Roscommon, or any place, 14766-7.—If an example like that under discussion became a success, it would have great effect in the country; there was no spot like it in Ireland, 14815-6.—Apart from convenience second or third-class land in Meath might just as well be cut up; witness did not wish to convert wonderful fattening lands of Ireland into tillage, 14817.—Land must be turned to economic use; grass, except the best, was not best economic use, 14818-9.—Witness agreed with Mr. Doran that rich lands of Meath were not suitable for cropping, and would be more economic under grass, 14821, 14824.—But there were lands of various sorts in Meath, whole county was not rich grazing land, 14822a-3.—Indifferent grazing land was suitable for cultivation, and could be made more productive; rich fattening land, wherever it might be, was unsuitable, 14825, 15000.—Witness submitted there was no other spot in Ireland so favourable as Roscommon for large experiment in migration; cost would be saved in making drains and roads and erecting buildings with such a large area lying together; he could not believe that landlords, if fairly approached and compensated, would refuse to give up lands for public good, 14919.—They had not yet been approached; witness thought that, in case of experiment taking place, some farm should be properly worked, as an example, 14920.—Sometimes Commissioners declared a farm an estate and purchased it when they could get it, as where landlord had two holdings of evicted tenants, for instance, in order to facilitate restoration of those tenants, 14926-9.

Prices paid by Irish Buyers for Stores in Spring.

With regard to effect on store cattle of diminution of grazing land, there were no buyers as good as Irish graziers in spring; they took cattle for summer grazing, and had no way of wintering them, 14768.—If there were great amount of tillage and more buildings, greater facilities of wintering and feeding, there would be better market for Irish stores in autumn, but then better holdings would be required than it was possible to create, 14769.—Breaking up present Roscommon grazing lands into thirty-acre holdings and tilling part of them would for a time dislocate cattle trade, 14770.—Producer of cattle would go on producing as before, 14776-7.—There would be smaller market for stores because holders of grazing lands who were buyers of animals of that special class would have given up the land, 14772, 14778.—If Roscommon grass land were broken up, it would, though grazing less cattle, produce crops as well, 14781-3.—Future of cereals was not so promising as to induce giving up cattle trade for them, but congestion had to be relieved, 14783a-4.—More money could be made out of portion of land well tilled than by having it in grass, in witness's opinion, 14787-9.—There would be bigger returns and more people existing on land; grass lands were never improved, except on smallest scale, 14790.—It was necessary for people to sell cattle as winter came on, 14791.

Most Profitable Age at which to Sell Cattle.

Greatest profit was on younger stock, which sold much dearer in proportion, a good yearling made most, 14792, 14798.

Question Whether Small Holder could Combine Producer's and Middleman's Profits.

More money made by selling yearling to Irish middleman than by keeping him till nearly two years old, for English and Scotch buyers, 14793-4.—Small holders never tried growing green crops for winter feeding, 14796.—Not much additional risk in keeping weanling, if in the place where it was born, till two years old, 14806.—Middleman was content with small profit, 14797.—There was no reason why original producer should not keep beast longer and do away with middleman, 14800-1.—If holders carried out intelligent system, they would make more, but under old methods, cattle not properly fed and would not do so well as if they had big out-run of grass, 14802-4.—Cattle of small holders at present often very much under-fed, 14805.—It would be madness to make settlements in the district, and not use every endeavour to bring about sensible methods of tillage, etc., 14807.—With best methods, grass land, even inferior, might be made to yield three or four times present produce, they might have grass capable of carrying cattle almost to finishing stage, 14808-9.—Without marvellous change, however, these people could never compete in finished article, at that stage cattle would be sent to pastures of Meath or Kildare, or across Channel, 14810-1.—Animals went, in Scotland, to straw-yards, there was no land in Scotland to be compared to Meath lands, 14855-8.—English and Scotch farmers understood the art of finishing, better, Ireland was specially adapted for raising young animals, 14859-60, 14862.—Proportion of cattle raised and finished in Ireland was not, witness thought, more than one-third or one-fourth, 14869-70.

Stall-Feeding.

Witness had seen stall-feeding abroad, corresponding system in Ireland might come, but not yet, it was thing to be aimed at, 14812-4.—In Kildare some small occupiers might be successful in it, but Kildare was enlightened and had special advantages, 14820.

Returns of Untenanted Land made on Wrong Basis.

Returns as to untenanted land furnished to Estates Commissioners were, witness thought, on a wrong basis, and calculated to give rise to demands for land which ought to remain in present hands; numerous cases marked "untenanted" really formed part of holdings in occupation; circulars based on these returns, which had been called for by Parliament and based on Government valuation, had been sent out, and refusals returned, in many cases, on reasonable grounds; it was not desirable to disturb thriving classes of community, but to get hold of suitable lands, now let on eleven months' system, and of no great interest to owner, 14871-2.—Returns were supposed to include only holdings held in fee and when house was valued at £1; a farm might often be in several townlands, with owner's house in one townland and rest of farm, with no house, in another, and the same thing with a demesne, 14874, 14876.—Parliamentary returns gave no idea of land comprised within particular area of Roscommon with which witness proposed to deal, only way of ascertaining would be to have investigation on the spot, comparing with six-inch Government valuation maps; witness had gone over revised six-inch maps in Valuation Office, referring to particulars of holdings in the books, and gave electoral division of Castleplunket as example; in Parliamentary return the acreage of untenanted land was given as 1,985. but witness made out that there were probably 6,254 acres of land which could be acquired in Castle Plunket alone. thus making in one electoral division omission of 4,269 acres of land really wanted, while elsewhere it might be the reverse; this Castle Plunket district, comprising nine electoral divisions, contained in all some 25,000 acres apparently only occupied for grazing, as shown in witness's map; land put down in Government valuation, for instance in name of William Kelly, had only a herd's house, so no doubt was grazing land, perhaps with an eleven months' tenant; parts shown in witness's map had not appeared in the returns at all, because they were held in different ways, 14877-8, 14884-5, 14890-1, 14903-4.—Witness thought land was chiefly held on eleven months' system; investigation on the spot was only way to ascertain, 14878-9, 14917.—It would not take much time to ascertain where land lay; a few days would do district to which witness referred, and the whole of Ireland would take a very short time, 14880-3.—Most divisions were held as witness indicated on his paper, 14886.—Valuation Office had not made a mistake, but had not got what they were asked for, 14887, 14889.—Dublin valuation books were absolutely correct as to different tenants, but they were not revised, 14888.—Cause of difference in estimated acreage was physical condition of land; Parliamentary returns went on what appeared in books, and gave land held in fee, while witness looked at land on the spot, then going to map to see what it actually contained, 14897-8.—This procedure should have been adopted to give really useful return, 14899.—If untenanted land held by landlord was what was referred to, it would be found that most of the lands put down on the return were really landlords' demesne, 14894.—Land described as untenanted in witness's map was tenanted, but only on eleven months' system; simply occupied by cattle and sheep, with herd's house and no farming, 14901-2, 14918.—Might be called non-residential grazing land, 14895, 14905.—Term might be misleading in case of holder residing in next townland and working the grazing land as part of his general business; such a man ought to be let alone, 14915.—This was where Parliamentary return was unreliable, 14916.—Amount of land suitable for breaking up could not be got in the form of statistics; but only by actually going to the ground with such a map as witness's, 14906-11.—Such knowledge ought to have been basis of Congested Districts Board's proceedings; Estates Commissioners could not have done more work up to the present, 14912-4.

Attitude of Landlords in regard to sale of Grass Lands; Replies to circulars sent out by Estates Commissioners.

In negotiating for purchase of grass lands the Estates Commissioners took the initiative by sending out circulars to ask if people were willing to sell, 14921-5.—Number of owners communicated with was 654; number replying, 305; not replying, 349; those who offered to negotiate, 97; those refusing, 208, 14930.—Of those who refused, 15 were in Galway, 16 in Leitrim, 39 in Mayo, 28 in Roscommon, 18 in Sligo, 27 in Clare, 12 in Cork, and 12 in Kerry, that is, in counties with congested districts; the letters could hardly be called refusals, because all gave good reasons for being unable to comply with suggestion, 14933-8.—No price was offered in the circulars they were sent with a view to negotiations only; but the owners did not want to sell at all, 14939-40.—This was not inconsistent with witness's belief that all owners with lands let on eleven months' system would be willing to sell at fair price, because owners who refused were holding land permanently; some gave reason that lands were their only means of living, 14941.—Names of owners to whom circulars were sent were taken from returns furnished by Valuation Office, 14942.—The returns gave all people who held land at valuation of £25 or over, on which buildings existed valued at not more than £1 a year, 14944.—Among those who refused were some owners who had large grazing lands; but they were really large demesnes within a ring fence, 14945.—Witness only remembered one man who had large grazing lands let on eleven months' system, but he said nothing about terms, 14946.—People who owned several thousands of grass lands contiguous to worst congested districts were few in number, and in some cases had been, or were being dealt with, 14948-9.—Dunsandle and Pollock Estates were examples, 14950.—In reply to enquiries made from the Land Commission 93 answers received said that owners would sell; many mentioning 3½ per cent. as satisfactory basis of capitalisation, 15004, 15021.—Witness referred to districts in the eight congested districts counties before alluded to, 15005-7.—As to non-scheduled areas, the inquiries referred to were in relation to purchasing untenanted land, and had taken place some months ago, 15008-10. Purchase proposed was chiefly with a view to reinstating evicted tenants, 15011.—Witness was not aware of any communication with Congested Districts Board, 15012.—There was an understanding between Board and Commissioners that there should be mutual communication about any large tracts that should be acquired, 15013.—People willing to deal had been asked to furnish maps, and maps of 12,449 acres had been received so far, 15022.—No actual return of area could be made out, 15015-6.—Inquiries had only commenced few months ago, and were undertaken by the regular staff in consequence of last regulations made by the present Government, 15017-9.

Eleven Months' Letting System.

Eleven months' letting system was devised so that landlords might keep land in their own hands; land could be taken up at end of eleven months, and tenant would have no legal claim against landlord, 15140-1. —Landlord generally did herding, keeping up of fences, and so on, 15142.—If people who let land on eleven months' system were informed that they would receive an equivalent income they would probably not refuse to sell; but Estates Commissioners had no power to take this course; they could not at present buy unless they could re-sell without loss, 14952.—It had been done in certain cases, 14953.—They were prohibited from selling at a loss unless in cases where Lord Lieutenant's certificate enabled them to do so in the case of congested estates, 14956.

Clanmorris Estate purchased by Estates Commissioners.

Clanmorris Estate was already re-sold; witness thought portion of it had been declared congested, to enable it to be sold at a loss, 14954, 14957.—When 28 years' purchase was given for this estate they had not definitely resolved that they were going to make loss, but did not think they were paying too much; people were perfectly satisfied with their bargain, 14959-60, 14962.—They were untenanted lands, 14961.—Lord Clanmorris was absentee landlord, 15144.—Clanmorris Estate differed very much from Dillon Estate; tenants were better farmers, and had better opportunities, 15237-39a.—There was an inspection and valuation of land as it stood; inspector gave opinion as to worth of land, and when price was worked out it came to 28 years on the valuation, 14966-7, 14972-4.—Commissioners sold land without loss to tenants; it was a very profitable transaction, 14975.

Comparative price of Tenanted and Untenanted Land.

The landlord could get more for land in hand than when there was an adverse interest; the tenant's interest was adverse to the landlord's; this mattered when landlord had to be paid, 14968-71.—In buying untenanted land purchaser acquired its whole value, in buying tenanted land he did not acquire its whole value, but only landlord's interest, 14976.—When tenant bought he bought landlord's interest; buying back his own right of tenure in any degree entirely depended on the value he thought landlord's interest had for him; witness did not believe he did so, 14977-9.—It was a voluntary agreement, but if there were any force or unfair dealing it would be Commissioners' duty to come down on it, 14978, 14981-2.—A man might give bigger price for holding than landlord's interest was worth, but it would be hard to prove that he bought any definite portion of interest that belonged to himself, because all valuation was mere hypothesis about the value of land, 14984.—The Act fixing fair rents had been in force since 1881, and every tenant had had opportunity of having his position as to improvements defined; fair rent represented landlord's dues minus tenant's improvements, 14985.

Question whether Compulsory Powers of Purchase would be needed.

In acquiring land witness believed that compulsion would be unnecessary, and that any individual owner of land let on eleven months' system would surrender it at a fair price, 15004.—As to waiting upon the pleasure of landlords for sale, witness would wait upon powers of Board and Commissioners to carry out operations; he would try to get most suitable land, but if landlord would not sell, he would not employ compulsion, because he believed that fair treatment would be efficacious, 15044-7, 15054.—It might be fair in some cases where man was not actually living by the land to compel him to sell, giving him income equivalent to property; but it was not desirable in any case, and very hard to introduce in one way without applying it further, 15048-0.—Railways always gave an extra bonus when applying compulsion, 15052.—If landlord were compelled to sell, he should receive something above fair price, 15053.—Taking particular case of man with an eleven months' grazing farm which he would not sell, and which was necessary to acquire, witness still objected to compulsion in a free country, 15050a-1, 15059-60.—Such a principle would produce compulsion all round; holders of eleven months' grazing would find they could get a better price in that way, 15055.—Even if it were offered to submit to arbitration, voluntary arrangement as a principle offered more advantage than isolated cases of compulsion, 15056.—Witness was influenced by consideration of possibility that a man might be farming his own land, and laying out his whole life to that profession, 15061.—If man had parcel of grazing land, let on eleven months' system, and no other connection with land, compulsory acquirement of that land was merely a question of his being secured in his income, 15063.—If he had other property, and it was all part of his business in support of himself and family, witness would be opposed to compulsory purchase, 15064.—Witness remembered compulsory powers being asked for by Board in such circumstances as this hypothetical case; had always thought a mistake was made, 15057.—His view was that in purchase of land a fair transaction should take place, 15065.—It must also be fair to tenant; he could not be put in at an instalment he could not pay; there might possibly be a loss, 15066-7.—Witness had never met any landlord with land let on eleven months' system who would not sell for equivalent income, 15071-2.

Clashing between Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board.

If Estates Commissioners were successful in buying land their action might impede relief of congestion by Congested Districts Board, unless they came to some definite action; it would depend where land was, 15023.—If they acquired any considerable portion of land in Connaught, Mayo, and Roscommon available for relief, Board would be so far fettered, 15024.—It would not be necessary to carry on work of acquiring untenanted land by means of one body alone; but in case of its acquisition by Commissioners in districts where it could be made use of by Board, there ought to be a conference, 15027.

Conference had been held without result so far.

There had been a conference with Sir A. MacDonnell as delegate of Congested Districts Board, but witness did not know that any other proceedings had ever followed conference; land bought up to the present had been in connection with other objects; if they did not urgently require land bought, they were certainly to communicate with Board; but they had never had any surplus, 15028a-9.—They had acquired Clanmorris Estate, part of which was untenanted; but there was no case in which, after satisfying claims of estate, they had any surplus to offer to Board, in accordance with arrangements made at the conference previously referred to, 15030-3.—When the conference took place there was a special estate in view; the purchase was not effected; if it had been, it was clearly their intention to communicate with Board, 15034.—New tenancies in the persons of sons of adjoining tenants had been created in some cases on untenanted land bought by Commissioners; particulars could be given, 15038.—Conference had taken place between witness as representing Commissioners and Sir A. MacDonnell representing Congested Districts Board, with a view to establishing harmony in land purchase, 15202.—It was arranged that Commissioners would either buy land for Board, or attach valuer to Mr. Doran, the Chief Inspector of Congested Districts Board, to give information as to views of Land Commission, and general rates of prices, 15204.—No action had been taken consequent on that arrangement, 15205.—Witness did not know whether Commissioners were to blame; could not recollect any approach being made to them after the conference, but was sure they were quite ready to carry out arrangement, 15205-9.—If principle of offering equivalent net income were adopted there might be loss, but could not be a saving with regard to surveyors, valuers, etc., because lands were acquired for re-distribution, and must be valued for re-distribution just as much as for purchase, 15215.—Every estate could not be bought; it would have to be examined as to probable utility before purchase, 15216-7.—As regarded cost of distributing work between two bodies, there would not be much saving as to inspection if they were concentrated in one; 15219.—Principle in ittself involved loss, because it was found that in converting land into economic holdings, having regard to all expenses, it would not be so valuable as in its entire state, 15219-20.—There would be extra loss, because now they only bought on principle of being able to sell again, 15221-2.—They were getting profit now, in some cases, by purchase at a rate that created, from point of view of details, loss to landlord, 15224.—Witness saw no objection from Commissioners' point of view to their conducting all negotiations for purchase of congested estates by Board, subsequently handing back estate to Board for administration; only objection on part of Board would be possible dissatisfaction with unknown valuers, 15225-7, 15232.—Both bodies were acting in same interest, and witness thought Board would accept Commissioners' valuation and price, 15229-31.—It would not complicate matters if Board chose to make actual purchase on the valuation made by Commissioners, 15233.

Acquisition of Land must be Gradual.

With regard to systematic acquiring of necessary land, the work must be gradual, 15041.—It would be hard to adopt a cut-and-dried principle, because Commissioners might have to begin in one part of the country and leave out another; to proceed simultaneously would mean proceeding with too much, 15042-3.

Rise in Price of Land; Price at which Landlords would be willing to sell, &c.

Witness did not think that landlords would put up price against Board or Commissioners, knowing that they specially required grass land; tenure of land in Ireland not so desirable, 15073.—It must be remembered that landlord had practically no customer but the State, 15101.—It was true there had been general rise in price under Act of 1903, reasons being (*a*) that the annuity was smaller, (*b*) that sale of land was coming to an end under old Acts; now they could get higher prices, landlords would sell, 15102-4.—There was great desire to sell, for equivalent prices to present incomes, 15105-6.—Tenants had always been anxious to purchase, not more so under conditions of present Act than formerly, 15017-8.—Witness did not recall case where Commissioners had given too much for an estate against their judgment; they might sometimes have stretched original offer, but always offered price at which they could let afterwards, 15074-5.—Could not recollect a case in which Congested Districts Board had bought an estate above value, because of landlord's unbending attitude, 15076-8.—If excessive price were asked they let it alone, and went somewhere else, 15079.—Compulsion might be necessary some day, but not till vendors refused equivalent of their net income, 15080.—If landlords were compelled to sell tenants might also be compelled to buy, 15081.—Witness did not know whether in certain circumstances Board compelled their tenants to buy; in case of the Commissioners, where three-fourths of tenants on an estate agreed, compulsion might be applied to remaining fourth, 15082-3, 15091.—Witness believed that offer to landlords of net sum, which, at 3¼, or better, at 3½ per cent. would bring in their average net incomes, would meet with almost universal acceptance, 15084-8.—If this system were adopted by the State difficulties would disappear, 15089.—If such a reasonable offer were refused there would be some justification for compulsion, 15090, 15092.—Witness could not say whether they had already bought untenanted lands at a price which would bring in more than owner's average net income; there might have been special investments, 15093-5.—The Duke of Leinster might have got a little more, 15109.—If this principle of same income were adopted they would have to give more than in the past for untenanted land, because now they had to buy at a price at which they could re-sell, 15096-7.—Witness thought Estates Commissioners had got quite as much land as they could deal with, and there was more coming in, 15130.—Congested Districts Board complained of difficulty of getting hold of untenanted land, 15131.—Mr. Waldron's evidence and figures of Official Trustee that landlords could always get 3½ per cent. for their investments was very high authority, 15132.—In regard to refusals to sell land to Board, witness wished to know whether Board had ever offered the equivalent sum bringing in income at 3½ per cent.; thought their prices were not known beforehand, 15133-6.—The case of the Leonard Estate, which Board bought in 1896 for £5,340, a sum at least £2,000 in excess of valuation by their inspector, in order to assist 60 poor tenants who could not otherwise have been relieved was very strong example, but feeling about selling land had changed since then, landlords would sell at a fair price, 15138-9.

Number of Years' Purchase given for Dillon Estate.

Number of years' purchase in West of Ireland had gone up considerably since passing of 1903 Act, 15110.—Fourteen years' purchase was offered for Dillon Estate; the rent was never collected, 15113-4, 15119.—Dillon rents at that time were much the same as those of neighbouring estates, 15120.—In considering number of years' purchase of rent it was always the gross rent which was taken into account, 15121.—Comparing Dillon Estate fairly with others, they gave practically 14½ years' purchase for it, 15112.—Witness was not prepared to say that grass lands could be acquired and cut up into tillage holdings by the State without loss, but thought Government must be prepared to face this in scheme to bring about great public advantage; principle of offering equivalent for net income was generally understood and appreciated, 15143.

Policy and Work of Estates Commissioners and Board compared.

Work done by Commissioners which compared with that of Congested Districts Board was (*a*) enlargement of existing holdings, (*b*) migration and creation of new holdings, those left being amalgamated with others in the neighbourhood; first class was most hopeful and least expensive, as addition of land at fair price was often greatest possible help to tenants who were doing well; no repudiation of payment of purchase instalments being likely; good example was Clanmorris Estate, where 4,000 acres of grass were purchased at £62,840, and divided among tenants, who were turning addition to best account, 15143.—On acquired land where new holdings were created Commissioners had succeeded in getting purchasers to build new houses, subject to plans furnished and assisted by comparatively small grants; suitable houses had been erected on Lambert, Bodkin, and other estates on a grant of £30 each; it was not anticipated that people were at all likely to repudiate, but care must be taken to choose proper class of migrants, 15144.—Work of Congested Districts Board was very similar, but Commissioners, having more independent class to deal with, had adopted plan of making subsidies to individuals, who did their own improvements after getting possession, while Board completed improvements before handing over holdings, 15151.—Witness did not think Board went too far in their methods on very bad estates, 15152.—With regard to improvements, it had been Commissioners' object only to pay from their reserve fund for improvements common to an estate as roads and main drainage, charging for individual improvements slight addition to annuity; Congested Districts Board had been much more lavish; if Government desired to deal with problem they must be prepared to spend certain moneys, which would be unproductive; in this connection plan of houses to be adopted was important; in dealing with acute congestion and migration sums should be definitely set aside, and such work or improvements should not block work of general settlement by direct sales, which ought to be completed without delay; perhaps too much had been spent in trying to introduce good class of house; Commissioners' method of giving grant of £30 and getting substantial house built on that grant was one Board could not adopt, as they had different class of people to deal with, 15234-5.

Migratory Labourers as Settlers.

Some very suitable migrants had been found who had hitherto worked in England during harvest time, and these men, notably on Henry Estate, were putting in practice better methods of cultivation seen in England; to accomplish migration on large scale more funds would be required, 15144.—Henry Estate was in Galway; examples on the same lines in dealing with evicted tenants could be given on Luggacurran and Coolgreany Estates, 15145-6.—Irish labourers who migrated to England and Scotland were ahead of others in intelligence and enterprise; migratory labourers in Mayo were very respectable class of men, 15147-9.

Year's Grace for Migrants before starting Annuity Proposed.

In establishing migrants on new holdings it might be well to give them a year's grace before they were asked to pay annuity; first year they had no stock, and were not on their feet; it would be one of the conditions to offer to intending migrants, 15249-50.—Difficulty would be to get the Treasury to agree; the proposal was simply to defer payment, not to take a year off the annuity, 15251-2.

Plan for Re-settlement of Functions and Powers of Board and Commissioners.

It might be a good plan for the future to confine Board's operations to what were practically maritime congested districts within a certain line in Donegal, Galway, Mayo, Kerry, and Cork, transferring Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, and districts, where Board had not been able to do much in way of industries to the Commissioners, whose power of dealing with congested estates in congested districts ought to be altered, and Clause 6 done away with as to necessity of obtaining undertakings from tenants before purchase, so that, subject to Lord Lieutenant's direction as to what estates might be considered congested, they might be able to spend out of reserve fund, as Board did out of their income; there might also be co-operation on part of Agricultural Department in looking after very poor congested estates after they had been bought and settled by Commissioners, 15155.—Witness would enlarge area of dealing with congestion, 15156.—Would like also to alter Clause 4, so as to put Commissioners in the position of Board, to make such bargains as they pleased outside the zones in respect of congested estates, 15157-60.—It would involve alteration in the law, which he was prepared to recommend, 15161-2.—As to transferring all duties of land buying to Estates Commissioners, even within Board's proposed restricted area, witness would prefer to give Board absolute power within those lines, as it was very difficult for one body to buy for another; then when Commissioners bought untenanted land outside the lines, if there were uneconomic and congested holdings on it, these people should have first claim, and people on the fringe the second claim; after that Commissioners should consult with Board, and allow them to send people from other districts; last of all dealing with people under Section 2, that was to say, sons of tenants, 15163, 15253.—The local people really ought to be considered even if the estate were not in a district scheduled as congested, the claims of Congested Districts Board coming next, 15254-7.—If within Board's proposed restricted area there were not sufficient untenanted land for relief of congestion perhaps its claims ought to come up higher; if relief by migration could not be carried out unless Commissioners made offer to Board of land required, the offer ought to be made, 15165-8.—It was hard to get over natural feeling of people on an estate where untenanted land was bought, that they had certain claim, and where holdings required to be enlarged it ought to be done, balance being held in trust for Congested Districts Board until required, 15168-9.—Witness would exclude the Board from all connection with migration outside congested area, but would give them powers of dealing with industries, with regard to which they had done exceedingly well inside the area, 15170-2.—Fishing industry should be left as at present, 15173.—Idea was to leave acutely congested estates, which required paternal treatment, to Congested Districts Board, and to Estates Commissioners those which could be dealt with more on business principles, 15174.—Area of restriction would not be very narrow, because all the chief business of Board would be left them; only districts withdrawn where they could not do much, 15175.—There would be a well-defined line, not very difficult to draw, and Board would not buy outside their own area, neither would Commissioners buy within it, 15176-7.—It woud be a mistake to arrange that Board should deal with congested estates and that Commissioners should concern themselves with converting occupiers into owners all over the country; Commissioners' method of dealing with less acutely congested estates was better and quicker than Board's principle, 15179.—There was acute congestion outside scheduled areas, but it was a question there of re-settlement and agricultural improvement, 15181.—Conflict between two bodies purchasing need not arise unless they bought at different prices, 15182.—In cases where Board determined to buy an estate, if possible, it might be arranged for Commissioners to value property; after purchase by Board Commissioners might investigate title, vest the estate and distribute the money; under such procedure Board would be actual purchaser, would have all administrative and commercial work, including improvements, in its own hands, and there could be no conflict between the two bodies; it might be very good way, 15183-5, 15189.—As to leaving purchase, administration, and commercial functions on congested estates to Board while Commissioners converted occupiers into owners, and performed judicial functions, witness granted need for special efforts in real plague-spots, but deprecated introducing spoon-feeding into fresh parts of country; this was why he would like to keep Board out of every district except those already scheduled, 15186-7.—It was quite possible to avoid conflict as to price between the two purchasing bodies, 15188.—Under present system valuation and surveys were done by Board, 15191.—Understanding as to price between the two bodies might be arranged; if Board were satisfied to take estates at price at which Commissioners bought there would be no conflict, 15192.—When Board was dealing with estate it would be better for the same valuer to buy who afterwards would have to re-arrange holdings until it was necessary to go outside for land, 15193-5.—It would be difficult to lay down hard and fast line as to value; the two bodies might work on much the same basis if they had consultation, 15196-8.—If valuation continued to be made on estates by Board there must be consultation between officers of both bodies as to standard of price, 15199.—There would be no difficulty if Commissioners' officers did the valuation before Board made an offer, but witness doubted whether Board's valuer would be satisfied with valuation in which he had no voice; it was a matter for Board's decision, 15200-1.

Houses Built.

Houses were not built for £30, but people received this grant, and then built house, 15240.—In case of houses built both by Board and Commissioners, of which photographs were shown, costing about £120, they were built altogether by the bodies named, 15245-7.

Question of Free Grants.

Land Purchase Fund supplied funds for actual purchase of estate to both Board and Commissioners; for improvements Commissioners drew on Reserve Fund and Board on general income; where improvements resulted in enhanced price sums representing increase were repayable out of Land Purchase Fund to Reserve Fund and general income respectively; but where sums spent were not reproductive or did not result in enhanced price as free grants, or road-making, sums so spent were not repayable out of Land Purchase Fund, 15257.—Free grants were made to evicted tenants and others for purchase of stock and implements, and were not added on to purchase price on which annuity was calculated, 15258-60.

Congested Estates and Free Grants from Reserve Fund.

If there were loss to Commissioners in settling migrants, or to Board in relieving acute congestion, it ought to be made up by increased grants to Reserve Fund and general income, respectively, 15258.—Two sorts of sales which Estates Commissioners were entitled to perform required separate treatment (*a*) purchase under Section 6 in which, without calculation for improvements re-sale could be effected without loss; in this case money spent on reproductive improvement got back in enhanced price was admittedly repayable from Land Purchase Fund to Reserve Fund; (*b*) purchase of congested estates under Section 6 (4) and (5) such as giving fair return to vendor, could not be re-sold without loss; in such cases loss must not exceed, in the aggregate, 10 per cent., 15260.—This was provision which should be done away with, and Commissioners should be put in same position as Congested Districts Board; loss so incurred was to be made good by charging sum voted by Parliament with a sum sufficient to pay interest and sinking fund on total amount of net loss incurred on congested estates, 15261, 15264.—Limit on loss ought to be wide one, and Lord Lieutenant's present power of declaring estate to be congested should be continued; where so certified, Commissioners should have free hand as to amount of loss in re-arranging, etc., 15262-3.—They could lose 10 per cent. at present on Lord Lieutenant's authority and declaration of congestion, the owner first agreeing, 15266-7.—A report of what loss would be necessary was made to Lord Lieutenant; they could not go beyond amount of loss authorised by him, 15268-70.—Their dealings with congested estates so far had practically amounted to nothing, 15271.—Difficulties had arisen as to manner of giving effect to provisions of Act of 1903; in scheme suggested for County Roscommon of converting grazing land into tillable holdings for migrants there must be loss, if vendors were to receive prices reproducing average income from land, free from influences of intimidation; in such cases of migration as Board had already dealt with they admitted average loss of £84 per migrant, in migrating 207 tenants, 15272.

Allowance should be made for Effects of Intimidation in Calculating average Net Rental.

Influences of intimidation might be prevalent in some spots, but not as a whole, 15273.—In considering fair incomes any special circumstances must be taken account of; periods when land was un-let owing to intimidation, for instance, must be omitted when computing, 15274, 15277.—Unlawful influence ought not to be taken into account, it would be temptation to intimidate, 15275-6, 15281, 15289.—Income should be reckoned and price determined under normal conditions, 15278-9.—Witness had no definite case of intimidation in mind, but there were such cases, 15284-8.—Cases where no intimidation came in, only misfortune, and inability to meet payments were different, 15290.—By intimidation witness meant any act which prevented man from receiving income which he otherwise would receive, or prevented him from exercising individual freedom and putting cattle on lands which it would pay him to put them on, 15291. 15307.—In calculating income of landlord who received £1,000 for farm during one year, and next year was unable to let it owing to agitation, witness would not take that year into consideration at all, but the fifteen previous years, 15292-3.—A general feeling or general drop in price of land must be taken into account; witness would be satisfied to eliminate intimidation altogether and merely go on the value of the land, if that value had fallen, 15294-9.—If a piece of land could no longer fetch former value as result of a state of public feeling while

exactly similar land in another county was unaffected witness thought price ought to be decided by what land would fetch under normal conditions, 15299-04.

Boycotted Tenant Purchaser could not be allowed to fall into Arrears.

If State took up grass lands and transplanted tenants and then owing to such feeling, tenants were boycotted at fairs, tenants ought not to suffer, but small holder when once put in could not be allowed to fall into arrears because of boycott at markets, it would be putting premium on intimidation, 15308-13.—Witness did not want to bind tenant by circumstances of time and place while relieving landlord, unless circumstances resulted from combination to drive down prices, 15314-5.

Size of Economic Holdings.

As to size of economic holdings, it was difficult to lay down general rule, in some districts there might be outside sources of employment, in others larger holding might be necessary, but care should always be taken not to create too small holdings, such as would be seriously affected by failure of potato-crop, for instance through being entirely dependent on it, 15316-8.—The German Government recognised as an economic holding one suitable to be worked by a horse, 15320.—Under Irish conditions, witness thought a holding ought to have power of keeping a horse, and the holdings Commissioners were trying to create would require one, 15321-2, 15324.—It was never contemplated to create new holdings that could only be worked by the spade, 15323.—As to thirty acres being too much, it depended on the land; ten-acre holding was not economic, 15326-8.

Labourers' Cottages and Uneconomic Holdings.

Witness had no objection to creation of labourers' cottages by District Councils, at public expense, so far as Commissioners were concerned, 15335.—Commissioners recommended labourers' cottages in districts where they were required, and where labourers were not satisfactorily housed; it was necessary for agriculture, 15337-8, 15347.—There was no real comparison between labourer's cottage with potato-patch and small holding, 15345.

Question of Landlord disposing of Grass Lands to New Tenants.

It had come to official knowledge of Commissioners that in three cases landlords proposed to dispose of their land by public auction, instead of selling it to Commissioners, taking the fine and dividing the land, preliminary to afterwards disposing of tenanted portion under Act of 1903, 15348-50.—There were public pronouncements in Commissioners' Report that such cutting up was contrary to principle and policy of the Act, 15353.—If land were so disposed of to outsiders who did not want it, and people who did want it were deprived, it might be a barrier to the work, 15354A-5.—Witness knew of no means of preventing the evil if it existed, 15356-7.—In the three cases referred to, one sale went through, another was refused, and the third case investigated; the declaration of Estates Commissioners put an end to the procedure, 15359-60.—Only one case in which landlord received ten or twelve years' purchase in the shape of fines, afterwards selling lands with bonuses of Act of 1903, and then put up the price of land to forty-five or fifty years' purchase, 15360A.—For purposes of application of Act of 1903 tenancies were not recognised as within the Act, which were created after its passing, these would be future tenancies, 15361.

Documents put in by Right Hon. F. S. Wrench.

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Meaning of Term "Congestion."

Definition of congested districts in Section 36 of Act of 1891 was said by Mr. A. Balfour to be taken from Arrears of Rent Act, 1882, and was founded on ratio of valuation to population, districts declared congested were parts of each county in Connaught, parts of Clare, Cork, Kerry, and Donegal, are three and a half million acres, population half a million, Poor Law valuation averaged £1 per head, "Congested" in Ireland did not mean too many people to square mile, as population was really sparse, but insufficiency of arable and pastoral land for support of population, more appropriate name would be impoverished districts, Mr. A. Balfour explained that objects of Land Purchase Bills of 1890-91 in creating Congested Districts Board were (1) amalgamation of holdings and migration of tenants (2) development of industries (3) improvement of fishing resources of congested counties, Land Purchase *per se* formed subordinate part of Board's duties except where necessary for amalgamation and migration, 15363.

Purchase Powers Necessary to Board's Work.

Board had found it impossible to do their work without purchase powers and had had to apply for them, 15364, 15364a.—Mr. Balfour's idea may have been that vacancies left by emigration would have given land for amalgamation of holdings, 15366.—On that Scottish system might be intermixed with creation of peasant proprietorship, 15367.

Definition of Congestion Needed Amendment.

Statutory definition gave rough and ready means of determining most strikingly poverty-stricken areas, but was defective as regards enlargement of holdings. as it excluded large number of petty holdings outside congested counties, example of such was estate in County Cavan, which had come before Estates Commissioners, it was badly congested as large numbers of holdings were under £5 rateable value, but it was outside scheduled counties; all agricultural congestion ought to be covered by defining congested estate as one that had large proportion of agricultural or pastoral holdings of less than £10 rateable value, or which consisted of mountain or bog land, 15368. —Act of 1903 had made minimum of rateable value £5 and stipulated that half the number of holdings must be under £5 valuation to make estate congested, witness would make much larger proportion under £10 minimum of congestion on any estate, whether in congested districts or not, 15369.—If there were ten or fifteen holdings under £10 valuation on estate otherwise good, Estates Commissioners should have power to define these as separate congested estate, 15372.—There was no difference in principle between enlarging holding in Mayo of less than £10 rateable value and one in Meath of same value, 15373.—Proximity of a few small holdings to large economic ones on same estate did not generally benefit them, even small proportion should be declared congested if they were so, 15375.—Though need for enlarging small holdings in richer counties was not so great as in scheduled areas, Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board should have power of enlargment wherever practicable, even if 10 per cent. loss were involved, 15376-8.—In Limerick, Meath, and elsewhere there were clusters of uneconomic small holdings, tenants would get employment if near large cultivated holdings, but not from grazing farms, 15377.—Herds only would be employed by big grazing farms, 15379. —Witness advocated distinct definition of congestion and then ascertaining and enumerating all congested estates, 15380.—Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board should not be compelled to declare estates congested, but should have power to do so, witness took £10 as standard because £10 rateable value was smallest holding on proceeds of which family could live, £12 10*s.* would be a better standard, but land was not available to bring all holdings even up to £10 standard, 15381, 15417

Holdings should be Raised to a Minimum Standard of £10 Valuation.

If land available were not sufficient to bring all holdings up to £10 valuation it would be better to bring some up to that standard and deal in some other manner with remainder of tenants rather than make average £7, 15382, 15385.—Congested Districts Board had adopted latter principle and consequence was that large number of holdings had been left uneconomic, emigration, labour, fishing, &c., could give employment to surplus, 15385.—If people absolutely refused to migrate when better land was offered them they should be left to do best they could in old conditions, but chances were they would not refuse, 15387-91.—On Dillon Estate Congested Districts Board had done best they could with available land, 15392.—Standard of congestion must be, to large extent, matter of discretion, reason for taking £10 valuation was that it represented twenty statute acres of fairly good land in west, and £12 10*s.* represented twenty-five acres, experts held that twenty-five acres was as small a holding as there was any chance of succeeding with, 15416.—Congestion on western seaboard was both industrial and agricultural, 15418.—People were not originally attracted to this spot by fishing and kelp industries, but were compelled to go, 15419.

Remedies Proposed in event of there not being land enough to bring all Holdings up to £10 Standard.

If land in Ireland was insufficient State-aided emigration would be much better than perpetuating uneconomic conditions, but compulsory emigration should not be adopted, 15393-5.—If industries, or improved fishing, or other supplemental means could keep people at home it would be better for them to stay, 15396.—But development of industries was hypothetical and might fail, only certain economic factor was the land, 15397-15400.—Assuming that complete control could be obtained over all untenanted and grass land two-thirds of the people could be provided for, 15401-2.—If country could not support inhabitants it would be better to aid emigration, 15403-5.—But country was big enough to support present population and more, 15406.—Fishermen or migratory labourers who paid rent for patch of land and house where their families could reside were not farmers, but everything should be done to help them and to develop their industries, and any that really wished for farm should be provided with land, 15471-2.—Migratory labourers who had been to England farmed satisfactorily, but fishermen did not, but there was not land for all, 15473.—If improvement of houses, fishing, &c., of one-third residue in congested areas did not answer they must migrate or emigate, 15475.—There must be no legal disqualification, those fitted for it should be given land, but many were not fit and all could not be supplied, 15477-9.—Patches of bog cultivated with potatoes and oats did not give experience for cultivation of grass land, 15480-1.—If people had skill and means for farming they ought to be helped, 15483-5.—Witness proposed that all congested estates in scheduled areas should be bought, 15486-8.—No geographical differentiation should be made, but ability to work and willingness to move should be test of migration, 15490.—Holdings of those who had migrated should be sold to those who remained, and if money were available advances should be given for improvement of houses, 15491.—Inspection should ascertain on the spot in any district who were unfit for migration, 15493.—Conditions in seaboard districts made it likely that largest proportion would be unfit there, 15494-5.—Presumption would be in favour of not migrating fishermen, 15496.

Valuation as Test whether Holding was Economic.

Valuation was only possible basis of definition of congestion, but Government had never yet got information as to actual rental of Irish estates, except those that came in for sale, Griffith's valuation had been regulated by prices of agricultural produce based on average of principal maritime markets of Ireland during a given period, Digest of Evidence on the Occupation of Land by Captain Kennedy, written for Devon Commission described valuation system, since then prices of cereals had fallen, but potatoes, mutton, beef, butter, &c., had risen, therefore, valuation of cultivated land made sixty years ago should be higher than rent of present time, valuation of pasture land would be too low now, three million acres of land, according to Agricultural Department returns for 1904, had changed from cultivation to pasture after Famine, when evictions took place, so that greater portion of the 3,000,000 acres was over-rated, only pasturage was under-rated, 15408-9.—In Great Britain transfer from tillage to pasturage had taken place, but valuation had been made up-to-date, whereas in Ireland it had not been changed, 15410.—Transfer from tillage to grass was not peculiar to Ireland, 15411-2.—Cause was that tillage did not pay so well as grass, but that did not affect argument regarding Griffith's valuation of land which was then in cultivation, but was now under pasture, figures were not based on valuation alone, but Commissioners had traced relation of valuation to rent, 15413.—Rateable value did not give true value of land at present time, but had to be used in absence of better basis, 15414-5.—Stock and dairying were now staple products of agriculture in Ireland and prices had risen since Griffith's valuation, so value of pasture lands on which stock was raised must have risen, but that was counterbalanced by fact that cultivated land was over-valued under Griffith's valuation, 15421-6.—All calculations based on valuation were liable to certain amount of error, but it was best basis obtainable, and source of error was not so great as might be supposed, 15433.—Price of cereals was less than at time of Griffith's valuation, but cost of cultivation and wages of labour had been doubled since then, 15435.—So Griffith's valuation of cultivated land was much too high now, even if correct in his time, 15436.—Griffith himself acknowledged that to allow a margin his valuation was 25 per cent. under real letting value, 15437.—His instructions to valuators were that land should be valued on liberal scale, value was not to be judged by appearances, but by digging, and badly farmed land, was to be judged at same rate as similar land well farmed, all permanent improvements were to be considered, industrious farmer who tilled well would not be charged more than indolent one, 15439.—Margin of 25 per cent. would, to some extent, compensate for enhanced cost of labour now, 15440.—If land were re-valued witness did not know whether it would be higher or lower than Griffith's valuation, as no fixed principles were followed in making valuation, 15441.—If Griffith's valuation were reliable rents fixed would be same as valuation, 15443-4.—To make tenants growing cereals and those using land for pasture pay alike on Griffith's valuation now would be unreasonable, present value of land would have to be obtained, 15445.

Valuation and Rent Compared.

Griffith' valuation did not now, and never did, represent fair letting value of land in Ireland, valuation was now a little more than judicial rent and judicial rent represented fair value of land, ten or fifteen years ago valuation was much less than rent, but since reduction in court valuation and judicial rents were about equal, 15428-9.—This was on both first and second term rents, 15430.

Working of Crofters' Commission in Scotland.

Crofters' Commission in Scotland had to deal with same evils as were in congested districts in Ireland, uneconomic holdings, undue extension of area of holdings, insecurity of tenure, high rents, defective communication, want of good harbours, &c., 15448.—Scotch Crofters' Commission had recommended that special facilities should be given for improving holdings paying not less than £6 rent, but left the poorest classes untouched, 15469-70.—They said they did this to avoid a greater evil, but this limit was not accepted by Parliament, and was not put into Crofters' Act of 1886, 15471.—Scotch Crofters' Act provided for enlargement of small holdings up to a standard of £15, by obtaining land on lease from proprietors in occupation and also by diminishing larger holdings in occupation of farmers, where they exceeded certain stipulated value, if voluntary concession were absent compulsory process should be adopted, 15498, 15500.—Principle of compulsion was definitely recognised by Legislature, but was hedged in by safeguards against diminution of letting value of farms diminished in area and so largely inoperative; if compulsion were to be adopted in Ireland "purchase" would have to be substituted for "letting," 15500.—Inoperativeness of Crofters' Act was probably fault of Commission who did not put compulsory powers into force, 15501.—Referring to (1) undue contraction of area of holdings; (2) extension of area of holdings and of area in occupation of owners witness submitted tabular statements showing (*a*) total area and valuation of untenanted land that might be available for enlargement of holdings; (*b*) total number and valuation of holdings less than £10 and valuation of land required to bring them up to £10, 15450.

Amount of Untenanted Land available for Enlargement of Holdings; Amount required to raise all Holdings to £10 Standard.

Figures relating to untenanted land in owners' occupation were taken from Return recently prepared by Commissioner of Valuation, demesnes, bogs, mountains, plantations and waste land were included, so all shown was not available for enlargement of holdings, Registers and Maps at office of Commissioner of Valuation showed area, valuation, &c., of every tenanted holding in Ireland—"holding" as used by Commissioner of Valuation meant unit of area separately valued for Poor Law valuation and might belong either to tenant or landlord, witness had tried to have eliminated demesnes, bogs, mountains, &c., so as to arrive at real amount available for enlargement of holdings, demesnes were eliminated *in toto* at present because Act of 1903 encouraged owners to retain demesnes and live in Ireland, figures might not be quite correct, but were near enough to support inference drawn from them, possibly available area had been over-estimated, one inference from figures was that total area of untenanted land was not sufficient to raise half of existing holdings under £10 valuation to that standard, as total available was £620,000, while land required would have valuation of £1,500,000, deficiency of land was greatest where it was most needed, total available in congested counties was only valued at £216,000, while amount required would be £707,000, in Mayo £164,000 would be required, but only £29,000 was available, Donegal would require £146,000, but only £12,000 was available, in Meath only was there more land available than was required, viz.: £68,000 against £34,000 needed, 15451.—In Roscommon number of holdings under £4 were 5,687, under £10, 13,449, value required for enlargement £69,000, available land only, £30,000, or £27,000 excluding bogs, &c., 15454.—Mr. Doran's figures were different, based on personal inquiries, witness's were taken from records of Commission of Valuation, which gave area, value and situation of every holding in Ireland, 15457, 15460.—Witness's figures dealt merely with untenanted land in owners' occupation, Mr. Doran included all land in tenants occupation over £25, 15458.—Figures referred only to scheduled congested districts, 15461.—In Table No. 3 figures in lump for whole of Ireland were given, 15462-3.—Rateable value of holdings not exceeding £10 in whole of Ireland was £275,344, not exceeding £4 £134,000, 15465.—Land required to bring all up to £10 standard was one and a half million, total available, £620,000, exclusive of bogs, &c., 15466.—As land available was insufficient for requirements questions were (*a*) Should only certain proportion of holdings be enlarged; (*b*) Should efforts be made to acquire land in occupation of large tenant farmers and tenant purchasers to supplement available area.

Effect of Diminution of Large Grazing Tract on Cattle Industry.

Objection had to be made that diminution of area of large grazing farms in Connaught would be economically bad as they were required to produce two-year-old store cattle and yearlings for fattening lands of Meath, answer to that was (1) if grazing farms were split up small tenants would keep their yearlings till fit for fattening in Meath; (2) by small farming, such as in Belgium, more cattle could be raised to acre by tillage and house-feeding than by grazing; (3) numerous and prosperous peasantry was more important than numerous fat cattle, 15503.—Schedules showed all untenanted land in owners' occupation, including grass lands of Meath, etc., 15504-7.—Fattening lands in owners' occupation in Meath were said to be too rich for cultivation; witness doubted this; he had seen at one time parts of Golden Vale in Limerick under cultivation; it was best land in Ireland, and change had been made to grazing because profits of pasture were higher; even if land were split up fattening could be continued, 15508.—If it were economically sounder to keep land under pasture either big farmers could be brought from Roscommon, leaving land available for relief of congestion, or it could be split up into smaller holdings, and in either case kept in pasture, 15510-2.—If split up larger number of people would be provided for, 15512.—If people were to be moved from congested parts of Roscommon, others would have to be moved to other places to make room for them, 15516.—If striping were adopted one holder would be replaced by a number of small graziers, 15517.—Big graziers could buy larger quantities of cattle, and so could place them on land cheaper than number of small men going from different farms, but number of smaller men could combine, so that loss would not be very great, 15520.—It was important to find out whether any tracts of land in Ireland ought to be, from an economical standpoint, kept as grazing land, 15523.—These areas should not be deducted from land available for migration, but should be split up, 15526.—Advantages of breaking up land into small holdings and giving large number of people means of livelihood, making them content, would far more than counterbalance any disadvantages, 15550-1.—Mr. Bailey would give evidence as to large grazing lands furnishing markets for small holders of South and West about importation of Canadian cattle, 15552.—He also knew extent of stall-feeding in Ulster, etc., 15553.—If land were better fitted for grazing than for tillage, it was only as a second resort that it should be broken up, 15554-5.—New holdings should be arranged, if possible, so that there would be varying class of soil for each holding, 15556.—Land on estates was of unequal value, poorer land ought to be cultivated, thus giving mixed system on holdings, 15557-9.—Best parts of country now unpopulated would have a fair population, 15562.

Possibility of Successful Stall-feeding in Ireland.

Sunshine might add a good deal to success of farming in Belgium, but Switzerland did not get a great deal of sunshine, nor had it as good soil as Ireland, yet it produced more fat cattle than Ireland, 15531.—This was by stall-feeding where crops such as roots, rye, vetches, etc., had to be produced, 15533-8.—Ireland could produce as good roots, hay, grass, and wheat as Switzerland, 15539.—Witness did not know whether much stall-feeding existed in Ireland, 15540-3.—But authorities agreed that conditions in Ireland were better for production of crops for stall-feeding than in Flanders, Belgium, and Switzerland, 15543.—Small farmers in Ireland were backward, but if properly taught economical farming might succeed, 15545.—Much depended on railway rates and fares and on markets, 15546.—Eminent French authority, M. Emilie de Laveleye, thought Ireland much more suitable for good farming than Flanders. Flemings grew crops for sale as well as food for themselves, and Irishmen should be able to do the same; Ireland had quite as good markets as Flanders, 15548.

Question whether any Land was too rich for Cultivation.

It was really a fallacy to say that land was too good for cultivation, 15508, 15523.—What was meant was that if land produced good crops it would be still more profitable for grazing and fattening purposes, 15563-15569a.—Richest land should not be given to smallest farmers who had been accustomed to poor land, but larger farmers should be migrated to it, 15572-3, 15575.—They had more capital for working it, 15574.

Increase in Number of Large Holdings since 1830.

In evidence taken for Devon Commission "consolidation of farms" applied to two distinct operations—(1) increasing size of holdings by removing some occupiers and uniting their land to other farms; (2) arrangement of property held in detached parcels or rundale, giving to each occupier a compact holding equal in value to his scattered lots: (1) was sometimes done simply to increase demesnes or farms; (2) was necessary before taking any other steps to improve estate so circumstanced, but peasantry had great objection to it; process (1) had begun as far back as 1830, but was accelerated by famine; evils of sub-letting and sub-division had gone so far in 1830 that Dr. Doyle, Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, had written that the impression was that pauper population would go on increasing and value of land diminishing till produce would become insufficient to maintain population; evil was so obvious that some remedies were applied. Department of Agriculture reported that three periods of change might be distinguished during last sixty years: in first, change was catastrophic and closed before 1851; second was marked by decline in small holdings and increase in large ones; in third period, last twenty years, changes were few; consolidation had greatly increased since 1845; in return prepared for Devon Commission there were 955,448 holdings in all Ireland, 317,264 contained not more than five acres each; there were only 7,926 holdings exceeding 200 acres each; in 1904 there were 591,244 holdings; less than 138,000 contained not more than five acres, 8,096 had between 200 and 500 acres each, 1,527 had more than 500 acres, 15577.—Of these last 795 were situated in scheduled congested counties; Galway had 15·2 per cent., Mayo 12·4, Meath 5·9, of total number of holdings exceeding 500 acres, 15578.

To obtain sufficient Land for Relief of Congestion Large Holdings should be scaled down to £100 or £50 limit.

Total valuation of tenancies rated at more than £100 each in counties in which were scheduled areas was estimated at £500,000; if each tenant sold surplus above £100 rateable value, £200,000 rateable value of land would be available for enlargment of small holdings; this added to available area in occupation of owners in fee would raise about two-thirds of holdings under £10 up to that standard, but available land was very unevenly distributed; Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal, and Kerry had comparatively little, while Cork had more than was required; if deficit could not be made good by voluntary sales, valuation might have to be reduced to £50 instead of £100, or people would have to be migrated to other counties, or those who could not be provided for would have to remain under unimproved conditions or emigrate, 15579.—All untenanted land in administrative county of which scheduled area formed a part should be bought up, that would provide for two-thirds of small tenants of county, 15714.—If enough could not be acquired in that way land should be taken in nearest available county, 15715-6.—Land above £100 valuation should be taken, but if not sufficient in aggregate of all congested counties, excess land over £50 valuation would have to be taken, 15718.—That would probably provide for three-fourths, and if one-fourth were taken as incapable, there would be provision for all requiring land, 15719-20.—Land above £50 valuation would have to be taken in counties in which were scheduled areas, but for rest of Ireland land above £100 valuation would provide for raising everything to £10 standard, 15723, 15726.—It would be hard on tenants in scheduled counties if this distinction were made, so, if possible, £100 standard should be kept to, 15728.—It was also necessary to have larger holdings as an example and stimulus, as dead level of peasant proprietary of £10 or £12 valuation would be disastrous; for same reason demesnes should be left with landlords if they would live in the country and set up standard of refinement, culture, and learning, and give examples of high farming; on same principle substantial yeomen class of gentlemen farmers of £100 valuation was very necessary, 15729.—Most lands over £100 valuation were grass lands, 15730.

Work both of Board and Estates Commissioners was only Patchwork, and must be so until districts were bought in globo.

Great difficulty, which confronted both Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners, was that they could only buy estates when they were offered for sale, with result that only scattered portions of land could be obtained, so that work of relieving congestion was mere patchwork. Witness showed map illustrating this, 15580-1.—In scheduled areas only small portion of land was sold direct from landlord to tenant, 15582.—Estates Commissioners had bought most land in Galway and Mayo; Donegal was untouched, 15584.—Patchwork was inevitable so long as Estates Commissioners had not powers of compulsory purchase, for they could not touch badly congested estates if landlord refused to sell, 15585.—Congested Districts Board had had same difficulty, 15587.—Estates Commission could only buy estates that were offered for sale; they had no option under the law but to buy even if estates were not suitable; system was bad, 15588-90.—If Estates Commissioners bought land in neighbourhood of congested estate it was difficult to migrate congests from other districts to it as they were not well received by people of neighbourhood, 15591-2.—Tenants of congested estate which landlord refused to sell were free to go to better farms bought by the State, but landlords would have grievance if that were done, 15592.—It might be to advantage of landlord, as he would be able to enlarge holdings without having to pay for tenant-right, but fact was that landlords objected because it upset their property, and it was reasonable objection, as it was improper for officials to interfere in that way, 15594-7.—No tenant would remove without compensation for all his improvements, etc., unless everything was provided on new farm, 15598.—Which would mean great loss to State, 15599.—If migrating tenant sold his tenant-right, estate which he was leaving would be in no better condition that before, 15601, 15606.—But if he relinquished tenant-right to landlord State would be making present to landlord of tenant-right, 15602.—So landlord would be gainer, 15603.—But still he would have every right to object to interference and would object, 15604.—If congested estates were to be improved they must be sold either to Congested Districts Board or to Estates Commissioners; then advance, repayable annually, could be made for improvements; there was no power to advance money for improvements if estates were sold direct from landlord to tenant, though in certain cases free grants could be given, 15606.

Objection to direct Sales in Congested Districts.

It was a great pity that so many estates in congested areas had been sold direct from landlord to tenant, as no improvements had been made, and worst kind of holding had been stereotyped; out of 1,025 sold in congested districts five-sixths paid annuity of £10 and under, 15608.—Annuities payable in ninety-four of these were less than £1, ninety-seven were between £1 and £1 10*s*., 356 were between that and £3, 258 between £3 and £5, 160 between £5 and £10; only 43 were above £10 and seventeen above £20, 15610.—This was in direct contradiction to policy of Land Acts, but not of letter of Act, 15611.—Same thing had happened outside congested area, 15612-3.—Conclusion was that congested estate should never be allowed to pass direct from landlord to tenant, 15614, 15622.—Drainage works could more easily be carried out by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners before sale to tenants, 15617.—If money were advanced for such works before sale it could be recovered in annuities, otherwise it would be lost, 15618.—Farmers of Donegal were in favour of this system, 15619.—Holdings which had passed direct from landlord to tenant were included in return given by witness, 15620.—These might be enlarged later if land were available, 15621.—The law, however, prohibited advances for improvements in such cases, 15622, 15628.—If land remained in hand of tenant under landlord no advances for improvements could be made, 15626.—Migration was much more difficult where congested estate had already been sold to tenants than it would have been previously, as annuity had to be calculated by certain rules, but rules were very difficult to work in practice, 15269-31.

Comprehensive Scheme of re-settlement proposed involving Compulsion.

All this pointed to argument that all congested estates should be purchased by Estates Commissioners as (1) it would avoid patchwork, (2) it would prevent proximity of congested estate which could not be touched, (3) it would prevent differences between estates sold direct to tenant and those sold to Estates Commissioners; this would mean that (*a*) all congested estates in scheduled counties would have to be bought up and kept in hand for a few years; (*b*) all available untenanted land that might be required for enlargement of holdings must be bought both from owners and large tenants in congested areas; (*c*) rearrangement of holdings and apportionment of untenanted land; such scheme would involve compulsory acquisition of land, 15632.—It was possible for Land Commission to become landlords on this large scale; at present they were landlords of £28,000,000 worth of property, but this scheme involved buying only £8,500,000 worth, 15633.—Problem was not so enormous as it sounded, 15634.—Time would be required to put estates in order and to consider where tenants should be moved; housing arrangements would have to be carefully considered, 15635. Scheme would involve compulsion where lands could not be acquired voluntarily, 15749.

Relations between Estates Commissioners and tenants while lands were kept in hands—Question of having fair rents fixed against Commissioners.

Buying up lands and keeping in hand until re-sale would not put Estates Commissioners in position of landlords under Act of 1881 and following Acts, as Act of 1903 authorising them to retain property up to £20,000,000, or by another interpretation £5,000,000 for five years, they had larger powers than ordinary landlords, and tenants could not come into court every fifteen years to have fair rents fixed, as they paid interest, not rent, and Commission had summary powers to realise it, 15637-9.—Estates Commissioners only purchased property when three-fourths of tenants had agreed to re-purchase at estimated price and to pay 3½ per cent. interest in lieu of rent; they had same power to realise interest as to realise annuity on purchased land, by summary process; way of dealing with one-fourth who refused to purchase had not yet been decided; they had same rights as before, but once purchase was agreed upon interest had to be paid instead of rent; in one case tenant had refused to pay interest after agreeing to purchase, and County Court Judge held that he could have fair rent fixed, but Appellate Court had reversed this decision, 15640A.—This did not apply to Congested Districts Board, as they did not take agreements to purchase from tenants, 15641.—But Estates Commissioners must get undertaking to purchase at certain price unless Lord Lieutenant relieved them of obligation, 15642.—Estates Commissioners could not take agreements about purchase of improved holdings before improvements were made, but they could about holdings as they were, and then after improvements fresh agreements could be made, 15644.—If Estates Commissioners had got agreement from tenants to purchase holdings as they stand at certain price and pay interest instead of rent up to date on which land was vested in them they were bound by that agreement and would not gain by going into court, 15647.—If counties were bought inspector should make careful examination of every estate, going into value of every holding and every estate, and then explain to landlords and tenants price Estates Commissioners proposed to give, if necessary compelling landlords to sell, 15648.—Tenants must give interest in lieu of rent on holdings as they stood, but when, later on, something better was offered re-adjustment would follow, 15648A-9.—Original agreement was an absolute agreement, but tenant might choose to take something better later on, 15650.—Fair rents had been fixed against Congested Districts Board, but they had no judicial power, but were in position of landlords. Estates Commissioners worked under different law and had different powers, 15652-3.—If Estates Commissioners took over Congested Districts Board estate they would have to ignore their proceedings and go through formalities required for their own estates, 15654.—If law put Estates Commissioners in position of Board they would be landlords and nothing else, but if they proceeded under their present law they might take agreements to purchase from tenants, as they already had done on congested estates, following same procedure as in case of non-congested estates, 15656-7.—Commissioners had done this in many cases, Clanmorris Estate being an example; agreements were taken from small tenants to pay interest instead of rent on purchase price of holding as it stood, 15658.—If necessary new agreement was taken on purchase of new or improved holding, 15659.—Generally when additions were made tenant agreed to pay higher interest without any trouble, 15660.—He had given undertaking from beginning to buy; if he refused he would have to stay on old farm; law had authorised this procedure, and no court would set it aside, 15661-2.—Estates Commissioners had not so far been able to lose 10 per cent. on improvement of congested estates out of funds voted by Parliament, at present had to lose it out of reserve fund, 15663.—Procedure with regard to buying congested estates in scheduled counties would be to buy all estates in county one after another, first sending inspectors to see whether tenants would pay certain annuity to cover outlay, then price to be offered to landlord would have to be ascertained; fair price should be offered, and if price offered by tenants would not cover that it should be bought with prospect of loss at 10 per cent., 15669, 15678.—Compulsory purchase could not be carried out without change of law, 15679.—Nor could transfer from Congested Districts Board to Estates Commissioners, 15681.—Tenants were not compelled to buy; if they objected they could continue to pay rent, but that was much higher, 15683.—Commission had power to compel recusant tenants to purchase at estimated prices where three-fourths of tenants had agreed to conditions, 15684.—Estates Commissioners were confined in their functions by 23rd section of Act; body that dealt with settling fair rents was quite distinct, 15688.—In theory they were party to all done by Land Commission; in fact they were not, 15689.—If tenant refused to pay annuity instead of rent he would be tenant to Estates Commissioners and could have rent revised every fifteen years, 15690-4.—As matter of fact no tenant would take up such position, as rent they would have to pay would probably be more than 25 per cent. greater than annuity, 15695.—If tenant were buying from private landlord he might get reduction of purchase price if second term rent were reduced, but Estates Commissioners would have fixed purchase price, so that nothing could be gained by refusing their annuities, 15696, 15701.—Rent collectors and rent fixers were different branches of Land Commission, 15697.—Tenants were very eager to make purchases, 15698.—Though on Arranmore and De Freyne Estates they were anxious to have second term rents fixed before annuity was decided, 15699.—In some cases County Court Judge fixed rents, 15703.—So if Estates Commissioners felt they were too interested in any case to fix rent they could apply to County Court Judge, 15704.—If cases had been entered for hearing before Land Commission they could not remit them to County Court, though they could transfer cases to themselves from County Court, 15706.—If three-fourths of tenants of an estate signed undertakings to buy from Estates Commissioners effect would be to exclude those tenants from rent courts, as they no longer paid rent, but interest, 15707-8.—To objection urged that Estates Commissioners fixed price and then dealt with tenants as ordinary landlords, it might be replied that such was the practice in most countries, Land Judge was landlord dealing with tenants, etc., 15709.—In India all estates under Court of Wards were so managed, and often area and rental of one estate was larger than whole of Ireland; High Court did same, but question was purely academic, as, in practice, it was never likely to occur, 15710.—Tenant himself could choose County Court as tribunal, though Land Commission could not transfer to County Court, 15711-2.—It would be easy to make provision for transfer from Land Commission to County Court if necessary, 15713.

Grazing lands should be taken for enlarging purposes before tillage lands.

Man who tilled land employed labour and did more to promote prosperity of country than those who kept land in grass, so there would not be injustice in taking latter land, though not former, but there were few tillage farms of £100 valuation, 15731.—In congested districts there would not be many tillage farms over £50, 15732-3.—If man had fair proportion of large farm under tillage he should be treated more leniently than man who had grazing land only; "mixed farm" had not been properly defined; officer on the spot would have to decide, 15734.—If large farmer let out land in conacre to small people he should not have indulgence, 15734A.—Sole justification for State taking land compulsorily was promotion of prosperity of country; it might not be logical to take grazing land and leave tilled, but England's policy was not generally logical but practical, and man who was doing best for his county ought to be treated best, 15735-6.—Grazier might put his land under tillage till he thought danger was over, 15737.—There would probably be greater discontent in county if land were taken from tillage farmer than from grazier, 15738.—In administration of present law distinction between tillage and grazing lands was actually made, as advances up to £7,000 might be made in case of mixed farm, but up to £5,000 only in case of grazing farm, though in actual practice rule was not always observed, 15741.—This done because tenants would not be able to make up balance of sale of large estates in cash, and that would stop sale of whole estate, 15742.—Since Royal Commission commenced, graziers had been putting up residences on non-residential farms; Estates Commissioners would not advance more than £3,000 in such case, 15743.—Figures in paragraphs 19 and 20 of witness's memorandum referred only to congested districts, 15745.—Witness's present proposals were to take land over £100 valuation from nine congested counties only, 15748.

Cost of Scheme.

Maps and registers in offices of Commissioners of Valuation would show where congestion existed in whole of Ireland; where untenanted land and large grazing farms were situated, etc., total valuation of scheduled congested counties was £577,000, one-fourth had already been sold to Congested Districts Board, to Land Commission, or to tenants, leaving valuation tion of land to be sold at about £410,000, 15750-1.—Congested county or scheduled area meant only portion of county described in Act as congested, not whole of administrative county, 15752.—"Valuation" meant poor law valuation, 15754.—£577,000 included buildings as well as land, 15755.—Mr. A. Balfour, in 1890, had said that land in scheduled areas could be bought at average of fourteen years' purchase of the then rent, which would be equal to a little over eighteen years' purchase of valuation; Congested Districts Board had actually purchased at 12·2 years' purchase of the rent during first three years of Land Purchase operations; Mr. Parnell had said that Connaught could be bought at ten years' purchase of valuation; Estates Commissioners had bought good estates in Connaught at twenty-one times rateable valuation and untenanted land at twenty-six times valuation, so, taking higher prices paid as average, estimated cost would be for (1) scheduled districts, valuation £410,000 at twenty-one years' purchase of valuation, eight and a-half million pounds; (2) untenanted land, valuation £235,000, at twenty-six years' purchase of valuation, six million pounds; total equal fourteen and a-half million pounds; cost of land in occupation of tenants or tenant purchasers would be greater, but three causes operated to reduce cost in such cases: (1) there might be crash in value of big grazing farms because of reduction in profits; (2) Estates Commissioners ought not to advance more than £5,000 for one grazing holding in congested counties, so that if farmer of large holding proposed to purchase from landlord he must either make good the balance or remain tenant of surplus or sell to Estates Commissioners; (3) if land could be acquired from big grazing farmers, law fixed compensation for disturbance at not more than three years' rent where rent was above £100, compensation for improvements being extra; tenant's interest could probably be bought at five times the valuation over and above what would be paid for untenanted land, and total purchase money of surplus land might not exceed thirty-one years' purchase of valuation, or about nine and a-half million pounds; that, added to previous estimate, made total of twenty-four million pounds; if purchase operations were spread over six years four million pounds yearly would have to be provided, if over ten years two and a-half million pounds; this sum would provide for enlargement of small holdings in scheduled areas as well as in administrative counties, of which scheduled districts formed part, as (*a*) untenanted land purchased in excess of requirements of scheduled districts could be kept on hands till non-scheduled areas were sold voluntarily and then utilised for enlargement; (*b*) so much as was not required for scheduled areas need not be bought till found to be needed for non-congested portion, 15756.

Compulsory powers needed.

Compulsion should be applied in scheduled areas, and, if necessary for purchase of untenanted land, outside scheduled areas, too, 15757, 15760.—There was very little untenanted land in scheduled areas, all land in them, tenanted or not, would have to be bought, 15759.

Allowance for Tenant's Interest.

Difference between 21 and 31 years' purchase went to the tenant, landlord getting 21 and tenant 10 for improvements and disturbance, 15761-3.—Ten years' purchase had been fixed as best figure available for tenant's interest; statement of Registrar of Deeds showing prices at which tenants' interests had been transferred showed extreme differences, varying from five years' purchase to fifty times the rent; another way of ascertaining worth of tenant's interest was from true value as ascertained by Land Commission; their average of tenant's interest was only about seven years' purchase, 15763.—This was appellate fixation as well as ordinary Land Commission, as tenant had right of appeal, 15765-6.—Land Commission had fixed true value of thirty-three tenancies during year, with area of 1,000 acres, tenants' interest being fixed at £4,854, 15767.—Seven years' purchase was average of small and large holdings, 15769.—There was not much material on which to form theory which would be reliable basis of calculation, and assertions had been made that Land Commission was disposed to fix price of tenants' interest too low; witness had taken more liberal view, 15771.—If Extates Commissioners were buying untenanted estate whole interest was sold out and out to them, but tenant of tenanted land could sell his interest to them for improvement of estate, 15847.—But they could not buy interest on estate which was not being sold, 15848.—If at time of sale landlord bought tenant's interest he would get bonus on total purchase money, but if tenant remained tenant landlord only got bonus on his own interest, and nobody got bonus on tenant's interest if Estates Commissioners bought it afterwards, 15849.

Funds available for scheme—Allocation between Congested and Non-Congested Districts, etc.

Under witness's scheme £4,000,000 worth of property would pass in year, unless period for carrying out scheme were extended, 15773.—There would still be fair amount of money available for voluntary purchases, 15774.—Witness hoped that £10,000,000 would be available for purchases yearly; unless £6,000,000 were available for voluntary purchase, £4,000,000 should not be given for congested districts, 15775-7.—If Treasury could grant only £5,000,000 £1,500,000 should be set aside, 15778.—The £24,000,000 would not be additional expenditure to that sanctioned by Act of 1903, as it was part of total estimated purchase of £100,000,000, but rate of purchase must be accelerated, 15780-3.—Total amount applied for from passing of Act of 1903 up to 3rd November, 1906, was £44,325,000; £17,200,000 Land Stock had been raised; actual cash advanced was £14,350,000, leaving £30,000,000 worth of applications still unpaid, 15785.—Act of 1903 had granted £5,000,000 yearly for first three years, which was actually about what had been paid; landlords and tenants had agreed among themselves to sell and buy at more rapid pace than Act had contemplated; if £30,000,000 could be raised it could be paid away in a year or two, 15786.—Block was due to nothing but want of money and staff, 15788.—If £4,000,000 were appropriated for congested districts, it would be starting with £30,000,000 arrears, but there was nothing in Act of 1903 giving precedence to any particular class of estates; it was question of expediency; Act was passed for relief of congestion, therefore it would be wise to tackle congested districts first, 15789-92.—All available money should not be appropriated for congested districts, only certain proportion; if this was not done it would be a long time before congested districts could be touched, 15794.—Congested districts should not have to wait until £30,000,000 was cleared off, 15797.—Mr. Wyndham had promised increased funds after first three years, but had not specified how much, 15799, 15800.—As no definite pledge had been made, none would be broken if further addition were devoted to congested districts; landlords had made their bargains up to £30,000,000, though they knew that only £5,000,000 were available, because bargains were good, and if they waited they would not get such high prices later on, 15801.—When Treasury grant was known estimate could be made of allotments to voluntary purchase and congested districts, 15803-4.—Estates Commissioners had been kept back by want of funds, except this year, 15805.—Estates Commissioners might have spent available sums much earlier than they had done if delays had not occurred on part of vendors' solicitors, but all had been spent by end of year, 15806.

Purchase of Congested Estates outside Scheduled Areas.

If estate outside scheduled area was congested under Act it could only be sold to Estates Commissioners; while they were working with special staff in congested districts, ordinary staff would inspect and buy this if price were fair, 15807.—No land could be sold in non-congested areas without coming through Estates Commissioners, as they must sanction advance; if they bought land then it was available for congests, 15809.—If tenanted land were sold direct to tenants and untenanted to Estates Commissioners, they had same control as in congested districts, 15810.—Landlord in selling estate to tenants must either sell untenanted land to Estates Commissioners or in parcels to tenants or others under restrictions of Section 2 of Act, viz., to tenants on estate, sons of tenants or others where rateable value did not exceed £5, otherwise he could not get advance, 15814.—If untenanted land were given to unsuitable persons Estates Commissioners would refuse advance, 15815.—If Estates Commissioners had adequate staff and accommodation they could get through £10,000,000 with improvements, or more, in a year, 15817-22, 15827.

Delays due to Bad Drafting of Act of 1903.

So far considerable portion of time had been taken up in controversies as to meaning of law; these should never have occurred if meaning had been clear; sixty-three questions of law had had to be referred to Judicial Commissioner on twenty-three sections worked by Commissioners, 15823.—Much time was wasted in answering questions in Parliament; all resulted from bad drafting and bad working of Act, 15824.

Time required for Improvement of Estates.

Improvements on estates took different times; some one, some two years or longer, but large staff could deal with different estates in different parts, and so clear a great many in a year, 15829-40.—Clanmorris Estate had taken about two years, 15842-3.—Dillon Estate, which was being worked by Congested Districts Board and had hundreds of miles of drainage, would probably take much longer, 15845.

Powers to be given to Estates Commissioners.

Witness proposed that Estates Commissioners should be empowered to declare estate congested in any part of Ireland, and to bring them under land purchase provisions of Act relative to congested estates, 15850.—These cases would not require compulsory powers, 15851.—Witness did not think the Estates Commissioners could buy tenant-right from tenant and become themselves tenants of the landlord, 15853.

Details of Loss involved in Scheme; Sources from which loss might be met.

Outlay on purchase of land would be recovered by annuities when lands were re-sold, except five years' extra purchase of valuation paid to tenant farmers over and above cost rate of untenanted land, aggregating about £1½ millions which would have to be lost by the State; these estimates were liberal; they showed that problem was not so vast as to be impossible if State were willing to incur moderate loss; Mr. Doran thought that 30,000 tenants would have to be migrated from scheduled areas on to untenanted land; houses would have to be built for them at expense of State; this would involve loss of £3,000,000; witness thought it would be better to migrate the more substantial farmers, holding from 30 to 100 acres, leaving their land available for enlargement of poorer holdings near; they had more capital, therefore cost of assisting them would be less; 15,000 might have to be moved; £200 would probably be lost on each, making net loss £3,000,000, 15854.—In scheduled areas only about 5,000 farmers had valuation above £15; total value of their land was £169,543; if these men were moved there would still be required about £242,000 worth, 15855-6.—They should not be moved by compulsion, but if they were shown advantages they would probably go voluntarily, 15857-8.—Plan should be to take them on land before house was built and explain amount of annuity and what would be done; this had been done, and five tenants had actually been moved from congested estate to 13 miles away; people on spot wanted to stop them, but gentlemen of local influence had persuaded people to withdraw opposition, 15859.—Local people had been given some addition to their holdings, 15862.—They had objected because they wanted land for their sons, 15863.—Estates Commissioners had migrated 51 tenants altogether, 15864.—Loss of £4½ millions which would be incurred would have to be met if whole of land purchase business were made over to Estates Commissioners; Congested Districts Board need not retain capital sum from interest of which it defrayed loss incurred on purchase and sale of estates, etc.; this would probably be two million pounds; Church Surplus Fund for relief of congestion would be 1½ million pounds, and capital sum would be spent, 15865.—If Congested Districts Board did work it could spend its own capital, 15866.—Cost of re-arranging farms, etc., could be met by Estates Commissioners from 10 per cent. loss authorised by Section 44, sub-section 2 of Act of 1903; so that net additional loss would be 2½ million pounds at the outside, 15866.—Whenever loss occurred it would be met by Parliamentary vote, 15869-71.—Cabinet would estimate closely amount of loss, 15873.—This 10 per cent. loss should be expended on improvement of estates in scheduled areas from which people migrated; Congested Districts Board had managed to improve estates at loss of 6 or 8 per cent., so 10 per cent. would leave good margin, 15874.—If £8,500,000 worth of land were purchased loss on that would be £850,000, 15875-6.—This was authorised by law, therefore was not additional cost, 15877.—£1,500,000 from the Church Surplus Fund and the capital value of Parliamentary Grant were funds available, 15879-81.—Re-adjustment of bonus had been suggested as way of meeting net loss, and if it were an alternative between reduction of bonus and leaving congestion unrelieved poor tenants ought to have first claim; landlords were receiving in some cases prices plus bonus which invested at 3½ per cent. would yield £106 or £107 for every £100 of gross rental, 15885, 15898.—When Act was passed £12,000,000 were earmarked for bonus, 15886.—Subject to review after five years, 15887.—Curtailment of bonus would have retarding effect on sales if bonus was required to fill up gap between income derived from purchase money paid by tenants and net income landlord had been receiving, 15889.—Indigence of population of scheduled areas was *not* due to defects in character or to operation of economic or natural laws, it resulted from antecedents, surroundings and history and operation of *unnatural* laws; all Irish History showed how people had suffered at hands of English, and British taxpayers of to-day ought justly to pay cost of remedy, 15890a.

Effect of Sale on Landlord's Income.

In some cases 121 per cent. had been realised by landlords on sale of property, 15891.—Average price of province of Ulster was 25½ years' purchase of second term rents, 15894.—Some estates had been sold at 27·4 years' purchase of entire rental as it stood; that invested at 4 per cent. would yield £122 15*s.* for every £100 of gross rent, 15895.—22 or 23 years' purchase invested at 3½ per cent. would yield landlord his net income, 15897.

Sub-division.

If holding purchased by tenant purchaser were sublet or sub-divided without consent of Land Commission, Land Commission might sell it; Commissioners of Valuation and Boundary Survey and Collectors of Poor Rates were bound, if they knew of it, to give notice of sub-letting to Land Commission; if sub-letting were done secretly they could not give notice; if evils of sub-letting were to be guarded against Poor Rate Collectors should have to certify periodically that they had made inquiries and ascertained that sub-letting was not going on; total number of sub-divisions sanctioned by Land Commission under all Acts since 1881 was 1,023 out of over 110,000 holdings; since passing of Act of 1903 only 41 had been sanctioned; sub-division should be allowed if sub-divided portions constituted economic farm, but if uneconomic farm would be created it should not be allowed; if small portion were required for school-house, public road, etc., it should be allowed; causes which led to sub-division in times past were described in Chapter XI., Part I., of Captain Kennedy's digest; these causes had now ceased to operate in greater part of Ireland, but still existed in some scheduled areas; if these were bought by Land Commission sub-letting must be stopped from the first, as it was much more difficult later on, 15901.

Price of Tenanted Land might be determined by Net Income.

If tenanted land were taken compulsorily by the State, State was bound to pay generous price for it, generous price would be sum which, including bonus, if safely invested, would bring in normal net income of preceding five or ten years, 15902.—In comparing securities different circumstances of different estates would have to be considered; in Ulster income derived from tenanted land was much more secure than that derived from estates in the West; Mr. Waldron, M.P., had stated that money could be safely invested at 3½ or 3¾ per cent., 15902.—If owner were absolute owner arrangement might be made for investing money by some body or person in public position in good security and paying bonus to extent necessary to make up income to former net income; if, however, there were charges on land, or he were tenant for life, Land Commission themselves or Public Trustee invested money in safe securities, but witness's point was that lower net income was as good as higher nominal income received from land in West, 15903.—Argument used in 1881 was that fair rent provisions of Act made rents absolutely safe, 15909.—Law would presume that rents fixed judicially were fair rents and ought to be capable of realisation, but if fact could be proved that rents could not be realised owing to incapacity of tenants to pay, then presumption of law was rebutted, 15910.—Office's books should be referred to to see if rents had been realised for ten or fifteen years, 15911.—That would be safe basis for ascertaining net income, 15923.—If that failed Income Tax returns would have to be consulted, they were not confidential as against the State, 15925.—Great British Insurance Companies regarded Irish properties as safe and lent money liberally, 15912.—In sale and purchase transactions mortgages had been effected largely by British Insurance Companies, 15913.—Question was how much had they advanced, 15914.—Great difficulty had been experienced in laying down rule for test of security; the following had been suggested—(*a*) principle adopted by Banks, Insurance Companies and other lenders of money; (*b*) principles deducted from Act itself; (*c*) personal opinion of inspector; (*d*) principle adopted under previous Land Purchase Acts; in (*a*) advance was limited to a proportion, if this were adopted in Connaught selling value of estate would be almost nil, as they would not advance money on it, 15915.—If particularly bad estates were put up for sale in scheduled area nobody would offer for them and it was unlikely that Insurance Companies would advance anything, 15916.—Vendors would probably not object to produce accounts if asked for them, 15917.

Arrears.

When Estates Commissioners had asked for accounts they had never been refused; in some estates in the West from ten to twenty years' arrears were shown in rent roll, only six were recoverable; landlords gave as reason for keeping on books that they wanted control over tenants, 15919-20.—Tenant had right to demand that rent should be credited to year he paid it for, 15921.—If landlord proceeded to recover anything of the twenty years' arrears Court had ample power to deal with such cases, 15931.—Witness thought Insurance Companies would charge 5 per cent, for money lent on mortgage of Irish estates, 15926-7.—If Public Trustee were appointed he would not be bound to invest in Consols, as Act of 1903 authorised investment in large number of securities yielding 4 per cent., 15929.

Bonus might be graduated.

If bonus were extended to bring amount to be invested up to sum necessary to yield net income it would have in many cases to be enormous; in some congested estates it would have to be increased by 50 per cent., that might be met by graduating bonus and giving it in inverse ratio to number of years' purchase, *e.g.*, man who sold at twenty-six years' purchase did not need State aid, but many who sold at fourteen years' purchase would have large deficit, 15904.—If man were absolute owner and by investing at 4 per cent. could get full income there was no reason for giving bonus at all, 15905.—This presupposed compulsion; in case of tenant for life inducement of 12 per cent. bonus was not required to induce him to sell if he got net income from safe investment with no trouble, but if bonus were graduated matters would have to be considered in relation to deficit in landlord's income that would arise from purchase price; at present bonus worked unfairly, one man with rental of £100 selling at fourteen years' purchase would get £1,400 and bonus would be £168, another man with same rental selling at twenty-seven years' purchase got £2,700, bonus on that was £324, which was unreasonable; when graduating bonus men should be helped by higher bonus to sell at lower prices, lower rate being given for higher prices, retaining total of 12 per cent. on aggregate of estates sold, 15906.—Bill of 1903 had embodied such principle, but it was rejected without reason, 15906a.—Men might get on twenty-seven years' purchase bonus of 12 per cent., not of real net income, but on rent roll as filed by themselves, which might or might not be realised, 15908.—Lord Dudley's idea of Public Trustee was that he should invest purchase moneys in best securities available, if landlord objected there might be Court of Appeal; in this way it could be seen how much of net income was realised from investment and balance could be made up by bonus, 15903-4, 15928.

Price of Untenanted Land—Net Income incomplete Test.

In determining price of untenanted land three things would have to be considered as on tenanted land—(1) net income actually obtained during preceding ten years; (2) precariousness or stability of that income; (3) what land would let for to solvent tenant; mere fact that high rents had been received for grazing land let on 11 months' system immediately before sale would not *per se* entitle vendor to receive price which, if invested at 3½ per cent., would give such income; if on other hand receipts for one year were abnormally low regard should be had to what land would let for to solvent tenant, 15932.—Basis of calculation should be what land would let for to solvent tenant who took it on lease for, say, ten or fifteen years, 15933.—Net income of tenanted land would be what landlord was receiving; net income of untenanted land what he would receive from solvent tenant if land were let to him for a number of years, 15934.—Such rent as might be fixed by Assistant Commissioners under existing law, not gross fair rent which was calculated on eleven months' system, but net fair rent calculated on holding as it stood after deducting percentage for tenants' unexhaused improvements; in untenanted land no improvements had to be deducted for, so rate per acre for tenanted land was lower than for untenanted, 15935.—Mr. Doran thought that grazing land would depreciate if foreign cattle were admitted free and from other causes, but there was possibility of appreciation of value if grazing area were largely reduced by State taking portions for settlement of tenants, if so, that would have to be considered, 15937, 15941.—Witness thought possibility of appreciation of value very slight, 15942.—If estimate of price of farm were being made it ought to be taken as it stood, 15943.—Abnormal conditions of any sort should be eliminated in estimating price of land, 15945.—Landlord might be driven to sell at low price owing to abnormal conditions, but if State were purchasing compulsorily it should not take advantage of illegal causes of reduction in landlord's income, but should offer fair price for land as it stood, 15946-9.—Method of valuation was for inspector to examine land carefully and say what it would let for to solvent tenant, that was gross fair rent, from that was deducted 15 per cent. as security against future risks, then capital value of balance was calculated at 3¼ per cent., sum thus arrived at, plus bonus, if invested at 3½ per cent, would yield full gross fair rent, 15950.—If land was worth £1 an acre to a farmer and such could be got for it valuation should be made on that without considering landlord's difficulties, 15953.

Price of Tenants' Interest in Land required for Relief of Congestion.

Two possible principles to follow in determining price of tenant's interest in tenanted lands required for enlarging holdings were (*a*), to ascertain net profit of tenant and give capitalised vslue for such at 3½ per cent.; (*b*) to give tenant market selling value of his interest in land acquired; letting price of tenants' interest in small judicial tenancies was very large, for grazing farms price was more moderate, but whatever it was full and fair price ought to be given for land acquired compulsorily by State; if fair price was too large for incoming tenant to pay purchase annuity on combined interests land should not be bought, or State should make good difference; in case of future tenants who were liable to ejection on notice to quit law had fixed amount of compensation, 15954.—There was difference between present and future tenant; witness meant by future tenant grazier who had yearly tenancy, with no right to have fair rent fixed, who could be evicted on notice to quit; judicial tenant had right to hold on for ever, 15955-62.—Tenanted lands should only be taken from men above £100 valuation, if possible, and they would be entitled to compensation for disturbance and improvements, 15963-5.—Present tenant was co-owner of land, future tenant was not, difficulty was to ascertain how much of ownership belonged to landlord and how much to tenant, in case of future tenant landlord was real owner, 15966.—Eleven months' man was not tenant at all, therefore not entitled to compensation, 15967-8.

Question whether Compulsion should be applied to Tenant-Purchasers.

Compulsion should begin with future tenant, and if enough land could not be got from him judicial tenant should be taken next; compulsion would never be necessary to compel tenants to buy, as purchase annuities were less than rent; Commissioners had only once had to use powers of compulsion and that was due to misapprehension of facts; after fixing price of certain holding two brothers, M'George, had wanted holding sub-divided, they objected to price and case was taken to Court; Judge Drummond had decided that they even then could have fair rent fixed, but Estates Commissioners had appealed against that and had judgment reversed, 15969.—If tenant refused to buy new holding instead of old one he could stay where he was; he would not be compelled to move, but if he preferred to take untenanted land he must enter into new agreement for old holding, plus untenanted land, 15970.

Prospects of overcoming Local Opposition to Migration.

Witness thought that tenants would migrate if better holdings were offered them and they were allowed to inspect them; in Roscommon, tenants on the Rashley Estate had been moved to Balfe Estate, though at first there was local opposition to the introduction of "strangers," but this had been overcome; opposition should be overcome by tact and persuasion, by enlisting co-operation of popular leaders or by exposing unreasonable opposition in public Press; if these failed by law and police, 15972.

National Council for carrying out measure might be apointed, but if members of Parliament, priests, and others co-operated under present circumstances opposition would soon cease, 15973.—Police aid should be invoked if necessary, 15974-5.—Witness thought that tenants would migrate under police protection and that those who objected would be the popular aversion, 15976-8.—One reason why people did not migrate was that annuities were too high, if they were lower migrants would fight for their rights, 15979.—Opinion had changed during last ten years on migration, 15980.—Committee of House of Commons had decided that people did not desire migration, 15981.—Bargain should be made attractive, 15983.—This might increase opposition, but it would also increase desire of migrants to come in, 15984.

Evils of present Dual Administration of Estates Commissioners and Board.

It was not conducive to efficient and economical administration to have two bodies, the Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners doing one and the same work, system led to confusion, loss of power and waste of public money, 15984.—Congested Districts Board had deserved well of the country, but since passing of Act of 1903 two separate staffs had been doing same kind of work, if both were amalgamated more could be done with no additional expense, 15988-93.—More could have been done during last three years if there had been one public body, evicted tenants work had proceeded as rapidly as could be, 15994.—Pace would not have been altered if Estates Commissioners had done all land purchase work, 15995.—Part of duty of Commissioners was periodic inspection of work of subordinates, 15998.—There were differences in laws under which the two bodies acted, Board could buy estates *in globo*, and were not obliged to get undertakings from tenants to purchase holdings at stipulated prices; Estates Commissioners, before purchasing, had first to have undertakings from three-fourths of tenants to repurchase holdings, and could compel remaining fourth to purchase, but Board had neither such obligation nor power, if they purchased untenanted land outside congested county they were bound to sell to "congests" as far as required by them; surplus could only be sold to adjacent tenants or proprietors not exceeding £5 rateable value, but Commissioners were not tied by these restrictions, though they had others of a different kind, 16000.—Board could not enlarge existing holdings to more than £20 rateable value, but Commissioners were not limited at all, 16001.—Commissioners might give free grants out of Reserve Fund to reinstate evicted tenants, or might buy out existing tenant in order to reinstate former tenant; Board had no funds for such purpose, and referred evicted tenants to Estates Commissioners for assistance, Commissioners could not legally use Reserve Fund to help tenants on estates purchased by Board; Board bought only poorest properties, but paid higher prices than Estates Commissioners, as they calculated tenant's interest on untenanted land which Estates Commissioners did not, in one estate price was estimated independently by Board's inspector and Commissioners' inspector, former had proposed to give thirty times annual value exclusive of bonus, latter offered only twenty-four, one or other must be wrong, 16002.—As a result of this case arrangement was made to send Estates Commissioners' inspector with Congested Districts Board inspector if required, but so far he had not been asked for, 16004.—As no land not previously valued had been offered for sale, 16005-6.—There was no reason why effect should not be given to this understanding, 16008.—Returns had been prepared giving comparison between prices paid by Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, 16009-10.—Holders whose condition had been improved by Board were of poorer class than those improved by Commissioners, 16011.—Cases might arise like Leonard Estate, in which to save people on small property Board might have to throw away two thousand pounds, 16012.—Estates Commissioners had actually lost £2,000 out of Reserve Fund on Clanmorris Estate, as owner would not sell congested portions low enough to allow return in rental, 16013.—Same would probably have to be done on Warden Estate unless they received permission to lose the 10 per cent. allowed by Act, 16014.—Estate had cost £26,641 and Commissioners had lost £2,545 on it out of Reserve Fund, loss ought to come out of Parliamentary Vote, as it was a congested estate, Reserve Fund would soon be exhausted if it were not recouped for such losses, 16017.—Judge Meredith had decided in favour of Estates Commissioners, but Treasury was still considering question, 16018.—Loss arose from fact that annuity could not be paid at the price, 16019.—Illustration of difference in prices offered by Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners was given in Major Chichester Constable's Estate, Roscommon; Board's inspector, Mr. Doran, had valued it in September, 1903, at £48,220, exclusive of bonus, vendor had refused this, so £50,000 or £56,000, including bonus, was offered; this was refused; in November, 1904, owner asked Estates Commissioners to purchase, not mentioning that he had negotiated with Board; Commissioners' inspector, Mr. Lopdell, estimated price at £38,615, which was offered, and indignantly refused by vendor, who then informed them that Board had offered £50,000; difference was explained by fact that Mr. Doran's estimate was calculated on thirty times annual value without bonus, or 33·6 with bonus, while Mr. Lopdell's was based on twenty-four times annual valuation, exclusive of bonus, or twenty-seven inclusive, 16020.—Board had unanimously wished to acquire this estate, as it was considered suitable for their needs, 16021.

Question as to how Untenanted Land should be valued.

Value of land as it stood should be estimated; there should be no "occupation interest" for untenanted land, 16023-4.—Land let by landlord to tenant and land kept in landlord's own hands had both same value to owner; improvements made by tenant were tenant's interest, 16025-6.—Twenty-six years' purchase of tenement valuation was estimate for untenanted land, 16027-9.—Five years' purchase was estimate for tenants' improvements, fences, drains, etc., 16030.—Law gave three years' purchase for disturbance, 16031, 16036.—So article for which thirty-one years' purchase was given included tenant's interest, houses, drains, etc.; twenty-six years' purchase article contained only open fields, 16033.—Witness would prefer to give tenant ten years' purchase for improvements, 16034.—State must lose compensation for disturbance, as there was no value for it, but in untenanted land there was no disturbance, as tenant did not exist, 16038.—Tenant might be placed upon land as present or future tenant; he would have saleable interest in land if he were paying low annuity, 16139, 16040.—If he became proprietor he would have permanent interest in land, 16041-2.—A man could not be made present tenant with view to purchase of holding under Land Purchase Acts, though tenancy might be binding on landlord, 16043-4.—If after five years a man sold land without any improvement he ought not to get anything for improvements, 16045-6.—But for improvements he ought to get unexhausted value back, 16047.—Witness recognised difference between landlords' and tenants' interests in his estimates, but that was different from mixing them up where there was no tenant, 16050.—Mr. Doran's estimate for untenanted land was excessive, as he had allowed for it as if it were tenanted land; Mr. Lopdell had treated it as untenanted only, 16051.—If tenant were in occupation he got compensation for disturbance and allowance for tenant-right if removed, but if there were no tenant those rights should not be allowed for, 16053.—Ten years' purchase was very liberal estimate for price of improvements and compensation for disturbance, but real question was price of land; if one man said that thirty times valuation was fair price and another said twenty-six both could not be right, 16054.—If price of untenanted land were fixed, including tenant interest, it emerged at higher rate than if that were considered, 16055.—In valuing untenanted land no tenant-right ought to come into the question, but in tenanted land tenant had valuable rights which ought to be considered, 16062.

Method by which Net Income should be ascertained.

If principle were adopted of leaving price on capitalised value of net income difficulties of purchase transactions would be done away with, 16064.—To ascertain normal net income estate accounts should be examined, also Income Tax Returns if necessary, 15902, 15907.—Practically speaking, Mr. Lopdell estimated capitalised value of net income, 16066.—On whole estate untenanted land would have to be estimated separately from tenanted land, 16071-2.—Estates Commissioners called net income the gross estimated rent which landlord would receive over a series of years if he let it to tenant, 16074.—They would tell landlord at the start that in their view net income was identical with annual value, 16076.—Net income was not income received from graziers on eleven months' system, but income that would be received from solvent yearly tenant, 16077.—Annual value meant annual rent put upon land by three inspectors, 16079.—If grazing rents were treated as net income there would be no chance of buying land, 16080.—Three things had to be considered in fixing annual value, (1) actual receipts, (2) stability or precariousness of receipts, (3) what land would let at to solvent tenant, 16082-3.—Mr. Doran's price, inclusive of bonus, invested at 3½ per cent. would yield income of 117 per cent. on annual value; such had not come within witness's actual knowledge, 16085.—Annual value was not poor law valuation, but inspector's estimated gross rent, 16086.—In case of untenanted land net rent and inspector's gross rent came to same thing, gross fair rent; Mr. Lopdell's price invested at 3½ per cent. would yield 104½ per cent. on gross fair rent, Mr. Doran's 117 per cent., 16087.—But if owner had been receiving large rent from grazing tenant's price offered would not yield 117 per cent., 16088.—But basis of grazing rents would be impossible price, 16090.

Difference in time Estates were kept on hands by Estates Commissioners and Board.

Important difference between practice and procedure of Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board was in retaining estates on hand for period of years between date of purchase from vendors and vesting in tenant purchasers; Board after buying estate realised rent from tenants amounting to five or six per cent. on purchase money, paying to Treasury only 2¾ per cent., difference being credited to funds, and might be expended on improvements either of that estate or others; after improvement estate was sold to tenants, possibly at enhanced price; in Dillon Estate Board had lost nothing by improvements they had made; this was rendered possible by low price paid for estate; if difference were spent on improvement of tenant's own holding he would have no cause to complain; but if money were spent on other holdings injustice was apparently done, 16091, 16092, 16106.—Witness contended that if there had been no loss money must have come out of pockets of tenants, 16108, 16127.—If landlord were paid fair price it ought not to be possible to improve tenants at their own expense, 16109, 16111.—Witness's statements had been taken from Mr. Doran's evidence, 16112-3.—Very poor tenants ought to have holdings improved at expense of State, not out of their own pocketes, 16114.—Congested Districts Board had realised money from tenants, and spent it on estate for benefit of estate and tenant, but that was different from advancing public funds for improvements, 16116.—Process of improving from tenants' money could not go on; if Board was to continue its work more money must be given them, 16119, 16128.—Dillon Estate had been bought at fourteen years' purchase, but now estates were being purchased at higher prices, 16120.—So that source of income could not be counted on in future, 16124.—Profits might be spent on other estates, 16131.—On Dillon Estate tenants on one part of estate were paying full rents, but improvements were being carried out on another part altogether, 16132.—Public body was not at liberty to transfer money in this way as private individual was, 16134-5.—Man who had no improvements was paying as high rent as man who had them, which was unjust, 16136.—Large part of money made on Dillon Estate was obtained out of premiums obtained on Land Stock, but Land Stock was public property, and so different from money taken from tenants, 16139.—Witness was not blaming Board, only illustrating difference between practice of two bodies, 16141-2.—Estates Commissioners were authorised by Act of 1903 to keep estates on hand for five years to value of £20,000,000; for three-fourths they must have obtained undertakings to purchase, while they paid Treasury 2¾ per cent.; this had not been done, (1) because it had caused dissatisfaction among tenants, (2) estates purchased were of such character that they need not be retained; tenants had preferred to have holdings vested, and to make improvements themselves with help from Estates Commissioners; (3) Commissioners had not sufficiently large staff to permit of them retaining and managing estates on a large scale, 16143.—Two Estates Commissioners' inspectors, four sub-inspectors, and one surveyor had dealt with £1,000,000 worth of property, including large area of untenanted land, in course of two years, including re-arrangement and improvemet of holdings, 16144.

Staff necessary to carry out Land Purchase Scheme.

If Estates Commissioners staff could deal with £1,000,000 in two years, that staff multiplied by eight would show what was required for dealing with £4,000,000 in one year; but as difficulties of migration, etc., would be greater that estimate should be doubled; there would be no difficulty in getting 100 inspectors of the gentleman-farmer type to take up the work at £500 to £800 a year, allowing their farms to be managed by their friends, 16147.—Men who understood management of estates were better than engineers who would only understand draining, fencing, etc., 16149-50.—Witness's estimate was extravagant, including provision for turbary for 2,000 small tenants, 16151.—Four or five surveyors, who could be got for £100 a year, could lockspit turbary; then map it out and allot it, 16152.—Estates Commissioners had so far found it possible to obtain competent sub-Commissioners; in estates already dealt with turbary had been allotted and bogs lockspitted for 1,000 tenants, 16153.—If turbary on holding were included in judicial rent there was no difficulty; but if ownership were divided surveyor had to arrange carefully, 16155.

Re-striping was another difficulty, but Commissioners refused to vest holdings in tenants if they did not agree to re-striping, 16156.—If estates were held by Estates Commissioners they received 3½ per cent. interest in lieu of rent, which they were bound to pay to owner until funds were allocated to him; after that, if they still kept estate on hands, tenants continued to pay 3½ per cent., but Commissioners only paid 2¾ per cent. to Treasury, 16158.—It had not yet been decided what was to be done with profit of ¾ per cent., but it might be spent on improvement of holdings from which it was realised, 16162.

Tenant Purchasers more ready to improve than Judicial Tenants.

When tenants got their own land they speedily made improvements, sometimes with, sometimes without help, from Commissioners; in one case evicted tenant, when he got a farm, built himself two-storeyed house with help from American friends, 16164.—If land were rented tenants knew that if they made improvements rent was likely to be raised, so often they deliberately neglected their land when revision time was near, but if they had their own land they did their best to improve their farms. 16165-6.—Present system did not discourage improvements as compared with previous systems, but did not encourage them as much as purchase system did, 16167.—Fact of deterioration of land did not affect value of landlord's property when price was being settled, because tenant was not bound to make improvements, 16168-9, 16173.—Practice of allowing land to deteriorate was not prevalent throughout whole country, but it occasionally happened, 16170-1.—In India when settlement of rent and revenue was coming on tenants did what they could to make land look bad, 16172.—Tenant did not get adequate return for expenditure on improvements; if value was increased by 10 per cent. he only got four per cent., other six per cent. going to landlord, 16176.—If neglect were proved against tenant application to have rent fixed was adjourned until holding was put in order, 16177.—"Magic of property" was great reason why peasants worked harder on their own holdings than on tenanted ones, 16179.

Evils of Fair Rent System.

System of revising rents was demoralising to the people, 16181.—Though in Scotland it had not been found so, 16182.—In India fixation of rents was regulated to rise and fall of prices taken over a series of years, 16183.—For some reason that could not be adopted in Ireland, 16184.—In India rents were fixed by impartial officers; assumption was that fifteen years before they had been fixed fairly; then inquiry as to present modifications was made; then three principles were laid down—(1) fixation according to staple products of that particular part of the country, prices of which were fixed by Government fortnightly; if prices had risen 50 per cent. allowance was made for increased cost of production; (2) if productive power of land had increased apart from price on account of improvements by landlord additional enhancement was given; (3) if natural causes had changed value of land that was taken into account, settlement officers had to record all evidence, and there was appeal to higher court, in Ireland rents were fixed on no definite principle, so there was no data to go on in revising rents, 16184.—In India landlord could calculate what amount of enhancement or reduction of rent there would be at end of fifteen years, 16188.—In India law assumed that all improvements were property of tenant, landlord had to prove his claim to improvement, in Ireland presumption of law was opposite of this, though fact was that tenant had made improvements, 16189.

Lock-spitting of Bogs.

Both Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board lock-spitted bogs on purchased estates, but most estates were sold direct from landlord to tenant, and if landlords and tenants agreed to vest turbary in trustees it was not business of Commissioners to interfere, Wills-Sandford Estate, mentioned by Mr. Doran, was sold direct; witness thought, however, that all bogs should be lock-spitted before sales were sanctioned, to guard against future disputes it was clear that two bodies should not go on purchasing land in congested areas, and as Board was non-official body, either Estates Commissioners or special additional Commissioners would be more suitable agency, if compulsory purchase were to be enforced non-official body could not be empowered by law to compel owners to sell lands at prices determined by them, if Congested Districts Board were given such powers they would at once become official body, 16190.

One Body should deal with Land Purchase—Four reasons why Estates Commissioners were more suitable than Board.

Board had asked for limited compulsory powers some time ago, 16198.—If Board were given power to fix price of land taken compulsorily, it would be impracticable, as it had no power to hear, determine or decide any question of law or fact, such body could not be vested with power to give legal decision, 16200.—As it was, Board was much hampered by delays and difficulties arising out of their limitations, if land purchase on a large scale were added difficulties would become intolerable, 16201.—If law enabling property to be acquired compulsorily were passed, officer or agency would acquaint owners of property of intention to acquire it, then valuators would inspect and make inquiries under section 6, arriving at price which would be offered to owner, if owner were not satisfied appeal would be provided, and higher court could decide, 16203.—Agency should therefore be either Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 16204.—Estates Commissioners ought to be the body unless a third was created, 16205.—Mr. Doran said that numerous consultations with counsel had delayed work of Board, 16207.—Routine work of Board went on daily, though meetings were held only occasionally, but if it was to exercise real control question would crop up daily for decision, 16209.—Board had not powers of Commissioners to decide disputed questions of title, price, boundaries, &c., but they would need them if they purchased compulsorily, 16210.—All kinds of questions cropped up daily during purchase negotiations, such as whether Land Law Acts applied to certain cases, assessing value of intervening interests judicially and other questions of law and fact which could not be decided without judicial powers, which Board did not possess, 16211-5.—Counsel and solicitor could not decide them, 16216.—Sometimes Estates Commissioners decided questions themselves, but if landlord or tenant was not satisfied they could refer to judge; if question was complicated Commissioners referred it to Judicial Commissioner, sixty-three questions had been so referred under Act of 1903, and if that was so, body with no judicial powers would be much worse off, 16217.—Between time estate was purchased and vested in tenant many difficulties arose which were not question of title, 16219-20.—These questions of law and fact were preparatory and ancillary to purchase of estate, 16221.—If Estates Commissioners had not had judicial power to decide these questions purchase of estate would be delayed and complicated, 16222.—If compulsory purchase were carried out by Congested Districts Board, law would have to be altered and amended to confer on Board same function as Estates Commissioners now possessed, 16224.—Conferring such functions on a mixed Board was an unusual procedure, 16225.—Estates Commissioners had staff with salaries amounting to £35,000 per annum, exclusive of staff employed in examination of title, collection and payment to vendors of interest in lieu of rent, &c., who were not exclusively employed by Commissioners, they dealt with £5,000,000 worth of property a year besides receiving agreements for £35,000,000; if they had not power to decide matters summarily work would be impossible, 16226.—Estates Commissioners were authorised to lose 10 per cent. on improvement of congested estates, Board had not that power, if land purchase operations were exclusively province of Commissioners they could buy untenanted land in non-congested counties to which large farmers from congested neighbourhood might migrate, this might also be done if Board were exclusively in charge of land purchase in congested counties, no idea of rivalry or jealousy existed in minds of Estates Commissioners, they were anxious to assist Board in every way, but under old regulations of Lord Lieutenant were prohibited from doing so; now that had been altered, and Estates Commissioners had of their own accord accelerated examination of title in Congested Districts Board cases, they had not done it under pressure from Under-Secretary, 16228-30.—If land purchase in congested counties were left exclusively to Board, and in non-congested counties to Commissioners, latter would not be anxious to introduce "congests" in non-congested counties, as there was always a scramble for land on part of local farmers, &c., 16230.—Congested Districts Board could lose £11,000 a year, Estates Commissioners could lose 10 per cent. and extra funds granted by Parliament, legislation might give Board similar powers, 16231.—The 10 per cent. loss would cover all loss in scheduled areas, 16233.—Whichever body did this work must have large increase of funds, 16234.—If staff of Board and capital value of their funds were made over to Commissioners, more could be done at less cost than by two bodies acting separately, Commissioners had all powers of Board and more in addition, since passing of Act of 1903 there was no advantage in having separate bodies, the one advantage possessed by Board was popularity of personnel, 16261.—Board had experienced and competent officers and staff, 16262.—Commissioners had three members and fourth would be added, Mr. Wrench was not in favour of witness's scheme, 16263.—Whatever arrangement was come to it must be best for doing work efficiently, 16264.—Congested Districts Board should continue other work, but be relieved of land purchase only, 16265.—Even if Board got necessary powers for nine congested counties it would be very difficult for them to carry out work, 16267-9.—£10 holding must be minimum in redistribution, 16270.—Holdings in Ireland numbered 490,301; total under £10 was 275,354, or more than half, 16272.—So problem was altering and adjusting

FINUCANE, Mr. Commissioner—*continued.*

half or two-thirds of holdings in Ireland, 16273-4.—And obtaining money to do it, 16275.—Holdings should be improved out of public funds, and part of money should be recovered when holdings were improved, 16276.

Amount of Purchase Money which should be set aside for Congested Districts.

Congested districts were about one-sixth of the entire acreage, 16236.—Proportion spent on congested districts should not be regulated by area, they should have larger proportion spent on them, 16238.—Total area of scheduled districts was three million acres, of whole of Ireland twenty million acres, so that if simple proportion were basis out of £7,000,000, one and one-sixth would go to congested areas, 16239.—There was no special proportion of purchase money assigned to congested districts, but Estates Commissioners had never refused to pay for estate bought by Congested Districts Board, money had always been advanced, though sometimes after delay, 16241.

Manner in which Land Purchase should be worked.

Summing all up, land purchase work should be transferred from Congested Districts Board to Estates Commissioners, and additional Commissioners should be appointed to supervise land purchase for relief of congestion, there should be appeal from him to Judicial Commissioner on question of price and powers of reference to him on questions of law, all legal distinctions between "congests" and "non-congests" should be done away with, this officer should be allowed large discretion as to improvement of estates, &c., 16243.—He should live in district under purchase, 16243-4.—If he were on the spot there would be better chance of settling price, &c., amicably without recourse to compulsory powers, 16245.—He would have all powers of Estates Commissioners subject to appeal if there were dissatisfaction with his judgment, that appeal would be to Judicial Commissioner and two other Estates Commissioners in Dublin, 16246-7.—He would be salaried officer, 16248.—Appeal would be from one Estate Commissioner who fixed price to Judicial Commissioner and other Estates Commissioners sitting as judicial or quasi-judicial body, 16251.—If price offered was decided to be too low, and no higher offer could be made, there could be no compulsion, 16252.—Though if whole policy were to be carried out there was as much compulsion on Estates Commissioners to buy as on landlord to sell, 16255.—Trouble of appeal was so great that possibilities were that officer proposed would do all in his power to come to amicable settlement, and probably in ninety-nine cases out of 100 would do so, but if appeal were made on every case business would be endless, 16260.

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BAILEY, Mr. Commissioner.

No true Economic Rent derivable from many Irish Holdings.

Irish agricultural holdings were of two classes, economic and uneconomic, the former sufficient to support a family in reasonable comfort, the latter insufficient to support a family without outside help; in first case fairness of rent was most important consideration; in second land and rent were minor elements; without outside help income would sink below line necessary for subsistence, and starvation would ensue; agricultural rent was often paid for farms out of which no true economic rent was earned, that is, if ordinary cost of production were deducted from returns from cultivation of land; no surplus would remain for payment of rent; this was not true agricultural rent, but was of nature of house rent paid by working men in towns; Irish uneconomic holder must either emigrate, migrate, or live below proper standard of decency and comfort; Irish Fair Rent Acts were supposed to deal only with agricultural holdings, but rents assessed on small holdings in West of Ireland were not agricultural rents, but site rents, which proved that Land Acts were not strictly administered, 16281.—Land worked without any economic return meant that the people worked on the land and paid rent for it which could not be produced by owner if he were to pay for working it himself, 16386.—This was in the poorer parts of the West of Ireland, 16387-8, 16390-1.—Landlords sometimes gave ten years' purchase to their own tenants to get holdings into their hands, if they wanted them for enlargement of others, 16389.

Process by which Fair Rents were settled in such cases.

Rent was fixed on the demand for such holdings by migratory labourers and others, 16282.—In fixing rents small uneconomic holdings were valued on the assumption that they were portions of larger economic holdings, not as if they were self-contained, 16283-4.—Only way to value uneconomic holding was to value it as portion of economic holding; demand for small holdings, willingness of people to pay higher rent, and whether land was to be used for sites for residences affected judgment of valuer, 16613.—These modifying circumstances tended to raise rent, 16614.—Practice of valuing as portion of economic holding had grown up among valuers themselves, and was common to all; it was not prescribed by Land Commission, 16615-16520.—If holding were used by anyone who had other occupation than land tendency was for valuer to fix higher rent, 16621-2.—*e.g.* In district in Armagh twenty holdings were rented highly; on fourteen of them occupiers were in comfortable circumstances, as heads of families earned their living as pedlars in England, merely using holdings as residential plots; but other six, who were unable to do that, could not make a decent living, 16622.—Land in all these holdings was of same kind, 16626.—No differentiation of rent had taken place owing to different circumstances of occupiers, 16627.—There had been cross decisions on the question; Mr. Justice Meredith held that form of occupation which inflated value of holding was not to be considered; Lord Justice FitzGibbon said that rent should be determined by return farmer received after expending reasonable skill and care, 16623.—Lord Justice FitzGibbon's test was never applied to uneconomic holdings in the West of Ireland, 16624.

General Process and Principles of Fixation of Fair Rents.

Land Commission had not laid down principles of valuation; it was left to discretion of valuers, 16285.—Since Act of 1903, when notice of appeal was lodged, fair rent file was prepared by Sub-Commission Court giving basis of fair rent; Assessors appointed under Act examined and reported and case was heard in Court by Appellate Tribunal, 16286-7.—Uniformity in decision of Appellate Court was lacking, as Court depended on opinion of special assessor, without professing to understand valuation itself, 16288-16290.—Between 1887 and 1903 witness was Chairman of Sub-Commission Court; duties were to preside at hearing of cases and to decide legal questions, 16292.—His functions were not confined to questions of law; he sat with his lay colleagues and decided on legal effect of witnesses' evidence; lay members then inspected and valued holdings, while chairman visited other districts; on his return schedules were submitted, and after consultation with his colleagues a fair rent was fixed, 16293.—Solicitor or counsel were employed on both sides, 16294.—Witness considered the principles on which valuations should be made and saw that principles on which Land Commissioners worked were in accordance with law and the facts of the case, 16295.—If there was difference of opinion among Sub-Commissioners Chairman had the determining voice, 16296.—Rent was fixed on the acreage, but on very rocky land rent was based on the carrying power of the land, 16310-16312.—Five acres would be valued as one-tenth of a 50 acre economic holding, 16313.—Element of competition for possession of holdings was supposed to be kept out, but in practice it was very difficult to discover what the principle as regards competition was, 16314.—It seemed to come in as a deciding element sometimes, otherwise variations in fair rents were difficult to account for, 16315, 16328.—Valuation had been too low on good land and too high on bad land; valuers had hesitated to change much, 16316.—Interest of landlord was not supposed to be considered at all, 16317.—The personal factor of the valuer was of importance, 16318-9.—Good lands were reduced more than they ought to be; bad lands not sufficiently, 16320-21.—On very good land improvements were not so much required as on bad land, and that might influence the valuer, 16329-30.—Probable reason for variable valuation was that Land Courts were carefully watched by both landlords and tenants, and valuers were moderate and tried not to give offence to either side, 16323.—Statement in Schedule as to rent per acre, 16324.—Pink Schedule drawn up in accordance with section one of Act of 1896 commenced with general description of holding; then stated whether it had been worked by tillage or pasture; then there was a query about rates and taxes; then as to acreable value of holding, dividing it up into particular classes of land, 16325.—Official title of Pink Schedule was "Schedule under section one of the Act of 1896"; holdings were classified according to the character of the land; rate per acre, addition for buildings and for proximity, etc., made up gross fair rent, 16326.—Rate per acre was rent per acre; rent per acre for various classes of land would be gross fair rent of the holding, 16327.

Economic Holdings.

An economic holding must be defined by its capability for supporting a family, 16281, 16298.—Average family would be one of four or five members; if five members were maintained on farm of ten acres decently, that farm would be economic, 16299.—Larger family would not necessarily mean that farm would become uneconomic, as children added to the working powers of farm, 16302.—Commissioners had to determine the rent capacity independently of number of children, 16303-4.—In the West of Ireland average farmer produced enough to support his family, but rent question was the difficulty, 16304.—A farm was valued in the same way no matter how many people lived on it, 16305-7.—The root of the matter lay in the inherent capacity of the land, 16308.—£8 was standard of uneconomic holding adopted in Parliament in 1903; witness advocated £10 or £12, 16553-4.

Allowance for Improvements.

On mountainous, reclaimed land nearly the whole value was due to improvements, 16330.—But if full allowance were made for improvements on bad land, valuing as if in original condition, little rent would be left, 16331-2.—So system adopted was to try to arrive at value of land before improvement was begun, and then allow as much for improvement as was effective in raising rental value of land above original condition, 16332.—If land were neglected so as to reduce normal value Court would not give tenant any benefit from his neglect, 16336.—Cases of neglect dealt with by Commissioners could be obtained, but the labour would be enormous, 16337-8.—Holdings in poorer parts of Ireland were worked better than might have been expected, 16342.—For no return was got for the amount of labour put into a great many of them, 16343.—Holdings were not worked as they would be in Germany, Belgium, or France; it would not pay to do so, 16345.—Granite boulders of Donegal could not be improved, 16347.—Though sandy soil treated with seaweed and ordinary soil could be made productive, 16348-50.

Survey of Irish Land Legislation.

Until passing of Act of 1891, when Congested Districts Board was created, no attempt was made to distinguish between economic and uneconomic holdings; confusion caused by this made it necessary to trace evolution of Irish Land Acts; Act of 1881, if strictly administered, would have excluded small holdings in congested districts; the Act was regarded in Ireland as the Magna Charta of the peasants' rights, though landowners regarded it as unjustifiable invasion of their rights; to justify Act of 1881 preceding condition of land tenure must be understood, 16351.—Complaints against Irish rents were not confined to recent years; in 1729 the Lord Lieutenant gave as reasons for constant emigration poverty occasioned by raising of rents above real value of land, uncertain tenure and short leases; relation of landlord and tenant was based on tenure, not on contract, up to 1860; old feudal tenures had been altered and modified by Irish customs; result was confusion and multiplication of Acts dealing with land, 16363.—Relation of landlord and tenant, based on tenure down to 1860; prevented security of occupation and did not protect improvements, but cost prevented capricious ejectment; during eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries majority of people were tenants from year to year; under Common Law of England and Ireland in cases of written contract ejectment could only take place for "a condition broken" in case of tenancies from year to year; there was no power of eviction for non-payment of rent under the Common Law; tenant could only be ejected by notice to quit, which must expire with termination of year of tenancy, and in England forfeiture of tenants' rights was discouraged; Irish "Ejectment Code," originating in Queen Anne's reign, expedited and facilitated eviction of tenants, removing all obstructions under old Common Law; down to 1816 landlord who sought to evict householding tenant was obliged to proceed in Supreme Courts of Law, an expensive and slow process, but after the peace following the battle of Waterloo, when fall in agricultural prices made payment of high war rents impossible, an Act was passed enabling ejectment to be obtained in County Courts at small cost and without delay. Irish Ejectment Code applied only to tenants holding under leases or written contracts; gradually landlords ceased to give leases, and yearly tenancies ensued; to meet this Civil Bill Court Act of 1851 was enacted, legislation became more and more favourable to landlords; this culminated in Deasy's Act in 1860, which declared relationship between landlord and tenant to be founded on contract, not on tenure; it simplified and increased landlord's remedies for recovering possession of the land, and rendered efficient law of ejectment for non-payment of rent and on notice to quit; no allowance was made for improvements, no matter what their value; tenants in Ireland made all the improvements, even to erecting dwelling-houses, farm offices, gates and fences; in England or Scotland no tenant would rent a farm under such conditions. At the beginning of the nineteenth century landlords encouraged increase of tenantry, as economic condition of the time made small tillage farming productive, and increase of agricultural population increased competition for land and enabled rents to be raised; about the middle of the century conditions altered owing to Famine and Free Trade; landlords got rid of small tenants, and pasture and larger farms were formed; population decreased rapidly, but consolidation of farms kept up competition for land and rents rose. Clearances between Famine and 1870 were often made irrespective of non-payment of rent: this led to outrages and agrarian disturbance. Suggestions of reform of Land Laws were denounced as confiscatory and subversive to the rights of property. John Stuart Mill denounced policy of clearing away small tenants to make room for capitalist farmers in 1865. Mr. Gladstone began new Land Code by passing his Landlord and Tenant Act in 1870; it gave (1) compensation for disturbance, (2) compensation for improvements, and (3) it legalised Ulster Tenant-Right Custom; compensation was limited to tenancies created after passing of the Act, and was not to exceed £250; it was subject to so many exceptions that it did little good; legalisation of Ulster Custom did not prevent landlord from increasing rent so as to almost destroy tenants' interest; administration was entrusted to County Court Judges. The Act failed in its object because of (1) the variety and complexity of exemptions from benefits, (2) tendency to reduce compensation as low as possible, (3) insecurity of tenure of tenant and landlord's right to raise rent. Act of 1881 gave (1) security of tenure at a fair rent, (2) a special and expert tribunal to decide on amount of rent, 16356, 16378.—Act of 1870 put it into the power of any landlord practically to contract himself out of the Act by granting thirty-one years' lease, 16357.—And a great number of landlords did it, 16384.

INCUMBERED ESTATES ACT.

Incumbered Estates Act was an Act for replacing old landlords by new ones, 16361-2.—Court established under the Act (now Landed Estates Court) advertised property and gave schedules of rents, and, in order to induce people to buy property on the faith of a Parliamentary title, stated that rents could be raised, 16363.—Small English and Irish capitalists put their money into land in Ireland on faith of Parliamentary title, 16365-7, 16372-4.—Rents were frequently raised under Act, 16366.—Landlord of Incumbered Estate had it brought into court; incumbrancers usually bought for purpose of realising their money, 16369.—Government itself did nothing beyond passing of the Act to induce people to purchase, 16370-16374.—Present Judge of Landed Estates Court maintained that his business was to get best possible prices for owners of estate, not to consider circumstances of the tenant, 16376.—Another view was that the duty of the court was to fix a fair price, fair both to incumbrancers and tenants, 16378.—Principles of Irish Land Code were contained in Acts of 1870 and 1881; fundamendal difference between English and Irish land systems was that in England agricultural farms were let by owners fully equipped with everything necessary for proper working of holding; tenant contracts to pay rent for farm so equipped, and, if he wishes, leaves at end of contract term; in Ireland landlord owned only the soil; agricultural equipment was property of tenant; he was hereditary occupier, consequently he was not free; if he left, all his improvements would become the landlord's and he had nowhere else to go, as competition for land was so keen; in poorer parts of Ireland land could only be profitably worked for owner by small occupying tenants, who, without economic return, expended their labour on it; Land Acts from 1870 to 1896 were an attempt to adjust law of landlord and tenant to the facts of the case; before 1870 law regarded landlord as sole owner of the farm, though tenant was co-owner, 16378.

BEGINNING OF LAND PURCHASE LEGISLATION.

First attempt to purchase began with Irish Church Act, 1869; first Purchase Acts, those of 1870 and 1881, were asked for more by tenants than landlords; the Ashbourne Act of 1885 was brought in from landlords' point of view, 16382.—Witness thought that if Act of 1881 had been worked in a more satisfactory way it would have solved the Irish Land Question, 16383.—In 1886 there came a great fall in agricultural values; in 1887 Mr. Balfour brought in an Act for reduction of fair rents fixed during previous six years and to allow leaseholders to break their leases and get rents fixed the same as yearly tenants, 16385.

IRISH CHURCH ACT OF 1869—DISPOSAL OF IRISH CHURCH FUND, &c.

Side by side with Fair Rent Acts a system of Land Purchase grew up, this began with Irish Church Act of 1869, when glebe lands had to be sold, method adopted was to sell either to the occupier or in the open market, 16392, 16401.—Present condition of Irish Church Fund was very puzzling, for twenty years it had been stated that it was used up, but discoveries of unused surplus were constantly made, 16396.—Certain amounts were paid over to the Church Temporalities Commissioners, 16398.—Total value amounted to about £16,000,000, 16399.—About £9,000,000 had been paid to Commissioners, 16400.—Some of remainder was invested, Report of Irish Land Commission gave present charges and liabilities on the Fund, 16401.—Terms of sale of glebe lands were sale for cash, or one-fourth in cash and balance secured on mortgage, to be paid off in thirty-two years, total sales were to 6,057 tenants at average price of twenty-two and two-third years' purchase, total amount given on loan was £1,674,841, terms of re-payment were altered under Purchase of Land Act, 1885, 16401.—Re-payments were by half-yearly instalments, entire loan had to be repaid within thirty-two years, but under Ashbourne Act of 1885 amount still unpaid was made repayable at ordinary rate under the Act, 16403-4.—Reason for alteration was that people had found it impossible to pay the instalments at which they bought, 16405-6.—While interest was reduced term of re-payment was extended, 16407.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (IRELAND) ACT OF 1870.

Next Act was Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act of 1870, under which landlords and tenants of agricultural or pastoral holdings could sell with State aid, sale to be carried out in Landed Estates Court, Board of Works could advance upwards of two-thirds of price, to be repaid in thirty-five years at five per cent. on the loan, 877 tenants purchased under this Act, £514,536 was issued in loan, total purchase money paid by tenant-purchasers was £859,000 at rate of 23½ years' purchase, 16408.—Cash to be paid by tenant was increased from a quarter to a third, 16409.—Rate of interest was four per cent., but there was also a sum to repay capital, 16410.

ACT OF 1881.

Under Act of 1881 Land Commission was empowered to make advances to tenants for purchase of holdings, and was enabled to purchase estates for resale to the tenants, limit of advance was changed from two-thirds to three-quarters of the purchase money, terms of re-payment annuity of five per cent. for thirty-five years; over 731 tenants purchased under this Act, and advances amounted to £240,801, including advances to 405 tenants on seven estates bought by Land Commission in Landed Estates Court.

ASHBOURNE ACT.

In 1885 Ashbourne Act was passed, £5,000,000 was authorised to be advanced to Land Commissioners to enable sales to be carried out between landlords and tenants, and to enable Land Commission to purchase estates in Landed Estates Court for re-sale to tenants, Land Commission was empowered to advance whole of purchase money retaining as guarantee one-fifth for period of seventeen and a half years, advances were repaid by annual instalments extending over forty-nine years, 16411.—Rate of interest reduced, 16412.—In 1888 the £5,000,000 was exhausted, so an additional £5,000,000 was advanced, 25,367 tenants on 1,355 estates became purchasers and loans amounted to £9,992,536, 16412.—Rate of sale was seventeen years' purchase of actual rent paid by tenants, under Ashbourne Acts 101 estates were purchased for re-sale to tenants and loans were issued to 2,029 tenants, amounting to £531,277, 16413.—All classes of land, good and bad, were sold under the Act, 16416.—Rate of annuity was four per cent., but part was sinking fund, 16417, 16418.—Act was administered by body already established for fixing fair rents, but two additional Commissioners were appointed for administration of Purchase Act, 16419.—Sale agreement was entered into between landlord and tenant and lodged at Land Commission, 16420.

GUARANTEED LAND STOCK UNDER ACT OF 1891.

Mr. Balfour, in 1891, introduced payment to vendor in specially created Guaranteed Land Stock, equal nominally to purchase money bearing interest at two and three-quarters per cent., this could not be redeemed until after thirty years, dividends and sinking fund payments were made out of "Land Purchase Account," to which all purchase annuities received was paid, 16421.

GUARANTEED FUND.

If account was insufficient at any time deficiency was to be charged on a "Guarantee Fund," which consisted of cash and contingent portions, cash portion was made up of Irish Probate Duty and Exchequer Contribution, contingent portion of Irish share of local taxation and certain local grants, thus throwing security for re-payment on ratepayers of county, 16421.—If cash portion was not required it passed into local taxation account, 16422.—Contingent portion was security lying behind the rate, 16425.—Amount of stock that could be issued for each county was limited by Act of 1891 to twenty-five times the share of the county in guarantee fund, Act of 1901 extended it to fifty times, and that of 1903 to sixty times, if there were no danger of loss to Exchequer, 16426.—It had not yet been proved whether sixty times total value of share of county covered necessities of purchase in every county, as none had reached that limit, 16430.—If that limit were exceeded advances would have to be stopped, 16431.—Witness thought that it would be legal for one county to supply deficiency of another, provided all land in Ireland would be sold under £152,000,000, the limit of advance, 16436-7.—People of county might object, 16439.—Guarantee fund for all Ireland for 1904-5 amounted to £2,514,442, each county might receive thirty times its guarantee, so £75,433,260 would be available, which might be doubled should Treasury consider it might be done without loss to Exchequer, 16448.—If guarantee fund increased total grant would proportionately increase, 16449-50.—Approximate charge on fund up to 31st March, 1906, was fifty-two and a half million pounds, under Acts of 1891, 1896, 1903, 16450, 16455.—Annuities coming in would lessen that, 16451.—Sales under Ashbourne Acts, Bright Clause of 1870, Church Act of 1869, and Act of 1881 were not included, 16456.—Sales in which money had been actually paid were about forty millions under all Acts, 16457-9.—Mr. Wyndham's estimate of guarantee fund had been £3,000,000 a year, but he had not allowed for portion earmarked for county boroughs, which reduced agricultural portion to £2,500,000, 16486-7.

Priority of Sales.

Priority of taking applications was according to classification, each main class was dealt with in priority of application of the particular class, 16441.—No class had priority over other two classes, 16443.—There was no particular allotment of money between different classes, 16444.—All the money might go in one class if other cases were not ready, but practically that never happened, 16445.—Congested Districts Board cases were given priority over other classes, 16447-8.

Decadal Reductions.

Mr. Balfour's Act of 1896 introduced method of reducing every decade annuity to be paid by tenant purchaser, during first decade annuity was calculated on original advance, during second and third on portion unpaid at end of previous decade; loans issued under Acts of 1891 and 1896 up to 31st March, 1902, were 36,994, amounting to £10,869,190, being 17·5 years' purchase of the rents, 16461.—Decadal reductions were abolished under Act of 1903, as amount of sinking fund did not allow of them, 16462.

Act of 1903; Sales by Estates.

In 1903 Mr. Wyndham's Act was passed, which introduced system of sales by "Estates," a landlord was obliged, to get benefit of Act, to sell entire estate, 16462.

Zones.

Holdings on estates subject to judicial rents and within certain "zones" laid down in Act were free from liability to inspection as to security or equity of price, as Act assumed that rent fixed was good security, holdings not subject to "zone" provisions were liable to inspection, 16462.—Properties formerly declared to have had insufficient security for an advance had, since operation of zones, sold at higher price, but in Kinvara case in Galway Commission had refused to declare it an estate, 16463.—Estate in Westmeath had been refused under old Acts, but passed at greatly increased figure since operation of the zones, 16464.—Report said that some estates had been made to come fraudulently under the zones, but proof was difficult. Many cases went through now that would not go through if there were inspection for value, 16495, 16507.—In creating new holdings they had to be mapped out, but in sales under zones maps had to be submitted by vendor, which saved time, 16498.—"*Freeman's Journal*" thought that abolition of inspection for value had not expedited inspection, 16499.—Abuses might arise out of zone system if landlord and tenants agreed to add to the purchase price for the sake of tenants getting money for improvement at cheap interest, 16501.—Higher prices had resulted from zone system, 16502.—In certain estate in Westmeath landlord demanded, under old Act, seventeen years' purchase of second term rents, inspector said land was not security for price demanded, under Act of 1903 landlord demanded 23 or 24 years' purchase, and as it was within the zone Estates Commissioners had to sanction the sale, 16504.—Case had occurred in Galway where Land Commission had refused advance on holdings for more than twelve years' purchase, later tenants agreed to give eighteen years' purchase, but Land Commission had refused to declare it an estate as holdings were mixed and security was bad, 16506. Cases had been brought to Commissioners as non-zone cases and had been inspected, advances had been cut down to what the holding was considered security for, and then it was discovered that they were zone cases, and Commissioners had been obliged to make advances which they considered insecure, 16508, 16533.—In fixing value future had to be considered as well as present, value could not be settled by one particular season, when it took sixty or seventy years to get back money, 16509-10.—On Crosbie Estate Commissioners refused to grant advance, because landlord had added sum for improvements and other sums for arrears, 16524-6.—This had been referred for legal consideration, 16528.—In a number of estates arrears of rent were added to purchase money, 16527.—In Kinvara case advance was refused because of mixed character of holdings, 16529.—Five other cases were withdrawn and twenty-eight estates refused, because holdings were congested or too small, in one case title was defective, 16530.—Inspection would be a check on illegal practices, 16535-8.—In Talbot-Crosbie case advances had been kept within the zones, if they had been outside they would have been treated by inspection, 16540.—In both Talbot-Crosbie and J. D. Crosbie Estates question of adding to purchase money had arisen, 16541.—Commissioners contended that as guardians of public money they could not advance for other objects than those originally specified, 16511.—Objection was on two grounds: (1) because annuity, and therefore risk, was increased, 16513.—(2.) Because nominal purchase price being higher bonus was increased, 16514.—Instances in which Commissioners had refused to declare them estates were only five or six, all on the western seaboard, 16515-22.—"Zone" referred to amount of reduction from judicial rent, 16679.—The word was not used in Act of 1903, but was mentioned by Mr. Wyndham in explanatory memorandum of Bill, 16675, 16679.—Inclusion in first "zone" meant sanction of Land Commission to advance in cases when purchase annuity was not less than 10 per cent., nor more than 30 per cent. below judicial rent fixed after Act of 1896, 16677.—Limit in second "zone" was not less than 20 nor more than 40 per cent. below that rent; when Commissioners declared any property an estate within first and second zone they were bound to advance the money without further inquiry, except as to occupation and advance, limit of advance was £3,000, but it might be raised to £7,000 in certain cases, 16679.—Under zone system State took whole responsibility for advances made without inspection as to security, 17271.—Estates Commissioners realised danger of bringing unsuitable properties under zone system, and in some cases had required vendor to bring property under Section 6 and sell direct to them, 17272.—Clinton Estate in West Cork was a remarkable case, owners had first offered to sell at 24 years' purchase, afterwards at 22 years', tenants offered 19½ years' purchase, dispute was brought before Estates Commissioners for settlement, they inspected carefully and found that average number of years' purchase to be given was about 17, 17273.—If the property had been declared an estate under zone system advances would have had to be made without inspection and State would have been responsible for 24 years' purchase plus 12 per cent. bonus instead of 17 or 18 years' purchase, 17274-5, 17279.—Proportion of non-judicial holdings to judicial was about one-third to two-thirds, 17277.—If number of zone cases were examined it would be found that security was not good, 17278.—Estates Commissioners had refused to declare Blake-Foster property an estate as holdings were so intermixed that there was no security for advance, 17283.—If sale had gone through under zone system 24 years' purchase would have been paid instead of 10 or 12; to bring under zones every tenant had been turned into a judicial tenant, 17284.—Estates Commissioners should be invested with power of inspection in all cases to avoid dangers of bringing estates within zones in congested districts, 17285-7.—There were many doubtful estates all over Ireland, 17289, 17290.—Spirit of Act of 1903 was that if rents had been fixed once or twice they should be full security for anything within the zones, 17291.—Inspection of Clinton Estate had been made by one valuer only, he had farmed extensively in same county and he was regarded as skilled and competent, 17293-6.—He had lived in prosperous part of County Cork, and was an advanced farmer, 17298-17300.—He had had no experience of kind of estate which he was sent to value, 17301-2.—Great number of farms on which Commission were asked to make advances were of a doubtful class, 17305-6.—Case had occurred in Galway where 21½ years' purchase was asked for, inspectors had been sent and they recommended 19½ years' purchase, even at that there was loss in putting it into order, 17305.—Witness advocated fuller discretionary powers for Estates Commissioners in fixing values and inspecting, 17307-8.

Crosbie Estates, Question of Additions to Purchase Money.

In Talbot-Crosbie Estate certain moneys due for arrears of rent had been added to purchase money, landlord in another Crosbie estate had agreed, after completion of sale, to pay back certain sums of money to tenants for improvements, Commissioners considered that that was not purchase money, and had refused advances, 16467.—Tenants had agreed to buy at certain number of years' purchase, landlord agreed with tenants to repay sums of money for improvements when sale was complete; if estate worth £500 were put into market and £600 purchase price was paid so that tenants might have back £100 Commission objected that that was getting bonus on a fictitious amount of purchase money, 16469-71.—Judicial Commissioners decided that improvements could not be included in purchase money, 16472, 16474, 16500.—Including improvements was a device to get money at low rate of interest, 16475.—It was often done privately, not openly, as Mr. Crosbie had done it, 16476.—Remedy was inspection in every case, 16477.

Effect of Act in Expediting Sales.

Abolition of inspection under zone system had not quickened sales, as some inspection as of boundaries, had to be done, 16478, 16490.—Inspection of cases within the zones could be carried out more rapidly by inferior inspection, 16492.—Inspection for value took longer as more inspectors were required and estimate of value and security took longer, 16494.—Landlords did not object to inspection pure and simple, 16481.—Under old system landlords hesitated to agree to sell as they were only entitled to interest on purchase money during negotiations, if they came to nothing they had to revert to old rents, 16482-4.—Zone system gave certainty to landlords, 16485.

Bonus and Rate of Annuity under Act of 1903.

Commissioners under Act of 1903 might purchase estates for re-sale to occupiers if three-fourths of tenants agreed to purchase from them at estimated price; on completion of sale owner was paid bonus of 12 per cent.; tenant could borrow money on easier terms; under former Act rate of interest was four per cent., 1¼ of which was for sinking fund; under Act of 1903 it was reduced to 3¼, ½ per cent. going to sinking fund; reduction in sinking fund lengthened period, over which repayment would extend to 68½ years, instead of about 43 years, and made continuance of decadal reductions in annuities impossible, 16542.—Decadal reductions were given at end of every ten years on annuity of preceding decade, 16545.—Act of 1903 also enabled owners to sell their demesnes to Commissioners, and to repurchase them on same conditions as tenants, 16542.—Congested Districts Board could buy estates with demesnes, 16543.—And re-sell them to landlord or anyone else, 16543A, 16544.—If landlord re-purchased estate he did not necessarily purchase at selling value, 16546-8.

Provision for Evicted Tenants.

Act of 1903 enabled untenanted lands to be sold to the following persons:—(*a*) Tenant of holding on estate, (*b*) son of tenant of holding, (*c*) tenant of holding not exceeding £5 rateable valuation in neighbourhood of estate; (*d*) person who within twenty-five years of passing of Act was a tenant; this class provides for evicted tenants, 16548.—Classes were dealt with at discretion of Commissioners, 16549, 16549A.—If taken in priority evicted tenants would have no chance; the £5 limit created difficulties, as a man with £6 valuation often required prior treatment, 16550.

Rate of Progress under Act of 1903.

Act also gave Commissioners power to purchase untenanted lands for enlargement of holdings or creation of new ones, and conferred on them same powers as those of Congested Districts Board for facilitating re-sale of land; total purchases from Act of 1869 to June 30th, 1906, under all Acts were 110,291; total advances, £38,404,925; since that date nearly two millions had been added, so total was £40,388,793, 16554.—Number of tenants in Ireland was, roughly speaking, 470,000 to 480,000, 16556.—So about one-fourth had purchased, 16557.—Number of probable purchasers was greater than money available for advances, but a large number of village holders would not want to purchase, 16558.—As their holdings were small, 16560.—Farmers who had purchased were included, 16563.—Also priests' and parsons' houses, dispensary doctors' houses, etc., were sometimes included, 16564.—400,000 holdings would probably be number coming under operation of Act, 16565.—Commission of Valuation split up holdings according to townlands, 16567.—Census figures for 1901, which went on basis of individual, gave holdings as 490,000, 16568, 16570.—Out of the 490,000 110,000 had been dealt with, leaving 380,000, 16571.

Purchases by Town Tenants.

On town holdings Commissioners could make advances on security of plot of land or site of house, but advance could not be made on house itself, 16574, 16577.—Other methods might be found for getting advance on house, guarantee deposit system being one, 16575.—One landlord who wished to get rid of village holdings asked Commissioners to retain purchase money, and pay him interest, 16576.—Town holdings in Boyle had been bought by Commission in order to complete purchase of whole estate, 16578.—This was not to be a precedent, as there had been difficulty in disposing of town holdings, 16579-90.—System should be provided for disposing of small country towns, 15581.—Other tenants might guarantee for sale of town houses, as town existed for their benefit, 16582-4.—It was desirable that landlord should be able to sell whole of estate; it might be sold *in globo* or direct on guarantee deposit system, 16584-5.—Witness would not advocate increase in percentage of annuities of country holders for benefit of town holders, as annuities would probably have been increased because of proximity to town in any case, 16587.—In fixing fair rents proximity to towns was always taken into consideration, 16588.—Most satisfactory arrangement for sale of town houses was such a guarantee deposit as Commissioners thought necessary, 16589.—There was no legal dual ownership with regard to town tenants, 16591-2.—As there was no fixity of tenure and no judicial rent, 16593.—Landlords thought it unreasonable not to be allowed to sell whole of estate if portion included towns and villages, 16594-5.—Small towns in Ireland were agricultural communities rather than towns, 16596.—Landlords got better chances of selling their property in Ireland than in either England or Scotland, 16599.—That several small holdings might form agglomeration of a few houses was not sufficient reason for refusing advances, 16600.—Tenure would be same, as in many villages fair rent had been fixed, as in Loughglynn, 16601-2.—Village holdings were an agglomeration of houses forming a village, with little plots of land attached, 16603.—Fair rent was assessed on land in neighbourhood, not on house in village; but Commissioners added to rent on land a fair proportion of landlord's interest in house, 16606.—If house were property of landlord assessment would be made on house and site in village and plot in country, 16607.—If greater part of value were on house, not land, it would be dismissed as non-agricultural, 16608.—Principle should not be extended to big towns, 16608.—Few vendors thought that there was a prosperous future for little towns, so it was important to facilitate purchase and sale, 16609.

Meaning and suggested extension of term "Congested Districts."

Statutes in earlier legislation had not attempted any economic discrimination; establishment of Congested Districts Board was first attempt made by legislative enactment to discriminate between impoverished occupiers and those who had economic holdings; "congested" had acquired special meaning in Ireland, namely, population living on holdings insufficient to support a family; Act of 1891 defined congested district as electoral division in which rateable value was less than thirty shillings per head; this definition was arbitrary, and excluded many districts where people were crowded on insufficient holdings, as problem was one of condition, not of locality; seaboard from Cork to Donegal had excessive population on bad land, and had come to be regarded as true region of agricultural poverty, but same problem existed in other parts of Ireland, and no hard and fast line should be drawn; whole agricultural uneconomic population should be dealt with at discretion of administration; legislation should be carried out to that effect, 16628.—Lord Lieutenant's power to include or exclude a district was limited by proviso, "within one year from passing of this Act," which words should be repealed, 16629, 16638-9.—Reason for this limitation was not given in Act, but if those words were omitted districts above the thirty shillings limit could be included, 16630-2.—House of Commons was body responsible for limitation, though Mr. Balfour had drafted the Act, 16633-4.—Even if words in Section 36 were omitted small groups of uneconomic holdings might be excluded, 16635-40.—Definition in Section 6 of Act of 1903 might be more applicable to group of small holdings, 16641-2.—When limitation of congested districts was got rid of there would be power to deal with groups of holdings as congested estates, 16643.—Anything could be declared an estate, 16644.—Many townlands in scheduled electoral districts needed no special attention, 16645.—Witness favoured townland as unit for scheduling instead of electoral division, 16647.—This would not affect Estates Commissioners as they dealt with estates, 16648.—Congested non-scheduled districts could be dealt with as estates, 16650.—Under section 6 of Act of 1891, 16651.—Owing to small income of Congested Districts Board there was not much disposition to schedule additional electoral divisions, 16657.—Framers of Act of 1891 were doubtful whether arbitrary definition adopted would include all districts that required special treatment, so they gave opportunity for revision, but power was so limited as to be practically useless, 16659.

Powers of Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board was founded in 1891 under Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, it had power to aid migration and emigration, to sell seed potatoes, &c., to aid in developing industries, also to enlarge holdings, but this power was so circumscribed as to be useless, initial income was £41,250 per annum.—Act of 1893 enabled Board to acquire land and hold it as landlords for purposes required, Act of 1894 enabled guarantee to be given so that guarantee deposit need not be retained, Land Law Act of 1896 allowed Board to obtain advances from Land Commission for purchase of estates, but there were many hampering provisions, which were remedied by Act of 1899, Parliamentary Grant was raised from £6,500 to £25,000.—Act of 1901 gave limited power of dealing with obstructive tenants in re-arrangement of estates purchased, also power of entry on a holding with certain reservations *re* landlord's rights; Board could also purchase land outside congested county with approval of Lord Lieutenant; Act of 1903 increased Board's facilities for purchase of estates and increased annual income by £20,000, 16659.

Estates Commissioners' Powers under Act of 1903.

Under Act of 1903 Estates Commissioners might deal with congestion in two ways—(1) they might buy an estate and divide untenanted land among uneconomic holders, expending money out of Reserve Fund of £250,000; (2) they could treat property as "congested estate," losing 10 per cent. on purchase money, though this provision had not properly been established after three years' working. Reserve Fund was also used for re-instalment of evicted tenants, so that much could not be done by way of free gift for improvement of holdings, 16659.

Reserve Fund.

Reserve Fund accumulated under provisions of Land Act of 1891, but was never required, under Act of 1903 this was transferred to Estates Commissioners for improvement of estates purchased under Act, 16660, 16665.—It was part of Exchequer contribution to Guarantee Fund, 16663.—And was intended to meet deficiencies under Act of 1891, but was never needed, 16664.—Chief use of funds was to finance evicted tenants, as it was useless restoring them to the land without stock, houses, &c., advances were also made for drainage schemes, &c., 16667.—Both grants and advances were made, advances being repaid by tenants to Reserve Fund, making it available for use again, 16668-9.—Reserve Fund had increased from £200,000 to £250,000, through accumulation of interest, 16671-4.—Free grants for houses, drainage, &c., were given out of Reserve Fund, 17029, 17033-4.—Estates Commissioners had not power of Congested Districts Board to lose any percentage on re-sale, 17029A.—Though Act of 1903 had made provision for loss, but meaning of provision had not yet been settled, 17030.—Congested Districts Board was not bound by any particular percentage of loss, 17032.—Two classes of payments were made out of Reserve Fund, free grants, which were not recoverable, and advances repayable by a 3¼ per cent. annuity, 17045-9.—Money expended on farm drainage was generally recovered, 17050.

Problem of Congestion—Means of Relief.

In Connaught out of 109,000 agricultural holdings, more than 83,000 were valued at or under £10, one-half of these at or under £4, about 11,000 were valued between £10 and £15, nearly 60,000 holdings were under fifteen acres, so that either by area or value test, large proportion of holdings were very small; if economic holding was taken as one able to support a family in reasonable comfort without outside help, it would rule out those on which occupiers exist by aid of external agencies such as (1) labour in England or at some industry; (2) money sent from relatives in America, it would also exclude those living below standard of decency; holdings of capital value of from £350 to £500, *i.e.*, valuation of £11 7*s.* to £16 5*s.* might generally be regarded as economic; as land for enlargement of holdings was limited in West of Ireland in many localities increase to £10 valuation was utmost that could be expected, 16680, 16684.—Further afield standard could be raised, 16685.—If operations were extended to whole of Ireland more land would be available, 16682.—It was said that occupiers of farms valued at £6 and upwards seldom starved in the Famine period, and small farms might now be expected to yield larger profits, as methods of agriculture had improved; £12 to £15 Land Act annuity might be assumed to be economic standard; below that, problem of congestion had to be faced, so problem was to enlarge uneconomic holdings or to create new holdings on untenanted land and migrate people to them from congested areas; if community had other means of subsistence, such as fishing, it was wiser to assist in development of those than to migrate the people, 16686-7.

Migratory Labour.

No objection to migratory labour if carried on under proper conditions, 16689.—If a man had an economic farm it was better for him to stick to it, but if not there were advantages in the man earning good wages in England or Scotland and returning at end of season, while his wife and family lived in healthy conditions in Ireland, instead of in English slums, 16691-2.—Witness did not think that such employment would fall off, as many went to labour in towns of England, Wales, and Scotland, as well as in the country, 16693.—They might be away four or five months, 16691.—Boys and girls went from Achill to Scotland for weeding turnips, &c., 16697-8.—Lady Aberdeen had investigated condition of girls and had found nothing objectionable in conditions of employment, 16698.—Where economic employment could not be found in Ireland migration should not be stopped, 16699-16700.—If inducements could be given for them to stay at home they should be given, 16701.—Much land on West Coast of Ireland was so unproductive that adding to holding did not improve position of occupier, so outside industries had to be resorted to, 16723-5.—If industries were not developed to the full, West Coast of Ireland would gradually become deserted, 16726-9.—So that every effort should be made to develop them, 16732-16754.—There was an increasing demand for migratory labour, 16803-5.—Migratory labourers went to both agricultural work and work in towns of England, Wales, and Scotland, 17114-6.—It was good for wives and families to live in pure air in West of Ireland, and land attached to houses was important as an aid to living, help could be given to improve dwellings, 17117.

FISHING.

If fishing could be developed so as to compete with boats from other countries, certain proportion of population ought to be privided for on West Coast, 16702-16706.—Fishing industry ought to be as capable of development on the West Coast as on the East, and it should give employment to considerable numbers, 16779.

INDUSTRIES OTHER THAN FISHING.

Other industries could be developed, 16708.—Such as kelp, though that would maintain but few, 16710.—Agriculture was not only industry that took people to England, they went to coal mines, railway and road contracts, &c., they were not absent from home longer than fishermen who followed fish round the coast were, 16733-40.—It was important to keep people of West of Ireland living in the West, and this could only be done by developing industries, 16741.—Migratory labour enabled people to live, and it quickened intelligence of men who migrated, 16742.—It was merely another form of what was happening to all classes in the United Kingdom, youngsters had to migrate to make a living, 16743-4.—Should employment in England fail, Canada would need labourers, but communication would need to be improved before people could be migrated so far as West of Canada, 16746-7.—Some young women now went to Canada or United States, and after saving money came home for three months and then returned, 16748.—If people were migrated from district where Irish only was spoken to one where English only was spoken there would be great difficulty, 16751-2.

MIGRATION.

Migration would have to be resorted to, but it was a slow process, and while going on with it as quickly as possible, industries should be developed, 16710-11.—Those who depended solely on small unproductive farms should be dealt with first in migration schemes, leaving those who had other industries, and only migrating them if nothing could be made of their industries, 16712.—Objection was that that eventually necessitated giving coast people the longest moves, 16713.—But people thought that if they had to move at all it would be quite as easy to move forty miles as twenty, 16714-5.—People from very bad lands should not be moved to the best lands, as they were the most inexperienced farmers, 16716.—Big occupiers should be moved to the best lands of Meath or other parts of Leinster, while their land was divided up amongst the more inexperienced, 16717-8.—There should be no discrimination against any class, congests should be dealt with as they most needed it, local people first to be provided, then those from a greater distance if untenanted land were available, but when all was done there would probably be a residue unprovided for, especially west of the Shannon, 16719.—If there was migration to a distance people would have to be looked after for some years, 16720.—If people were wishful to migrate they should be given opportunity to do so, 16782, 16785.—There seemed to be no difficulty if land were available, 16784.—Nobody should be excluded from chance of migration if materials were there, 16786.—Situation was this: In congested districts where there were no industries, migration should be encouraged, but if there were industries people should be encouraged to remain, though applications for migration should not be refused, 16787.—Fishing and migratory labour ought to support a large number of people, 16788.—And if industries could support people they ought to be left, not migrated, 16789.—If it were proved that all industries had failed, people must be dealt with in another way, 16790.—People in the interior on uneconomic holdings who had no other means of livelihood should be supplied with land first, 16791.—If these were all supplied, and land was still available, recruiting should be begun among those who were not succeeding with industries, 16792.—Volunteers from the coast should have same facilities for getting good land as those living inland, 16793-4.—No distinction should be made between those living on seaboard and those living inland if both depended entirely on the land, 16796-8.—Mr. Finucane's scheme of getting larger men to migrate, and thus leaving land for enlargement of uneconomic holdings was the right policy, 16799, 16800.—They could give greater return for inducements than small men, 16801.—They should be offered fair inducement to go, 16802.

REMEDIES FOR CONGESTION IN SUCH A PARISH AS GWEEDORE.

In parishes such as Gweedore people lived by industries more than by land; therefore it was not so needful to migrate them as to improve their present position, and outlay would probably be less, 16755-59.—Stability of fishing, kelp-making, and migratory labour was as great as in ordinary agriculture, 16760-1.—Physically men of West Coast of Ireland were as fine as any in the British Isles, 16762.—Mentally they were superior to inland people, 16763.—Still witness would encourage migration from those districts to Meath or Westmeath, 16764.—Leaving only those who could be fairly employed in these industries, 16765.—If migration were undertaken there should be certainty of improvement of prospects, 16766.—Industries in congested districts had been established for fifteen years, 16773.—Witness was not prepared to say how successful they had been, as he had no actual knowledge of them, Commission had visited them, and ought to know themselves, 16774-8.

Uneconomic holdings could only be made economic by (1) enlargement of existing small holdings; (2) transfer of occupiers to other holdings of sufficient size; untenanted land could be purchased voluntarily in the neighbourhood, or some form of compulsion must be adopted if that failed; success of migration depended on (*a*) voluntary transfer of occupiers of uneconomic holdings; (*b*) where that failed and removal was necessary on the granting of compulsory powers for dealing with obstructive persons; when all suitable land had been utilised other methods of dealing with residue of congested occupiers must be devised, 16805.

ACQUISITION OF UNTENANTED GRASS LANDS.

Acquisition of suitable untenanted land on satisfactory terms was very difficult; owners preferred to let as grazing land as that was less trouble, but as result of recent agitation graziers had become unpopular, and landlords had been more inclined to sell through Estates Commissioners, with most beneficial results to uneconomic holders; some owners had broken up grass lands into suitable holdings and obtained fines for tenant-right by public auction or private agreement, intending afterwards to sell under Land Act; this was objectionable method, as it encouraged bidding out of proportion to value, and land got into wrong hands; Estates Commissioners had refused to declare lands so dealt with "estates" for purposes of Land Acts, 16805.

Price to be paid for Grass Lands.

Estates Commissioners were always ready to make estimate of price of land when asked to purchase, 16805, 16806a.—Fact that landlord might break up estate and throw it upon the market was not taken into consideration by Commissioners when valuing, 16807.—As they could only offer price that bore relation to value of land and price at which they could re-sell, 16808.—It would be contravening spirit of Land Purchase Act of 1903 if they acted otherwise, 16810, 16813.—"Fines for tenant-right" were not merely an offer of higher rent, but of a lump sum besides the rent, 16814-5.—Difficulty of letting land for grazing was due to two causes:—(1) unprofitable season for graziers; (2) growing unpopularity of grass land system; attempts at private sale were not generally successful; on Clanmorris Estate this had been tried, but owner had eventually to ask Estates Commissioners to buy estate; smaller holders on estates refused to buy unless grass lands were divided among them; difficulties of settling price were many, but Commissioners had been obliged to settle price that they could get back on re-sale to tenants, 16815. —Rent that was obtained from grazing lettings was not a basis of fair rent for permanent tenant, 16816-7. —Permanent value was estimated on what would be fair rent if occupied by a tenant; in grazier's case rent and taxes were paid by owner, 16820, 16822.—Purchase by Estates Commissioners must be on a basis that would enable them to re-sell to tenants, who could only repay in sixty-eight years, 16824-5. —Grazing rent was fixed from year to year, but occupying tenant had not merely one year to pay, but many, 16829.—Argument that rents had been the same for a number of years would not do, as even at end of long period rents might be reduced if prices fell, 16830.—Basis and principles of valuation had not been clearly laid down, 16831-2.—Rents for grazing lands depended on competition, 16833.—If Canadian cattle were allowed free importation rents would come down, 16836.—24,000 acres of grazing land had been bought by Commission and they had agreed to purchase another 15,000, 16838.—All this was voluntarily purchased, 16839.—About thirty-five landlords were concerned in sale of these 40,000 acres, 16848.—These landlords were not particularly embarrassed, 16850-1.—Prices were based on fair rents and landlords were willing to accept them, 16842.—Land deteriorated when grazed too long, 16844.—Witness had prepared memorandum showing how holdings would be affected by free import of foreign cattle; grazing rents were not true value; fair rent basis was more satisfactory; re-sale of estates at price which would secure the State necessitates a price which made it difficult to bring about a sale; some means of bridging gap between purchase and sale price was desirable; re-arrangement of bonus might attain result; where vendor had both tenanted and untenanted land both should be sold under section 6, 16846.

Compulsory Powers.

Compulsory purchase should be resorted to (1) to enable untenanted land to be obtained to relieve congestion; (2) to acquire rest of uneconomic holdings which needed re-distribution, 16846.—It would be necessary in some cases where land was badly wanted, 16854.—In one case they had offered to buy an estate at 27 years' purchase of estimated fair rent, but owner had refused to sell under very much higher price than they were prepared to give, 16855, 16858. —Landlord had merely given present income derived from grazing land, he had not asked a definite price, 16934-5.—Land was almost untenanted, there were only a very few small holdings, 16936-9.—In another case sum was paid which made great loss on re-sale, 16859-60.—The thirty-five owners from whom land had been bought had, as a rule, sold at estimate of Commission, 16861.—Probably they realised that the price was fair and that it was better to take it than risk the future, 16862.—Compulsory powers might not often have to be used, but it was necessary to have them, 16863-4.

Principles for fixing Price in event of Compulsory Purchase.—Tribunal to fix Price, etc.

Basis of prices must be value that in a series of years would return owner his present net income in an investment of similar character as regards security, 16866-7.—Differences of opinion would arise concerning stability of security, but there must be tribunal to decide, 16868.—Such tribunal would need to have confidence of both sides, 16869.—And could be found, 16872.—Witness thought Estates Commissioners had confidence of both sides, 16874.—But any tribunal must largely depend on its *personnel* for public confidence, 16875-6.—*Personnel* depended on political party in power, 16877.—All such appointments were subject to criticism, even Judges of the High Court did not escape, they were sometimes accused of partiality, 16879-82.—Any tribunal, however fair and just it tried to be, would be certain to be attacked by someone, it would have to work its way into public confidence, 16883-5.—Principles on which tribunal should proceed should be laid down, but difficulty always came in the application of them, 16886.—It was possible to draw up a scale that would show relation of securities offered to properties sold, 16887-8.—System of fixing prices would develop; schedule could be made classifying holdings and estates, with investments to correspond; it might seem complicated at first, but it would simplify matters really, 16890.—If landlord refused to sell compulsion should be applied, inspectors should report what category it belonged to, and tribunal should ratify, 16891.—If landlord's present security was in one class care should be taken not to put him in another, 16893.—Probable return should be calculated and income estimated, and then calculation as to quality of investment should be made, 16894.—Probabilities of future were taken into consideration in fixing fair rents and would have to be considered in fixing prices of estates, 16895.—Tribunal established would lay down its own opinion of true value of land and landlord would have to take price given him, 16896.—Calculation should be fixed on what tenants may, with security, pay in the future, 16897.—In any industry calculation ahead must be made; in agriculture in Ireland land was being purchased by public money which would not be repaid until end of sixty-eight years, 16899.—Competent persons must be employed to calculate, 16900.—To sum up, tribunal set up must work itself into popular confidence and be judged by results, and price given to landlord must be based on annuity which tenant may pay for sixty-eight years, 16901-2.—Land Commission might be formed into a body which could assess price of landlord's interest as well as price of tenant's, 16920-16924, 16929-30.—They should exercise power under judicial tenure and free from review of their actions by Parliament, 16925-6.—Appeal could be made to Supreme Court on legal questions, not on question of value, 16927-8.—In fixing prices under compulsory powers, pessimistic contingencies, such as removal of restrictions on import of Canadian cattle, had to be considered, 16943-5.—But there were in some cases conditions to raise value of land; inspector's reports had to show difference between estimate of *security* and estimate of *price*; in considering *security* for advance value of holding as it stood counted, while for *price* vendor's interest in the holding was basis to go on, and interest which vendor was selling, length of time over which annuity would be payable; prospects of agricultural changes, etc., had to be considered, *security* would be modified by nature of holding, situation as regards markets, chances of productive powers and earnings, accumulation of arrears, etc., 16945.—Values would be raised if policy of preference were adopted, but witness thought that possibility of opening ports to Canadian cattle was greater than possibility of adoption of preference, 16948-51.—Expert tribunal holding under judicial tenure was necessary, 16953.—Estates Commission as now constituted would fulfil conditions if they got necessary tenure, 16954-5.—If landlord sold under compulsion, price to be paid to him would not be market value, but sum which, if invested at certain rate, would give him return of present income, 16958. —It would be difficult to find market value for ownership in fee, 16959.—No guarantee could be made to purchaser that land would give a certain return on purchase money, but landlord would be secure against loss, 16962-16968.—In Ireland conditions which governed market value in other countries were not present, so it was impossible to fix it, 16970.—Lump sum of money calculated at certain interest was paid to landlord, who might do what he liked with it; one vendor had invested proceeds of his sale in Japanese Bonds, 16972-4.—If changes continued which reduced landlord's interest in holding, he would do well to get out under present conditions; twenty years ago he would have done better, 16975.—By getting out now he would be relieved from risk of further Land Acts, 16977.—Finding tribunal to fix prices of land taken compulsorily was not so difficult, France and Germany had had to appoint such tribunals, 16978.—Section of Act of 1903 fixed compulsorily price tenant must pay for landlord's interest in holding, 16981.—In both Acts of 1881 and 1903 there were instances of compulsion on tenant as to prices he must take for tenant-right and pay for landlord right, 16982.—So that tribunal was in existence to compel tenants, 16983.—And tribunal should be in existence to compel landlords, 16984.—Estates Commissioners might have these powers, 16987.—Mr. Doran had suggested Land Commission as tribunal to fix price of land compulsorily taken, 16988.—In practice, though not in law, tenant had advantage over landlord when compulsion was applied, as tenant could sell his interest, if he were in a one-fourth minority and did not want to buy, but were compelled to, but landlord could not escape from compulsion, though in law he had same right as tenant, because there was no market for his estate, 16992-17004.—In practice it might be just as difficult for tenant to sell his right, 17005-6.—Tenant was put under an annuity below his rent, he started with reduced rent, while landlord started with reduced income, 17006-9.—There would really be no difference between price of tenant's property before or after it was vested in him, 17007-8.—Where price of value of tenant's interest was fixed tenant could not sell interest, but was bound to take price fixed by Court, 17009.—Estates Commissioners could have both judicial tenure and administrative functions, as judicial tenure would not affect their work; Land Commission occupied both positions, 17011-2.—If Estates Commissioners were judges of compulsion where landlord would not sell they would be in position of being judges in cases in which they themselves wanted to buy land as cheaply as they could re-sell, 17014.—There would be an appeal from decision of Estates Commissioners, 17015.—Having price fixed by tribunal in review of another was different from having it fixed by that tribunal without appeal, 17016.—Witness thought such tribunal would give satisfaction in Ireland, 17017.—Price offered in case of estate before mentioned was twenty-seven years' purchase of estimated fair rent, 17018-20.—Certain proportion would have been lost on re-sale, 17021-2.—Difference between purchase price and sale price would be guide to gap which it would be necessary to bridge over if strict justice to both sides were to be done, 17024.—Reason why Estates Commissioners should fix value in first instance was that they were body who were obliged to re-sell the property and deal with case, another tribunal might fix too high a price, 17025.

Compulsion already existed in Land Code—There was only the last step to be taken.

In Deasy's Act of 1860, tenant had no rights, 16903.—Since then there had been gradual legal transfer of right from landlord to tenant, 16904-6.—In congested districts progress of last forty-five years was insufficient, 16907.—So final step, extinction of landlord's right and transfer of whole of it to tenant had to be taken, 16908.—Only question was how it should be taken with due regard to such landlord's interests as still remained, 16911.—Formation of tribunal to take final step with confidence and satisfaction was the question, 16913.—Land Commission had been formed to fix rent of land, 16914.—As well as value of tenant's interest, and when this was being sold Land Commission fixed true value, 16915.

Act of 1881 gave three F.'s—free sale, fixity of tenure, and fair rents—but landlord had right of pre-emption; if tenant proposed to sell his interest he had to serve notice on landlord, who, in return, could serve notice that he would purchase either by agreement or compulsorily; then matter came before Land Commission Court, which heard evidence, and then fixed price, which tenant was obliged to take, 16917-8.—Compulsory fixation of price was precedent for compulsory purchase of rights in land, 16919.

Redistribution of Lands—Local opposition to migration and reluctance to migrate, etc.

Two difficulties arose about distribution of land among occupiers of uneconomic holders—(1) people of neighbourhood objected to importation of strangers to share in distribution; (2) congested occupiers objected to migration to another district, 17027, 17035-6.—With regard to (1) local "congests" should have first claim; then uneconomic holders from a distance should be dealt with; if land still remained sons of local tenants could be provided with land, 17037.—With regard to (2) objection was generally due to ignorance and dislike of leaving old landmarks; suggested migrants must be tempted with properly equipped farms; best method was to migrate in groups, as that removed sense of loneliness; compulsory powers of dealing with unreasonable occupiers should be strengthened, 17027.—Large farmers should, if possible, migrate alone, but smaller ones in groups; both systems should be worked side by side; limit of £5 in section 2 of Act of 1903 should be altered to £10; principle to be kept in view in allocating untenanted lands were—(1) preference to tenants of uneconomic holdings in neighbourhood; (2) putting migrants, as far as possible, on land which could be treated in manner to which they were accustomed; (3) migration in groups, not singly; (4) new occupiers to be made as independent as possible, as that reduced annual payments; some monetary assistance was necessary, but erection of houses, etc., should be left to occupiers; grants should be made for roads and drainage, which relieved large numbers of occupiers, 17028.—Policy of giving remaining available land to sons of tenants in locality should not be announced, as it would hamper migration and lead to hostile feeling, 17038-40.—But witness did not think words of Act should be altered, 17041-2.—Section applied to land not in congested area, such as untenanted land in Leinster, where landlord could make scheme and sell to whom he pleased, 17043-4.—It was difficult to lay down hard and fast rules, and they should not be put into Acts of Parliament, as in practice they were very hampering, 17051.—If people were migrated from a faraway district, it would be almost necessary to erect houses, as there would be nowhere for them to go, 17053.—If people were very poor, houses should be ready before migration commenced, 17054.—Especially in such districts as Connemara, but it was better generally to allow people to erect houses themselves, with assistance, 17055.—Amount of money to be given varied; inspector estimated and Commissioners used their discretion, 17056.—From 1st November, 1903, to 31st March, 1906, advances, repayable, had been £4,872, free grants £9,122, not repayable, but there were no figures to show what individual tenants spent, 17057-8.—That would represent outlay on material and drainage, etc., 17059-60.—Compulsory powers of dealing with unreasonable occupiers were provided for in one of Acts; Congested Districts Board Act of 1901 also gave power of coercing such if they stood in the way of a large scheme, 17061-2.

Danger of moving Men unskilled in Agriculture.

In considering congestion, it was necessary to distinguish between persons who could be dealt with by provision of land and those who could not; there was not enough land to be satisfactorily divided between everybody, and dwellers on rocky holdings of West of Ireland were ill suited for agricultural life in the interior, 17063-5, 17067.—Witness did not know of an instance in which such migration had been tried, 17066.—Farms in interior required scientific treatment, those on west coast only grew a few potatoes and fed a few wild cattle, 17068.—Men of best intelligence and energy from coast should be migrated if willing, but those who depended on fishing should generally remain, 17068A, 17072.—People witness referred to came from rocky islands, such as Inishkea, Inisboffin, and Arran, 17071.—Though examples were known of successful transfers from Inishkea to Castlebar, 17072-4, 17081.—Witness did not mean that people were to be transferred from bad land to bad land, but not to the best; if people were transferred from Inishkea to Navan result might be disastrous, 17075.—Inspectors would have to investigate applications of those who wanted holdings in a certain area, as was done by Estates Commissioners now; then prepare scheme for proper distribution to be brought before authorities; if discrimination were not used many schemes would not be successful, 17077-8.—Man who had got certain amount of knowledge and intelligence was more likely to succeed than ignorant man, 17079.—Scotch gardeners did well in England, because they had practical experience of raising crops on bad land in Scotland, but fishermen from West of Ireland had no experience of agriculture, 17080.—To transplant a man from a rocky coast holding to one in East Galway was not likely to be a successful experiment, 17082.—Experience in system of rotation of crops, etc., was necessary, as that was best system of working and would help them forward, 17083-4.

Size of Holding to be created and Standard of Living to be expected.

Thirty-acre farm could not be worked without horse labour, 17085.—So that a man who was accustomed to pick among rocks would probably not be successful on such, 17086.—Real limit of an economic holding was horse-power, as spade work only was generally uneconomic, but enormous numbers that had to be dealt with prevented such large holdings being given to all, 17087-9.—It was better for the State to enlarge holdings as much as possible than do nothing; standard of living was low in West of Ireland, and could not be compared with higher standard of Wexford, Down, or Armagh, 17090-2.—£10 holding was not sufficient to keep horse, 17093.—But several £10 men often combined to keep one horse, 17094.—Or horse could be hired, 17096.—Co-operation of small farmers was the great hope, 17097.—Class of uneconomic holdings should not be stereotyped by the State, but a holding could be made economic where standard of living was low, though it would not be economic where higher standard was maintained, 17098-17100.—Where farmers co-operated to keep horses and carts standard of living would be improved, 17101-4.—State money would not cause improvement, but use of improved methods, agricultural co-operation, help of friends, etc., would, 17105.—It was a good thing to make new holdings of such a size as to hold out inducement to every member of a family to work upon it, 17106.—The better standard of living in Wexford, Down, etc., was not due only to the survival of the fittest, but to the fact that there was better material to work on, better opportunity, and the operation of tenant-right, 17108-17112A.—Improved methods of farming would increase farmer's return and so raise standard of living, 17128-9.—Creation of £10 holdings would enhance standard of comfort as compared with existing one, and enhancement would continue, 17130-1.—Standard of life had risen where tenants had purchased under previous Land Acts; on large estate near Clonakilty purchased under Ashbourne Act, people were formerly in a very low state, but after purchase great improvement took place, 17132-3.—Important preparation for any complete scheme of dealing with congestion was classification of people in congested districts to show whether they should be employed (1) on the land, or (2) without considering the land. In Galway and Mayo many persons were on insufficient holdings who would do well on enlarged holdings on good land, but people from the Rosses in Donegal, etc., were not really farmers, but either fishermen or migratory labourers, working in Great Britain; these would not do well if migrated to good land; local industries should be developed, migration should be facilitated, and some department should give information as to where suitable work was to be found in England, Wales, or Scotland, which might be circulated through the Post Offices, 17113.

Effect of breaking up Grass Lands on Emigration.

Breaking up of grass lands and increase of agricultural holdings would not stop either migration or emigration, but that policy would increase population of Ireland, bringing it up to maximum that country could maintain; but there would still be large residue who could not get employment at home; a purely agricultural country could not indefinitely increase its population as industrial one could, 17117.—Migration and emigration must still go on unless industries were developed, 17119.—Large jute factories had been established in middle of Ireland giving employment to 1,500 working people, and successful industrial undertakings might be established in different parts, 17121-2.—Net manufacturing was prospering, 17124.—Emigration answered very well for the young and strong, but after forty-five years of age it was difficult for a man to get employment in America, and some preferred to return to Ireland, where wages, though lower, were more secure, 17125-6.—Witness hoped that standard of living would be raised in Ireland, but there would always be some members of families who would emigrate, though one would look forward to succeeding his father, 17127.

Economic effect of breaking up Grass Lands.

It had been argued that policy of breaking up grass land was a mistake, as existence of graziers was necessary for young cattle, but farming methods might change; if small holdings were enlarged cattle could be fattened on them and sold direct to finisher; English fatteners were buying young cattle and finishing them when one and a-half years old; buyers were coming and shipping young stock direct to Great Britain; another argument was that grazing was more profitable than small holdings, but permanence of grazing rents was precarious, as bad years, opening of ports to foreign cattle, or earlier fattening would diminish grazing rents; grazing rents were not on a par with 3½ per cent. investments; to make migration a success, consent of people of locality should be obtained; where caution and reasonableness were exercised there was little trouble, 17133.

Danger of excessive Amalgamation of Holdings—Precautions against Excessive Mortgaging.

Irish Land Acts guarded against sub-division, subletting, and excessive mortgaging, but not against excessive amalgamation; it was undesirable that land purchased by public money should become vested in large quantities in one proprietor, as main object should be distribution among as many families as possible; Closer Settlement Act of Victoria, Australia, limited value of separate allotments to £1,500 on pain of forfeiture and fine; personal residence was also required; same was the case in Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill; this prevented speculators getting hold of land; similar provisions should be considered in any future Act, 17133.—Weaknesses of Irish land system were purchase and large advances; people who were not farmers at all could acquire land and let it to graziers, 17135-6.—Act of 1903 should be modified in respect of advances, 17137.—A condition of residence would prevent gombeen man gobbling up small holdings, 17138.—At end of sixty-eight years, when outstanding annuities were paid, sub-division and amalgamation would be as rife as ever and congestion would begin over again, 17139-41, 17146-7.—To prevent this the purchaser should be given not freehold but an interest like a perpetual Scotch *feu*, 17142-5.—Excessive amalgamation should be at once guarded against, 17148.—Even though one man was thrifty and another was not thrifty, man should spend money in other ways, above a certain limit, not on his neighbour's land, 17149-50.—Definite limit should be put upon amalgamation, and no one should be allowed to go beyond it, otherwise thrifty man might acquire a countryside, 17151-4.—Witness thought limits of advance in Act of 1903 were far too high, 17155.—A man could not be prevented from selling his holding, but restrictions must be placed on the purchasers, 17157.—Consolidation of holdings would mean re-creation of landlord system which State was now removing; restrictions proposed in Bill of 1903 were to prevent that, 17157.—If limit were fixed at sixty acres no one could acquire more, 17160.—Purchasing occupiers would not be free agents regarding purchase of more land while annuities were running, 17161.—If farm were for sale anyone might bid for it who had not specified amount of land; State would not have right of pre-emption, 17162-3.—Prevention of amalgamation and prevention of mortgaging were distinct, 17164.—Act of 1903 prevented mortgaging beyond ten times amount of annuity, 17166.—But that did not prevent amalgamation, 17167, 17170.—Legislation was required for prevention of mortgaging and amalgamation, 17174.—Mortgaging Clause was in Act, but only to end of period of repayment of annuity; required extension would have been secured by provision that property should only be sold subject to quit rent, but it was thrown out by wisdom of legislators, 17175.—Provision should now be introduced, 17176.

CATTLE TRADE—CLASS OF ANIMALS EXPORTED, ETC.

Irish cattle might be divided into three classes—those used (1) for dairying, (2) for fattening, (3) for exporting as stores; total number in 1901 was 4,673,323; milch cows were about one-third of total number; fat cattle and stores were important from export point of view; export of stores exceeded that of fat cattle, 17177.—Export Returns did not classify according to age, 17178A.—About half total exports went to Scotland, three-fourths of that being stores; this showed that Scotch farmers had largely given up breeding and explained high percentage of tillage in Scotland, 17179.—Some cattle were finished in Meath, a fattening county, and exported as fat; others were exported as stores and fattened in Scotland, 17180.—Either Scotch buyers come to Irish fairs or they were exported by salesmen, 17182.—Cattle were exported to Great Britain ready for the butcher, 17185.—Grazing and care of store before it was fat was intermediary stage between breeding by small farmer and fattening, 17187.—Trade with Scotland had grown considerably of recent years, 17138.—As result of large sales to Scotland graziers were gradually declining, 17189.—Fat cattle exported from Ireland to whole of Great Britain in 1904 numbered 232,000, while stores amounted to 470,000, 17190.

SIZE OF HOLDINGS IN IRELAND AND CLASSES OF FARMS.

In 1901 sixty-eight per cent. of all farmers above one acre held under thirty acres; Ulster was pre-eminently province of small holdings, four-fifths of its farms were under thirty acres; Leinster had largest number of farms exceeding 200 acres; Munster was province of middle-sized holdings; Connaught had very large and very small holdings; it was necessary to remember this when discussing import of foreign store cattle; witness had inquired of about fifty people regarding opening of ports to foreign stores and would give result of inquiries, 17192.—Same inquiries had not been made about breaking up grass land and abolishing graziers, though that was an equally important problem, 17193-4, 17210.—Inquiry would be an easy matter, 17195.—Lands would have to be classified; free importation of stores would affect various classes of farmers in different ways; farms might be classified as (1) small, mixed tillage and pasturage, chiefly in South and West; (2) large dairy farms in Munster and parts of Leinster; (3) Ulster tillage farms, carrying on dairying and stall-feeding; (4) grazing farms, mainly in Connaught, carrying store cattle; (5) large grazing farms, chiefly in Leinster, 17197.—There were two classes of graziers, store and fattening, 17198.—There were large areas of fattening lands elsewhere than in Leinster, 17202.—Good land in Golden Vale, in Tipperary, and Limerick was used for dairying purposes as well as fattening, 17204.

EFFECT OF REMOVING RESTRICTION ON IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN STORES.

Class 1, small farmers, were most important from point of view of Land Purchase; present restrictions on importation of foreign cattle protected this class, and it would be most seriously affected by removal of restrictions; experts were of opinion that losses on sales of stores would amount to 25 or 30 per cent. on present sales, and result would be general inability to pay Land Purchase annuities; if green crops could be substituted profit could be made, but that would necessitate (1) suitable soil, (2) adequate supply of labour, (3) financing all outlays for at least a year without cash coming in, which very few could do, 17207, 17222.—Some lands in Leinster were too cold or too poor to pay for regular tillage, so State funds should not migrate people to those parts, but mixed land might be given—some suitable for tillage, some not easily tilled, 17211-14.—Inquiry as to nature of untenanted land would be necessary before State migration was carried out, 17216.—Untenanted land in centre of Ireland which it was proposed to acquire was formerly mostly occupied in tillage, 17219.—As tillage was profitable mode of employing land, 17220—those who arranged migration schemes should see that people were put on proper land, 17221.—If small farms of South and West would raise green crops and roots and fatten some of their cattle to sell as stores they would not lose so much eventually, though they would suffer at first, 17222. (2) Dairy farmers of Munster would be seriously affected by opening of ports, as they depended on profits from sale of calves to make rent on annuities; loss was estimated at from 20 to 25 per cent.; an Ulster agriculturist thought that dairy farmers who bought heifers for milk purposes would benefit from lower price of stock, but if calves were sold loss would be serious, as large profits were derived therefrom; calves were sold when six or eight months old at about £5 a head, which money paid the rent, if price were reduced profit would disappear, 17222—farmers who sold milk to towns and cities instead of making butter were very small class, 17224.—One correspondent thought that more varied method of farming and stocking would be a benefit, 17225.—Sheep had paid well last year, 17226. (3) Ulster farmers were of opinion that they would be most seriously affected by removal of restrictions; one man estimated that loss would be equal to Land Purchase annuities on each farm purchased under Land Acts; Ulster farmers were alarmed at prospect, as they had agreed to prices on existing basis being maintained, 17228.—In Ulster small occupiers stall-fed their cattle, and, as consequence, had carrying power far in excess of land of same quality in other parts of Ireland, 17229.—They were able to keep more cattle than if farms were under grass, 17230.—There was a good deal of finishing by stall-feeding in Ulster, 17231.—Farmers grew their own food, 17232.—That gave a great deal of employment, 17233. (4) Connaught graziers would be injuriously affected by free importation of stores, for though they would buy young cattle cheaper, they would lose on re-sale of older ones, though one writer thought that there would be neither gain nor loss, 17234.—Breeder would be sufferer, 17235.—For if he tried to keep up price grazier would buy Canadian stores, 17235.—Canadian cattle would only be imported when fit to fatten, 17236.—Grazier would have to buy young stores, which would continue dear; older ones would have to be sold cheaper to compete with Canadians; though eventually price of young stock would have to be brought down; graziers had already suffered of late years, as selling price had been low in proportion to purchasing price; free competition would accentuate disproportion, 17237-9.—Graziers had refused to pay same rate for land as was paid some years ago, 17241-3. (5) Large graziers occupying fattening lands in Leinster would probably benefit by free import of cattle, as they had now to buy in protected market and sell in open market; graziers of this class were hardly farmers; they seldom lived on land and gave very little employment; they had been hardest hit of recent years owing to (1) scarcity of store cattle, (2) low price of beef owing to importation of foreign meat; common opinion was that fattener would gain 20 per cent. while store grazier would lose that amount; imported meat competition was increasing, and unless price of store cattle were reduced, profits of Irish farmer would fall, so fatteners were in favour of free competition, 17244.—Large number of store cattle were exported to Scotland, etc., leaving smaller supply available at proper price at home, 17246-7.—Shortage in supply was accompanied by rise in prices, 17248A.—Scotch buyers gave more for Irish stores than Irish graziers, 17251-2, 17254.—Scotch or English farmers found it better to buy direct from Ireland themselves, 17253.—Views of cattle salesmen were discussed by two firms with whom witness had corresponded; first firm held that importation of foreign cattle would injure small farmers in all parts of Ireland; large dairy farmers would be injured through calf-rearing; Connaught graziers would also be injured, but not those of Leinster, though their position would be unsound owing to danger of sudden stoppage of supplies; Ireland was capable of rearing all stores required to supply home and British demands; scarcity of recent years was due to want of capital among small farmers; these men should be encouraged and assisted, instead of depending on Canada, 17254.—Other firm thought that free admission of cattle would be a great advantage, as store beast cost too much compared with fat beast;

breeder might be injured, but in a year would probably find his level; cause of difference between price of live cattle and beef was that every country in the world was competing in beef, but Ireland was practically only country where store beasts could be purchased; this could not continue; there must either be free trade all round or tax on finished foreign article; if small farmer in Ireland could fatten his own cattle his farm and position would be much improved, as he would have manure to improve land, and he would have to grow crops, 17256-9.—Effect of free admission of store cattle would be to reduce price of young cattle and consequently profits of dairy farmers who breed, but graziers who buy to fatten would profit, 17259.—Witness used term "dairy farmers" in reference to those who bred their own stock, 17261.—Fat cattle were subject to open competition, while store cattle were sold in a protected market, hence high prices of store cattle compared with fat, 17263.—Difference was lost by finisher and forwarder, 17264.—Free importation would not reduce price of meat, but it would of store cattle, 17268-70.—Serious consideration was effect of free importation on security for advances under Purchase Acts; if purchase prices were based on artificial agricultural conditions there was serious danger of ruin to farmers and loss to ratepayers, if not to the State; tenant farmers of South and West were saying that if Government allowed them to purchase on conditions that were subsequently altered to their disadvantage, State must give corresponding relief, as they would not be able to pay their annuities; rents could be revised every 15 years, but there was no hope of change after purchase for nearly 70 years; if free importaition were to come it would be better for it to come at once and thus settle economic conditions before majority of Irish farmers had undertaken responsibilities they could not fulfil; alterations in conditions must be followed by alterations in method of repayment, 17270.—Reason for prohibition on importation of store cattle into British Isles was danger of introduction of disease; result was protection of cattle breeder and keeping up price of beef; question was whether restriction could be maintained; danger of serious cattle disease was not so great now as a generation ago, owing to advance of veterinary and sanitary science and better sanitary and transit conditions; some argued that free importation would place agriculture on sounder economic basis, as tillage would be extended, cheap stores being fattened by stall-feeding; if sudden change were made injury would result as farm would be worked with borrowed capital; majority were of opinion that reduction of profits would result to all classes of farmers except graziers on fattening lands in Leinster; all classes opposed proposal to open ports, but looked at from larger standpoint of economic and social future of country conclusion might be different; enormous increase in importation of fat cattle and dead meat would reduce profits of home farmers so greatly that they would not be able to compete unless they could purchase in free trade market, and though immediate effect of removal of restrictions would be injurious ultimately community would be benefited, as tillage, etc., would be improved; surplus which paid rent, etc., would be reduced for a time, but similar arguments were used against repeal of Corn Laws; if change was bound to come it would be better if it came quickly, before peasants had purchased land at prices based on artificial conditions; they were purchasing under Land Act at prices which gave only reduction of 20 per cent. on rent; that 20 per cent. would be more than swept away by removal of restrictions; result would be reduction of standard of living still further and inability to pay annuities; ratepayers would bear loss; but ratepayers themselves were generally farmers, so agrarian bankruptcy and social and political unrest would ensue; this also was Mr. Finucane's opinion; best course would be to give two years' notice so that people might adapt themselves to new conditions, 17310.—There would still be danger of introduction of disease from Canada, but it was not so great as formerly, 17313-4.—Price of very well-bred stores would not be much affected, but at same time Argentime stock was being greatly improved by importation of pedigree bulls, and each year cattle would be better, 17315.—Irish cattle were improving, 17316.—Open market would cheapen food, as raw material could be bought cheaper, though imported meat did not compete with best qualities of British, 17317-23.

—Both Argentina and Canada were trying to improve quality of their meat, 17324.—Trade from Argentina had greatly developed during recent years, 17327.—Best stall-fed meat might be brought in time from Argentina, etc., but there was always a difference between best home-killed meat and frozen meat, 17330-1.—Introduction of disease would be a tremendous evil, and risk ought not to be run if possible, but modern conditions made risk much less than it used to be, 17332-6.—From some points of view it would be better to await development of meat trade and see results, 17337.—But if free importation was to come eventually, it would be better soon than in a few years, 17338, 17391.—If restrictions remained for 40 or 50 years there would be safety from land purchase point of view, but to open ports at early period would lead to trouble in repayments, 17339.—At end of 40 years large portion of annuity would be repaid, 17341.—If restrictions were removed in two years those who had already purchased under Act of 1903 would be injured, but they were comparatively few, 17344.—They would have to adapt themselves to new conditions, but it would be with difficulty and much loss, 17349-50.—In the long run, after adaptation had taken place, the country would be on sounder agricultural basis, 17351-4, 17382-3.—Stall-feeding of cattle by tenant farmers would be sounder than their sale as stores, 17356.—Adjustment might be carried out in a few years, but it would require more capital, 17358.—Greater demand for agricultural labour would be created, 17360.—Tillage farming was increasing as it was, 17361-3.—If Order were issued fixing period during which Canadian cattle should not be introduced adjustment and adaptation would take place, so that change might be faced without loss, 17365, 17388.—In fixing present values Estates Commissioners took future contingencies into consideration as far as possible, 17368.—Possibility of open ports did operate to lower values, 17369.—As Commissioners had to see that their margin of security was sufficient, 17370-1.—Witness had not made inquiries to satisfy himself, but had been asked to do it after matter arose in Parliament, 17372.—In Estates Commissioners' Annual Report question of importation of foreign cattle was discussed, 17373.—It affected security for amount of advance more than annuity, 17375.—Formerly when Orders of Privy Council restricted cattle importation prices rose, but amount of cattle brought in was much less than now; if ports were opened now enormously increased numbers of cattle would be imported, so danger of prices falling was greater, 17377, 17381.—Witness could not say how long transition period would last, as it would be different for different classes of farmers, 17386.—As small farmers had no reserve to draw upon agrarian bankruptcy might result, 17387.—If allowance were made for adaptation nothing less than five years would be sufficient, 17390.—Future should not be left uncertain if opening of ports were to be finally fixed on; notice should be given that free importation of cattle would be allowed after certain number of years, 17392-5.

Question of making Improvements out of Money paid by Tenants.

With regard to improvement of estates, the Congested Districts Board's method of purchasing estates and improving them before re-sale out of difference between rents received and interest paid on purchase money had much to commend it where funds were not otherwise available for improvements; no particular tenant should have a grievance because part of his rent was used for improving holding of more needy tenant, 17397.—Such improvements as drainage affected a large area, 17397a.—Difference between $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and what would have to be paid would be so little that there would be no funds, 17398.

Amalgamation of Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board for Land work proposed.

Witness advocated amalgamation of Estates Commission and Congested Districts Board with a view to economical administration, as it was undesirable to have two bodies dealing with same matters; problem would now have to be dealt with on more comprehensive scale and re-distribution of work must take place; if scheduled areas were left to Congested Districts Board it should be organised as another Estates Commission, 17399.—Congested Districts Board required judicial powers of Land Commission if it was to have exclusive control in any district; as many estates would come up for sale in scheduled districts which were not really congested, question of law arose which could not be settled by solicitor to the Board, but only by judicial inquiry and decision, 17400.—At present Congested Districts Board bought estates and sold through Land Commission, so were in position of landlord selling under Section 6, and in that way dealt with judicial questions, 17401.—Up to present work of Congested Districts Board had not been impeded by legal difficulties, 17402.—Procedure was cumbrous, as Board bought landlord's interest, then proceeded to sell to tenants as ordinary landlords, coming to Land Commission to carry out investigation of title and final conveyance to tenant; witness suggested complete line of demarcation between functions of two bodies, 17407.—Some estates, even in congested area, might pass straight from landlord to tenant without any remedial process, and there was nothing to prevent Congested Districts Board issuing certificates for sale of those estates, 17408-10.—Land Commission could deal with questions of title, of vesting estates and distributing purchase money all over Ireland, and all judicial questions could be referred to them, and there was nothing to prevent Congested Districts Board buying up all estates that needed remedial treatment in scheduled counties and giving certificates in case of estates that might pass directly from landlord to tenant without remedial treatment, 17411-2.—But witness advocated amalgamation of both bodies, as more efficient work would be accomplished, 17414-5, 17431.—Land Commission was more competent to purchase land than Congested Districts Board, 17417-8.—They purchased cheaper, 17419.—More expeditiously, 17420.—And got rid of it quicker, 17422.—Whether Estates Commission or Congested Districts Board did work, main thing was to get it done, 17425.—Faster method of Land Commission had been very efficient, and had worked well, 17427.—Cheapness of Land Commission purchases was to their credit, but purchase of land under great necessity meant that price in excess of value had sometimes to be given, 17428.—Congested Districts Board had been giving prices in excess of value of land, 17429.—If the two bodies were competing against each other in same district confusion and friction would arise, popularity of Board was largely due to *personnel*, if two or three popular members were removed and not replaced by others equally well liked, Board might not be so popular as it was, though its not being a Government department helped its popularity, 17431-4.—Amalgamation of Estates Commission and Congested Districts Board was very desirable if land purchase on a large scale, such as Mr. Finucane outlined, were to be adopted, Estates Commissioners would want representatives of a district to form consultative body to give advice and help, 17435-7.—In migration cases especially help of local opinion was wanted, 17438.—There were spots of congestion all over Ireland, so representatives of different counties who could bring isolated districts to notice of Commissioners would be very valuable, 17439-41.—Witness's suggestion, however, was to have consultative persons only for western districts where large migration schemes were necessary, 17442, 17454.—By amalgamation witness meant amalgamation of staffs, but advisory board would be on different footing, 17443.—Present policy of buying estates here and there was an inefficient way of tackling problem; in order to really deal with congestion large tracts of country must be bought and dealt with as a whole, and it would be an advantage to have one body only buying up untenanted land, 17444-5.—Estates Commissioners would be best body for this, 17446.—Congested Districts Board had still five years to run, and compromise might be arranged on these lines; Estates Commissioners might take over entire purchase of congested estates as well as purchase of untenanted land for relief of estates, and leave Congested Districts Board duty of distributing and dealing with improvements, thus gradually merging old in new, 17449-50.—Other alternative was to attach entire staff, employed as at present, of Congested Districts Board to Estates Commission, 17451-2.—By second method all present advantages of Congested Districts Board would be secured, 17455.—Congested Districts Board could continue for longer than twenty years if Parliament so determined, as provision was "so much longer as Parliament shall determine," 17457.—Act could be continued under Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 17457.—Act was passed in 1891, and several Acts had since been passed improving condition of Board, 17458-60.—Congested Districts Board had been in existence long before Estates Commission, and possible alternative was to hand Estates Commission over to Congested Districts Board, 17461-68.—There were many Irishmen of experience in work of congested districts who would like to have final, not consultative, voice, in such matters, 17469-71.—Genesis of idea of amalgamation had been with Estates Commission, 17475.—Origin of Royal Commission was application of Mr. Redmond to have inquiry, 17476.—Sir Antony MacDonnell had first originated idea of amalgamation, but there was no mandate from Government or any other source concerning the matter, 17477.—Irish Party had asserted in Parliament that administration of Land Act, especially with regard to congestion in the West, had broken down, 17478.

SUB-DIVISION QUESTION.

Sub-division should be avoided if it created uneconomic holdings, but there was no great objection to cutting up large holdings into moderate-sized ones; in case of holdings which were merely sites for residences there was no objection to sub-division, 17480.—Provision in Act of 1903 prevented sub-division without consent of Land Commission, penalty was liability to have holding sold, 17481.—If anyone offered full money, and purchased holding outright he was free from control of Land Commission, and could do what he pleased, 17482-4.—It was desirable that legislation should prevent sub-division and consolidation for all time, 17485, 17491.—Original draft of Act of 1903 had contained such provisions, but it was rejected, 17486-90.

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CROOKSHANK, Mr. C.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness was Chief Examiner of Titles to Estates Commissioners, having been assigned them as Legal Advisor and Examiner in 1903.

PROCEDURE IN CASE OF PURCHASES OF LAND BY ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Procedure in cases where Congested Districts Board purchased estates was regulated by provisions of Irish Land Act, 1903, particularly Section 79, and by Lord Lieutenant's Rules dated March 25th, 1904, and was practically the same as when Estates Commissioners themselves bought estate under Section 6 of aid Act; such procedure being as follows:—Where owner desires to sell to Commissioners he lodges originating request, containing necessary averments as to title, tenure, etc., an accurate description of land with application to Commissioners to inquire into circumstances of estate with view to purchase, 17496.—Documents were lodged by owner to prove possession, and estate then inspected by Commissioners; before an offer was made Commissioners required to be satisfied, pursuant to Section 17 that vendor was person who might be dealt with as owner of land, after agreement for purchase had been finally entered into, it was necessary that notice should be published for at least two months, before lands could be vested in the Commissioners; this notice was published in the *Gazette*, and served upon all parties interested, stating that Commissioners intended to make order, vesting estate in themselves, if no objection arose within specified time this took place accordingly; purchase money was advanced, and distributed as soon after date of vesting order as title to purchase money was completed; Commissioners, as such, had nothing to say to distribution of purchase money, this being done by Judicial Commissioner, 17506-7.

Intricacies of Title to Land.

Titles were not of an intricate character for purposes of Estates Commissioners; but intricacy frequently arose in the subsequent title to purchase money, 17497-501.—Land had always been rather difficult to transfer in Ireland, one reason being that in describing lands in deeds, same old descriptions were used which had perhaps been used 200 years ago, and which were now very defective, so that difficulty might arise as to whether land conveyed by deed did actually include some particular land or not, 17502.—This form of difficulty was not present in case of properties that had Parliamentary title under Encumbered Estates Act, 17504.—It did not arise, generally, in estates bought under Landed Estates Court, because these were generally conveyed by modern deed, with modern description and map, 17505.

Inquiries into Vendor's Title—Question of Amalmation of Inquiries.

With regard to satisfaction of Commissioners under Section 17, referred to, owner must deposit documents showing *prima facie* title to lands, and that he had been in possession for six years, such documents being part of his title, 17508-10.—Vendor, need not, unless he chose, lodge Abstract of Title for purposes of Section 17, 17510A.—As a rule, inquiry was made as to vendor's right to sell, but it proceeded no further before Estates Commissioners, who then dealt with him on that basis, 17511-3.—There was a hiatus, sometimes lasting considerable time, between inquiry into vendor's right to sell, and inquiry into title regarding subsequent distribution of money; there were thus two inquiries, 17514-6.—Witness had heard that double inquiries caused considerable dissatisfaction and expense; it had been said that when vendor came in to prove under Section 17, he should present Abstract of Title, which should be inspected with view to sale under Section 17, and that inquiry for distribution of title should at once proceed, 17519.—Commissioners were endeavouring to carry out this improvement, but statute seemed to lay down that a man had to show *prima facie* title, and stopped there, so that, if a man chose to do so, they had to deal with him according to provisions of Section, 17519-20.—Continuous procedure would be more expeditious and less costly, 17521-2.—Commissioners had adopted procedure, so far as possible under present statute, and a man could now lodge full title in first instance, 17523.—Obligation of presenting complete Abstract of Title at outset could not be imposed upon solicitors; it would be *ultra vires* as statute implied that vendor need only show *prima facie* title, 17524.—If not *ultra vires* it might be desirable, and might perhaps be a good thing to correct law in this respect, 17525-6.—If, however, there were unlimited money, as Act seemed to contemplate, witness doubted if it would be advisable to do away with simpler procedure of dealing with *prima facie* titles under which estate could be got out of Commissioners' hands at earliest possible moment, 17548, 17552.—It would be solicitor's business to deposit Abstract of Title at once for examination by Examiner, but there might be cases where there was no Abstract of Title, and sometimes it was lengthy process to produce one; change of law would not be altogether beneficial, 17549.—Practice of Land Commission in giving permission to vendor to lodge complete verified Abstract of Title for combined purpose of showing title to sell, and to purchase money (at any time after lodgment of agreement for sale in case of persons other than Land Commission and Congested Districts Board, and in case of sale to these bodies at any time after lodgment of originating request) showed that this procedure was desirable in opinion of Land Commission, but vendor might defeat that by not accepting permission, 17550.—This was what Land Commission thought ought to be, funds being what they were, 17551.—If no abstract were given, man must wait for its preparation and be deprived of simple procedure of lodging deeds on which he relied as *prima facie* evidence of power to sell, 17533.—Witness preferred to leave law as it was, Land Commission could make regulations from time to time, and when money became redundant, use it in that way, 17554.—This clause was passed for specific purpose of expediting transfers, it might expedite to a certain extent the vesting in tenants, but might have opposite effect upon distribution of purchase money, 17528.

Procedure in case of Purchase of Land by Congested Districts Board—Question of Validity of Preliminary Agreements.

Analogous practice was adopted in Commissioners' office when Congested Districts Board purchased estate; originating request was lodged, vendor satisfied Commissioners that he was person who might be dealt with, and they then prepared agreement between Board and certified vendor, published requisite notices, made order vesting land in Board, and purchase money was advanced and distributed on completion of title, Commissioners, as such, having nothing to do with re-sale of estates to purchasing tenants; agreement between Board and vendor was statutory obligation to be complied with before vesting lands in Board, and such agreement was never settled by Commissioners till they were satisfied of vendor's title to sell under Section 17; witness had been informed by Congested Districts Board's solicitor that Board entered into preliminary agreements for purchase with vendors prior to statutory agreements, and that under such preliminary agreement Board entered into possession and receipt of rent, and rendered itself liable for payment of interest on purchase money, steps necessary for vesting estate being commenced afterwards; this practice was not contemplated by the Act and might lead to dissatisfaction, 17529.—Witness had had conversation with Mr. O'Connor on the subject, had gathered that reason for such preliminary agreements was that they were useful to enable Board to make some improvements on an estate when there was delay in vesting, 17530-2.—It was doubtful whether a preliminary agreement was valid; it was an agreement between Board and landlord; if such agreement were made with limited owner and he were to die, witness did not know what would happen, 17533-4.—Many questions might arise; there was risk in it, but it gave some security to Board in going on with preliminary improvements, 17535-6.—Board did proceed with improvements on a property before it was vested; it was at their own risk, 17537-8.—If title on examination proved to be defective and owner had no right to sell, the Board would be hit, though this had not happened yet, 17539.

Question of Priority of the Board's Cases.

Witness handed in return showing present position of all Congested Districts Board cases, in which originating requests had been lodged in Estates Commissioners' office since passing of Irish Land Act up to the present; these were regarded as class by themselves and took priority *inter se*; after passing of Act of 1903, steps for completion of sales to Commissioners and to Board were proceeded with at once without

CROOKSHANK, Mr. C.—*continued.*

reference to claims of other cases then pending; on July 4th, 1905, regulations were made under Section 23 (8) by Lord Lieutenant under which Commissioners were directed to regulate investigation of *prima facie* titles and general business so that no vendors should be given undue preference; as soon as regulations were made every case then pending, including Board cases, was given priority date; in sales to Board and Commissioners this date was date of lodgment of originating request, in direct sales priority date was date of lodgment of agreement between landlord and tenant, and Commissioners endeavoured to provide that each sale should be proceeded with in order of priority date; at date of regulations, necessary preliminary steps had been taken in Commissioners' office, in practically all sales of land then pending, both to Board and Commissioners; though at same date, Commissioners were only dealing with direct sales begun in June, 1904; as only five Board cases bore priority date on or before June, 1904, and these all were finished before end of July, 1905, nothing more under regulations could be done to press on Board cases till proper time came round according to priority date; consequently between July, 1905, and February, 1906, no new Board cases were taken up; on February 13th, 1906, new regulations by Lord Lieutenant cancelled those of July, 1905; under the latter regulations, Commissioners were directed to have regard to due priority of cases in the several classes of sales, and it was then possible to deal with classes of cases at discretion; since new regulations all cases in which Board, and Estates Commissioners, were purchasing land were proceeded with as before regulations of July, 1905, with least possible delay taking them in order of priority *inter se*, without reference to claims of other classes; it had taken some time to make up arrears, but now nearly any case could be completed and vested within six months of date of lodgment of originating request; distribution of purchase money might take a little longer, 17540-1.—Board cases and sales to Commissioners were in a catalogue by themselves and got certain amount of preference and priority, 17542-4.—Putting direct sales rather back could not be helped because practice referred to was where Board and Commissioners desired to purchase estate where generally there were tracts of untenanted land required for striping up, etc.; they must have certain amount of preference, 17545-6.—Witness would have tabulated statement of estates bought by Commissioners and vested in themselves, prepared, to correspond with statement of estates vested in Board, 17547-8.

System of Land Registration.

In 1891 Act was passed making compulsory registration of titles of tenant purchasers under Land Purchase Acts; under same Act landlords could voluntarily register titles but had not done so to any extent, 17556.—If they had done so trouble would have been largely obviated, 17557.—Additional legislation was required for the registration of titles; draft bill had been prepared by Mr. Justice Madden, some years ago, but no further progress made, 17557A-8.

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See also p. 576.

Work of Re-settlement of Estates bought by Estates Commissioners.

Witness was appointed Assistant Land Commissioner in 1900, and up to passing of Land Act in 1903 was engaged in fixing rents, in 1904 was appointed inspector for management of estates, for sale of which to Estates Commissioners proceedings had been instituted under sections 6, 7, and 8 of Irish Land Act, 1903, and from that date had been engaged in this work in province of Connaught; in September, 1904, there were associated with witness an inspector, three assistant inspectors, and a surveyor, up to present staff had dealt with thirty-five estates comprising 32,803 acres of untenanted land, and 41,955 acres of tenanted land held by 1,631 tenants, total area being 74,758 acres, and total purchase money £731,137; of untenanted land 24,946 acres had been used in enlarging 820 holdings and creating 221 new holdings of which tenants had been put in possession; arrangements were almost complete for disposal of remainder, which provided for enlargement of 330, and creation of seventy-one holdings, land would be striped and tenants in possession, it was hoped, before December next, 17559.

Procedure for Purchase and Re-settlement—Care exercised in selection of Tenants.

When estate was offered for sale to Commissioners, and formalities prescribed by Act and rules complied with, it was inspected, and separate price fixed on untenanted land, and on each holding on estate; if vendor was willing to accept estimated price, scheme for allotment of untenanted land, and re-arrangement and consolidation of holdings was prepared; greatest care was taken in selection of tenants for additional land, means, number in family, industry, ability, and likelihood of making good and solvent tenant purchasers being carefully considered, as prescribed by Regulation VI. of Lord-Lieutenant's Regulations, dated 13th February, 1906, migration and consolidation of holdings were provided for where necessary, and care was taken to give tenant class of land he needed, scheme prepared by inspector, having regard to these considerations, detailing method of distributing untenanted land setting out the sub-section of section 2 (1) of Act under which come the persons to whom land will be allotted, with area and valuation of lands (if any) possessed by them, and their ability to work additional land, also stating sum which he recommends to be sanctioned for improvement of parcels of land by way of free grant or otherwise; scheme scrutinised by Commissioners, and approved or modified as case may be, 17560.—Such schemes usually prepared by assistant inspector, and submitted to witness as inspector, 17561.—When arrangements for allotments have been approved undertakings were obtained from proposed purchasers to buy allotted parcels of land at estimated prices, also from tenants to buy holdings at prices fixed by Commissioners, proposed purchasers agreed to pay interest in lieu of rent on estimated prices at 3½ per cent. from date on which Commissioners agreed to purchase estate (up to which date they were liable to vendor for rent) until lands were vested in purchasing tenants, as soon as vendor had intimated willingness to accept estimated price, and had shown *prima facie* title, proposal to purchase was prepared, and after acceptance and the obtaining of necessary undertakings from tenants, formal agreement to purchase was entered into by Commissioners; thus, as soon as Commissioners agree to purchase estate, tenants cease to pay rent, and only pay interest in lieu thereof (a reduction of from 20 to 30 per cent.) up to date on which holdings and untenanted lands are vested in them, from which date they pay purchase annuities calculated at 3¼ per cent. on purchase money, possession of untenanted land is usually obtained by Commissioners when they agree to purchase estate, though agreement may provide for untenanted land remaining in vendor's hands for a few months, but then he would not receive the 3½ per cent. interest on purchase money of this part of estate till he gave up possession, Commissioners' practice was to put purchasers in possession of untenanted land as soon as possession was obtained from landlord, and then to carry out any improvements, 17562.

Value of Grazing Land—How Estimated.

In regard to purchase of untenanted land, procedure was for witness to estimate price on what he considered gross fair rent, 17563-4.—Then he capitalised sum at 3¼ per cent., deducted 15 per cent. as margin for security, and offered sum so arrived at to vendor, 17565.—Witness did not make analysis of landlord's interest in untenanted land as against interest of possible tenant, but estimated prices on gross fair rent, which would be paid by tenant if in possession, 17564, 17566.—If ordinary tenanted land would sell for twenty-one years' purchase of rental, witness would give for untenanted land twenty-six and a half years' purchase of what he considered gross fair rent, 17567-9, 17583.

Difference between Price of Tenanted and Untenanted Land.

In valuation of land where there were tenants they had only to value what it would be fair for landlord to receive for rent he got out of the land, 17581.—In tenant's case that was net fair rent, *i.e.*, gross fair rent, less deductions to which tenant was entitled in respect of improvements, these varying in case of each holding, 17584-6.—Reason for purchase price being twenty-six and a half years on untenanted land, and twenty-one on tenanted, was that in latter case landlord's interest was not so great, he had only right to collect fixed rent, and the improvements and right of occupancy were the tenants, while in the former Commissioners acquired greater interest, right to full profits, and power to dispose of land, 17570, 17587, 17593.—There could be no hard and fast rule for valuing tenants' rights, as they often sold for more than landlord's interest, 17588.—Where actual sale was made, landlord got twenty-six and a half years' purchase where there was no tenant, difference between this and twenty-one years' purchase was caused by tenant being there and landlord only allowed to get certain rent for estate, so that in that case landlord's interest was twenty-one as to five and a half, 17589-2.—If price of land was calculated in gross fair rent, what the twenty-one years' net rent would represent in gross fair rent would entirely depend on improvements made by tenants, 17594.

Comparison of Prices paid for Untenanted Land by Board and by Estates Commissioners.

As to statement about number of years purchase paid on untenanted lands by Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners respectively, the figures given were for estates purchased in county of Galway by Commissioners, and figures of estates purchased in Galway by Board were taken from their annual report, the poor-law valuation was taken as standard of valuation in case referred to, 17596-8.

Result of Negotiations for Acquisition of Untenanted Land — Compulsory Powers Required.

In many cases they had found reluctance to bargain on these terms and their prices had been refused, in one instance twenty-seven years' purchase on gross fair rent was refused, a price by which Commissioners would have lost on re-sale, 17571.—Of untenanted land, excluding demesnes, 32,803 acres had been bought for gross price of £380,707, average being 26·2 years' purchase, 17572.—Some owners had refused to accept estimated prices for untenanted land, but Commissioners had not had refusals in regard to more land than they had bought, 17573-4.—Witness did not anticipate that they would be able to get untenanted land required by proceeding on this principle; there must, in his opinion, be compulsion in regard to untenanted land and to tenanted land in certain instances, that was where congestion existed, 17575-8, 17599.—Witness had in mind case where estate consisted of small scattered holdings, and Commissioners had acquired untenanted lands adjoining and could have improved estate, but it did not come into the market, under present conditions Commissioners could not interfere unless land were sold, 17579, 17600.—Holdings of landlord who would not sell could not be rearranged and consolidated, 17601.—If price asked were paid, plenty more land could be acquired, but how was this to be recovered, 17579A.—Having regard to limitations imposed by law, they could not fulfil functions without compulsion, 17580.—In regard to refusals, there were twenty-four cases, comprising 14,440 acres, estimated price being £207,198, these figures for the whole of Ireland, 17602.—Landlords had not refused to sell on application to do so, but the matter had fallen through because of difference as to price, 17604-5.

Source from which 3½ per cent. was paid to Landlord pending Vesting Order.

On purchase of estate embracing both tenanted and untenanted land, 3½ per cent. was paid landlord on agreed purchase money, and Commissioners took charge of untenanted land on taking over possession, the tenants being under obligation to pay 3½ per cent. pending vesting order, 17606-8A.—From proposed purchasers, who were put in possession of untenanted land, Commissioners got 3½ per cent. on purchase price of their parcels of land, as a rule they were placed in possession on day when Commissioners took over possession from landlord, 17609.—Commissioners had done little to recoup the 3½ per cent. by letting grazing land temporarily, because they had been able to put tenants in possession at once, 17610-1.—Tenants had to pay 3½ per cent. on purchase money, both on holding and on addition made from untenanted land, so that the tenant whose land was arranged really recouped the 3½ per cent., 17612-3.—Estates Commissioners collected and paid it to landlord, 17617-8.—They were liable to vendor for 3½ per cent. on agreed purchase price, even if they were not able to put tenants in possession at once, which it was to their interest to do, 17614-5, 17619.—Case of direct sales was entirely different, landlord selling direct to tenants would have an agreed percentage collected by Commissioners, but in this case they were only bound to pay to landlord what they received, 17620-1.—Where estate was bought by Commissioners, they were bound to pay 3½ per cent. on agreed purchase price on untenanted as well as on tenanted land, 17622.

Method of Effecting Improvements—Grants and Loans—Cost of Houses.

As regarded untenanted land allotted, tenants had always done their own fencing, as doing such work for tenants was not calculated to bring about desirable spirit of industry, besides being expensive, increased expenditure on improvements, spread over small area and added to purchase price of holding, increased annuity payable by tenants and affected security, in all cases Commissioners endeavoured to get tenants to build own houses as far as possible, but drainage and road-making, &c., were carried out by Commissioners either by direct labour or by contract, 17622.—Man who was able to work land would be very glad to get untenanted land and fence it himself, on 30,000 acres they had never had to make fences for tenant, 17624.—Sometimes small advance was made, 17625.—Cost of houses, as indicated in plan, would be £120 to £150 according to locality, 17626-7.—As to increased stock, many people with whom they dealt had some, and were able to provide more on the additional land, 17628.—No sum was added to purchase money of holding in respect of grants made by Commissioners for purchase of cattle, 17629.—Annuity was at least 15 per cent. less than average fair rent, 17630.—All this was undoubtedly heavy burden on man taking up untenanted land, and Commissioners had powers to make advances and free grants, but funds for the latter were very limited, 17631-2.—They had got men to build better houses than those shown in plan, to fence, and fully stock holding, there had been over 200 such transactions, 17633-6, 17644.—List shown gave number of holdings enlarged and new holdings created on estates dealt with by witness, mostly in County Galway, with some in Roscommon, Sligo, and Mayo, 17637-8.—Commissioners could make either advances or free grants, to a certain extent both; re-sale price of holding was never increased by more than £30 for buildings, because this added 19*s.* 6*d.* a year to annuity on holding, a very big advance might bring out annuity higher than fair rent, 17641.—It might be advantageous to give something as premium, but amount at disposal was very limited, 17642.—If a man migrated to a distance grant would have to be much bigger than for near migration, 17643.—As to fencing, in one district it was stone walls, in others double banks, with quicks; wire fencing was discouraged, 17644-6.—With regard to building houses, they had one case where five houses were built by migrated tenants, Commissioners supplying £100 apiece, and result being houses which would have cost Commissioners £150 to build, 17647, 17649.—The men employed masons, supplying material and giving their own labour free, 17648.—All houses in building were supervised by Commissioners when they had given either grant or advance, they had some built by contract direct for themselves, 17651-2.—There were number of contracts at present for type of house shown in plan at £140 each, 17653.—Congested Districts Board put up similar houses, not giving them out now under contract, but getting them done by own workmen, so that similar house only cost £110, 17654-5.—Witness doubted if house of this type could be put up for £110, but contractor's profit was done away with, 17656.—He had seen houses put up by Board at Claremorris, but had not been inside, 17657-60.—It might be well for Commissioners to follow Board's example, but they had not necessary staff at present, 17661-2.—Where they made contract for £140 tenant did no work, when they gave £30 towards building it was paid as work proceeded, 17665.—Works were always executed according to Commissioners' specifications except where tenant wished to put up thatched house, to which they had no objection if grant amounted to only £30, 17666.—They had not had any cases of jerry-building or inferior work, there was constant supervision when work was done by contract, 17667-8.—Where tenants put up houses it was found that they did better work than contractor, 17669.—As to obtaining money for building, witness's experience was that it came from relations, when there was prospect of ownership they helped man to build and improve his position, 17670-1.

WORK OF MIGRATION AND RE-SETTLEMENT.

In cases of bad and congested estates coming under Section 6 (5) where holdings were intermixed and held in rundale, Commissioners re-arranged and consolidated holdings and migration was almost always necessary; in these cases, it was sometimes necessary to retain estate for some time, but practice was to make arrangements for re-sale as quickly as possible; on one estate in Galway in 1904, where witness recommended that it should not be purchased unless tenants would agree to have holdings re-arranged and consolidated, and scheme included migration of two tenants; they had experienced great difficulty owing to attempts to intimidate migrants from taking proposed holdings, but in the end original scheme was carried out, 17672.—Before agreement was made with tenants to have holdings re-arranged, landlord settled price with tenants; this was common especially where there was untenanted land, 17673-4.—The intimidation proceeded from the tenants themselves, as there were a few who did not want re-arrangement, perhaps wanted more land themselves and were jealous of others who, they thought, were getting better terms, 17675-6, 17679.—In this case arrangements for migration were not subsequent to arrangements for sale; it was conditional that re-arrangement should take place, 17678.—On another estate, where 21 holdings were intermixed and required migration, five tenants migrated, built their own houses and made fences, getting small free grants to do so; remaining holdings were re-arranged and consolidated, 17679.—In this case migrants were kept on estate, being allotted part of untenanted land; they were very poor, with small, thatched houses, but being given free grant of £50 built substantial two-storeyed houses, 17680.—Desire to build good houses was general with migrants, 17681.—They were given untenanted land and surrendered own homes; it was a re-distribution of land; on the estate referred to there were 14 tenants under £5 valuation, 6 between £5 and £10, and only one over £10; now there was only one under £5 (he having other means), ten between £5 and £10, and 11 over £10, 17683-4.—In these £10 holdings every man could do some farm work with plough, though in all a horse might not be absolutely necessary; even if worked as mixed farm, farmer could hire horse for few days in spring, 17685-7.—Witness remembered estate where there was not horse or plough when it was purchased; now most people had a horse, and house and holdings were greatly improved owing to management of farms since they were purchased, and feeling on

part of farmers that improvements made were their own, 17688-92.—At present Commissioners were dealing with congested estates as defined by section 6 (5), of which witness gave two examples; on one estate were 55 tenanted holdings with average valuation of £3 3*s*., in this case there was not enough untenanted land on estate to make holdings economic, but they acquired farm of untenanted land, about 700 acres, in vicinity, and arrangements were now being carried out by which nine tenants surrendered old holdings and migrated, 17692.—There were six very small tenants of uneconomic holdings on portion of farm, 17693-4.—Re-arrangement of that estate was being satisfactorily carried out; on other estate were 35 tenants whose holdings comprised 238 intermixed plots; untenanted farm in neighbourhood was acquired and arrangements were being carried out for migrating eight tenants and for enlargement and consolidation of other holdings, 17694.—Tenants were migrated in this case from one estate to another; estates being very convenient there; in re-sale of most estates in Connaught migration and consolidation of holdings were essential; local opposition was sometimes experienced to the course; most frequent when estates were situated in different parishes; but by patience and firmness these difficulties could be overcome, 17695.

UNDESIRABILITY OF FARMS BEING SOLD TO TENANTS DIRECT WITHOUT EFFECTING NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

In witness's observation of operations of Land Purchase Acts in poorer districts, his impression was that estates were being sold which ought not to pass to tenants, without improvement as to enlargement and drainage, under direct sales, 17696.—Commissioners made improvements when they bought estates themselves, but when estates were sold direct Commissioners could not recover as part of purchase annuities money expended by them on improvements, 17697-8.—If that legal difficulty were removed, it would be competent to them to improve condition of holdings; though they could not do it as well or as freely where estates were sold direct, 17699-700.—It would have to be done with consent of tenant with whom landlord dealt direct, 17701.—Witness had understood it was intention of Parliament to give powers for improvements on such estates, but that, through some omission, power to recover money was not inserted in section; thought that law might be amended with advantage, 17702-3.—It was a pity that farms should be vested in tenants without being in finished condition, especially with regard to re-arrangement, 17704.

COST OF MIGRATION.

As regarded migration, it was the strong tenant, man with help and good means who should be encouraged to migrate; up to the present 25 tenants had been migrated in district dealt with by witness, at average net loss of £70 each to Commissioners; while 26 more would have migrated by following December at average net loss of £80 each, 17704, 17722.—Migrating the strong man was practice followed also by Congested Districts Board, 17707.—As to man's sons holding on at home till he was migrated and then going off, witness thought a man with grown-up family would be better able to do work of fencing, etc.; a large grown-up family was great asset, 17708-9.—It cost no more to migrate man with large family than without it; the one class of house had to be put up, 17735.—Man with vigorous sons had better chance of succeeding on new holding, little capital was also advantage, 17736-7.—Strong man needed same amount of State help as man with no family, because cost of house was the same, 17738.—Cost of migration reckoned at £70 did not include compensation for holding abandoned, it was net loss, any excess loss was recovered by re-sale of old holding, 17710.—This was allotted to tenants of small holdings adjoining, 17714-5.—As example of re-sale: they got over holding from tenant migrated, at second term net fair rent of, say, £5; gross fair rent owing to improvements might have been £8; in re-selling as untenanted land, purchase money to be paid by new tenant would be estimated on the gross fair rent; whereas had migrated tenant purchased it, price in his case would have been on net fair rent, as he made the improvements, 17715.—The dead loss of £70 was incurred under most favourable circumstances, and was met out of Reserve Fund, 17711-2.—If tenant had to be removed to good holding at a distance, so that Commissioners had to make buildings and fences, it could not be done at much less than £170 dead loss, 17716-8.—Cost of actually re-arranging holding without moving man was very small, 17718.—It was not a fact that Commissioners lost 8 or 10 per cent. of each transaction on re-arranging a holding, 17719.—There was net increase of expenditure averaging between £70 and £80 when man was migrated, as compared with re-arrangement of holding without migration, 17720.—In explanation of difference between £70 or £80 loss per migrant as contrasted with £170 loss already referred to, in case of former loss, Commissioners really expended on each man £150, but bought estate in such a way that half would be recovered as part of tenant's purchase annuity; in one case estate for purchase was valued on assumption of re-arrangement of holdings, and the worth of estate then; carrying out of re-arrangement involved cost of £800, which was ultimately borne half by vendor and half by Commissioners, 17721.—The Reserve Fund could not be recouped the loss of £80, 17723.—It had not yet been quite settled whether Commissioners were allowed to lose 10 per cent. on improvements; but the loss referred to would be loss in any case, and would have to be defrayed out of Land Commission Vote, 17724-5.—Relinquished holdings were joined on to neighbouring holdings, 17726.—There was no cash payment for this; value was given to tenants and assessed in their annuity; they got a good bargain, 17727-9.—The cost reckoned at £70 or £80 was much the same as in case of Congested Districts Board, but the latter added on to each holding about £2 10*s*. or £3 for each house they erected; Commissioners did not add to purchase money for houses erected for migrants, 17730.—As stated in Mr. Doran's evidence (Appendix 4), average net cost of settling each migrant by Board, after deducting portion of outlay charged to holdings and included in annuities, was £84 up to March 31st, 1905, and increased to £87 for cases dealt with in following year; it must be remembered that this loss was not properly chargeable against benefits conferred upon migrants alone, but also against substantial benefits to persons (perhaps to number of 4 or 5) whose holdings were enlarged by addition of parcels of migrants' lands; this also happened in case of Commissioners, 17733-4.—Distance in migration increased cost, though not in very large proportion, 17739-40, 17742.—Man could not do much with holding till it was fenced; fence was always got up first, if possible, 17741.

Striping *v.* Commonage.

In all cases of re-arrangement of untenanted land, each man was given specific holding; witness objected to commonage, as with this every man tried to get most out of it, and would take no trouble in improvements or drainage; division was much better, 17744-6.—In some cases of big mountain tracts it would not matter much, as they could not be largely improved, 17747.—Where upper land was not so good as lower land and more adapted for grazing, striping it out meant extra fencing and trouble, but was better in the end; commonage had been approved by Commissioners in some counties, but not those dealt with by witness, 17748.

Turbary.

Turbary was an important question, as, unless satisfactory arrangements were made for its disposal on re-sale, bad feeling resulted among tenant purchasers; on every estate dealt with by witness parcel of turbary had been lock-spitted and marked out to each tenant as part of his holding, though not necessarily adjoining it, 17748-9.—About 1,000 turbary plots had been marked out on estates dealt with by witness; in many instances each tenant was given a plot near his house, where banks were already opened, and another plot more remote; any surplus was retained for tenants of neighbouring estates where there was no turbary; with one exception there had been no trouble in matter, 17749.—Witness thought that tenants had no right to sell turf; Land Commission would have power to restrain them if they sold allotted turf, so as to impair security for advances, 17750-2.—If the tenant paid off annuity, then Commissioners would have no right to interfere, 17753.—If there was plenty of turbary each tenant got enough for at least 100 years, 17755.

Difficulties in the way of Re-settlement; £5 Limit under Section 2, Sub-section (1) *c.*, etc.

Difficulties which had arisen in allotment of untenanted land and migration were, that according to paragraph *c* of Section 2 (1), tenant on an adjoining estate whose holding exceeds £5 in rateable value was not qualified for additional land; this, witness considered, very serious drawback, as such holding could not be considered economic, and while tenant with holding at £4 valuation could have it brought up to economic standard, £5 holding could not be altered; witness thought limit should be extended to £10 valuation; it also might happen that untenanted land might be acquired in neighbourhood of estate where holdings required enlargement and improvement, but where owner refused to sell, and consequently nothing could be done; another difficulty was that in many parts where there was very little untenanted land and great many tenants of small holdings on estates that were not being sold, such tenants, even if some of them were willing to migrate, could not do so without landlord's consent; this was often difficult to obtain and hampered with conditions, 17755.—It had been obtained under conditions which could not be carried out, 17756.—In one case they proposed to divide surrendered holding between three adjoining tenants, and landlord consented on condition that the men signed judicial agreement for old holdings and portions of holdings which they would get, but this would debar men from going into Court and getting fair rent fixed for 15 years, which Commissioners did not consider right, 17757-9.—It was not reasonable, because tenants would have been entitled to have fair rent fixed in three years, and landlord wanted to debar them for 15 years, during which period old rent must be paid, 17760, 17768.—It could have been arranged without judicial lease that tenant, having acquired part of surrendered holding, could not dispose of it without landlord's consent, though he could let it upon eleven months' agreement, 17761-2.—The men to be moved were under judicial agreements, 17767.—In many estates where there was untenanted land tenants made offers for their holdings and also for untenanted land, and estate was then offered for sale under Section 6; but witness had always found that offer made by tenants for untenanted land was, owing to their anxiety to acquire it, in excess of what it would be security for, 17768-9.

Comprehensive Scheme of Re-Settlement Preferable to Present Patchwork System.

Witness looked upon migration as principal means of improving conditions of such districts as had been referred to; it deserved every facility for being carried out on large scale, 17762.—Witness considered that, in order to carry out fully and properly this policy of migration, it should be proceeded with by buying large tracts of congested estates and providing untenanted land in similar quantities; these people could be moved about over large area, and they would not be dealing with an estate here and there in patchwork fashion, 17763-6.

Good Effects of Re-Settlement.

Witness had no doubt that in estates dealt with position of tenants was improved, many of them had uneconomic holdings, had to go long distances for tillage, and send their cattle to grazing farms, while some took small bits of grazing land for feeding stock that was not saleable, at high rent; these people now had additional land, providing outlet for their labour, 17769.—They had fed stock until it was fit either for shipper or for Meath man, on little bits of land so taken; they had not sufficient

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land to keep their young stock till saleable, 17772.—It was a wonderful addition to occupier with poor holding if he got two extra acres of good land, or even four or five acres of middling land, 17773.—Game and fishing came up as practical question in some cases of purchasing estates, but game was worth very little on any estate dealt with by witness, 17775-6.

CLANMORRIS ESTATE, TERMS OF SALE.

With reference to Clanmorris Estate, it had been stated by Commissioner Wrench that Commissioners had given 28·6 years' purchase of Poor Law valuation of untenanted land; this was, in point of fact, price given by Commissioners to vendor, but was not price at which they sold it to tenant purchasers; the untenanted land was required to relieve congestion and owner would not take less than price stated; lands had been let yearly at £2,893 10*s*., and vendor's net income had been about £2,485 yearly; price given and bonus, if invested at 3½ per cent. would give yearly income of £2,380, or difference of £105 on previous income; this sum if capitalised at 3½ per cent. represented about £3,000, and as lands were re-sold by Commissioners at loss of £2,500 and other sums were spent in improvements, difference between sum at which lands were re-sold and sum that would be required to give vendor his net income would be over £6,000, 17777.—£3,500 was lost, but if they had had to give vendor net income at 3½ per cent. they would have lost £6,000, 17778.—They did not do so, vendor consented to 28·6 years' purchase; loss came out of Reserve Fund unless estate could be dealt with as congested estate, in which case loss would be charged to Land Commission Vote, 17779-80.

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POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness was Vice-President of Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; an original permanent member of Congested Districts Board from its foundation in 1891; had been much interested in problem of congestion, and while in United States took great interest in emigration question, 17781.—It was of practical importance to explain constitution, powers, relations, etc., of Department, which had considerable responsibility with regard to agriculture and technical instruction in congested districts, 17782.—Establishment of Department was a link in chain of economic and administrative development of Ireland.

FOREIGN COMPETITION.

Outstanding fact in our agricultural economy was foreign competition; what had been serious factor in late seventies and early eighties appeared in late eighties almost to counterbalance advantage derived by tenant from improvement of his legal position, 17784.—Whatever he was producing reached Ireland cheaper from outside; while enormous advantages had been conferred upon him they were counterbalanced in the late eighties by reduction in prices of agricultural produce due to foreign competition, which was a new factor of capital and permanent importance; bound to become intensified owing to opening up of virgin soil in western portions of United States, in Australia and New Zealand, in South America, especially the Argentine, and in Siberia, 17784.—It had not begun so early in Siberia, nor in the Argentine; witness thought foreign competition would come increasingly from both in the near future, 17785.—As regarded special development of foreign competition being forced upon witness's attention in late seventies and early eighties, he then foresaw serious nature of

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competition, being impressed especially with opening up and settlement of country in Western America, and development of transit through building of ships with huge carrying capacity, and in invention of refrigerating processes, 17802.—There was very sudden leap in early eighties; marked point in advance had been reached, 17803-5.—From the Argentine would come meat and agricultural produce, and from Siberia butter and eggs, which would affect Ireland very much, 17786.

IMPORTS FROM SIBERIA.

Siberia would have been very serious competitor had it not been for political complications; evidence tendered to Butter Regulations Committee showed that Siberia would probably be developed agriculturally in near future, 17806-7.—Witness did not anticipate importation of cattle from this source, but question of grain, of which cultivation was just beginning, remained, with poultry, eggs, butter and flax, 17809-12.—Witness had gained impression that Siberia was on the point of becoming keen competitor with Denmark for production of butter for export; there had been considerable exports of butter and eggs from Siberia to this country, 17813-5.—There were no statistics which showed exactly what came from Siberia, but witness had return showing total quantities of butter, eggs, poultry and game imported from Russia to Great Britain since 1901, with return of butter exported from Siberia; a great deal of butter coming from Scandinavia was Russian butter re-exported, 18392.

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT.—RECESS COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS.

Foreign competition induced certain persons to see urgency of supplementary agrarian legislation with economic movement, based on self-help principles adapted from foreign countries; in the year 1895 the conductors of the Agricultural Organisation movement were forced to study conditions of Continental agriculture more closely; they became impressed with necessity of getting from Government such assistance as foreign Governments gave; Ireland appeared at deplorable disadvantage compared with European countries in education of farmers; in 1895 Recess Committee was organised, which sent Commissioners into every country from which useful information could be gathered, inquiring specially how far improvement, where noticeable, in rural communities, was due to their own organised effort and how far to action of Government, 17786.—Useful action of Government included education in proportion of nine-tenths of whole work, 17787.

LEGISLATION FOLLOWING ON REPORT OF RECESS COMMITTEE.

Report of Recess Committee did not take effect in legislation till 1899; course of administrative development was—(1) Congested District Board section of Act of 1891; (2) Local Government Act of 1898 creating administrative machinery which had taken over more and more of Department's work; (3) Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899 which created Department; (4) Land Act of 1903, which by Section 85 repealed Section 18 of Act of 1899, and thus enabled Department to extend its work and expenditure into congested area, 17788-90.—Previous to repeal Congested Districts Board might employ Department to do certain work in congested districts, but Department had no power to expend any of its moneys, 17791.

DEPARTMENT EMPOWERED TO SPEND MONEY IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Effect of repeal was that Department were able to expend some of their income through endowment in congested area; Department had two incomes, one from fund applicable to whole of Ireland, and one an endowment from various funds, handed over for new functions, which had not previously been discharged by various branches of Irish Government; work of Department included also the consolidation of a lot of certain existing branches of Government, 17794.—As to the result of repeal of Section 18 of Act of 1899 by Section 85 of Act of 1903 being regarded as a return to *status quo ante*, there was no Department prior to that time, and no one but Congested Districts Board to exercise powers; before Act of 1903 Department could not exercise powers in congested districts, but now it could exercise them; the limitation of area put in in Act of 1899 was removed by Section 85 of Act of 1903, 17792-800.—Working of Department, which was created in 1899, did not begin till beginning of financial year, 1900-1901, with exception of appointment of Vice-President which took place in 1899, 17801.

Position of Vice-President of Department.

Constitution of Department followed lines of other Departments up to certain point and then differed wholly; Chief Secretary was President, and Vice-President the working head, being undoubtedly intended to be a member of Parliament, though not legally bound to be so; constitutionally perhaps less bound to be in Parliament than some analogous officials; many people thought it a mistake that Vice-President should be in Parliament, as it was important he should be divorced from party, 17817.—Vice-President's duties were purely administrative, though they might get mixed up with political and controversial matters, 17818.—Witness had given evidence before Sir Kenelm Digby's Committee on this point; was much in favour in days of Recess Committee of the Vice-President's being in Parliament, and a subordinate minister, chiefly because Chief Secretary had so much to do that his responsibility to Parliament, as regarded new Department, would be merely second-hand; later on, as new popular machinery created by Department developed and responsibility of Vice-President to Irish public opinion became more important, witness felt it was difficult for Vice-President to be member of a party and a minister, and preserve at same time absolute impartiality; witness's opinion now was that Vice-President, if given independence which made him responsible to popular element in Department, should not be in Parliament, 17819-20.

Executive Authority of Department.

Executive authority of Department consisted in President and Vice-President; functions were divided between a number of branches; it was staffed in ordinary way, and had Secretary, who occupied position of permanent head of Government Department with two assistant secretaries, one for agriculture and one for technical instruction, 17822.—It had been questioned whether Secretary of Department did occupy position as stated, but witness was sure such was intention of Parliament, 17823.—If position of Vice-President were made permanent then Secretary would not be chief permanent officer; if Vice-President were not in Parliament he might become the permanent officer, but might possibly be appointed only for three or four years, 17824-5.

Council of Agriculture—Constitution and Functions.

Council of Agriculture, Board of Agriculture, and Board of Technical Instruction were all either part of or attached to Central Government, 17916.—Council of Agriculture was appointed as follows:—It consisted of two persons elected by County Council of each county, except Cork, which elected four on account of its size; there were thirty-three County Councils, so that total number of persons elected by them made 68, and the Department nominated, in addition, half that number, making its total nominations from a province proportionate to elective element from that province; if President or Vice-President presided total thus reached 103, 17827.—Election to Council of Agriculture was for three years, and nomination of Department for same time, 17828-9.—Election of Council did not synchronise with elections to County Council; the term was the same, but County Council elections preceded by one year, 17830.—Elections were indirect, through County Councils; County Councillor must survive his appointing authority by one year, which was an advantage, 17831-2.—County Councillor who was member of Council of Agriculture and had year's experience of County Council, and County Councils could see how their predecessor's nominees behaved, 17833.—They might, and often did, elect from outside, 17834-6.—The thirty-four representatives nominated were nominees of witness, who simply took best representative men, irrespective of political party; they were representative geographically; witness was bound to take from each province half the number elected by it, 17837-8.—Area of nomination was province; area of election was county, 17842.—Functions of Council were two-fold; they discharged electoral functions once in three years at their first meeting; the other function was deliberative and advisory, 17842-3.—Witness held that Council had real power of expressing public opinion; its vote of want of confidence would lead to his immediate resignation, 17843-4.—The advisory powers extended to all duties of Department; Clause 11 of Act stated that Council of Agriculture should meet at least once a year for purpose of discussing matters of public interest in connection with any purpose of the Act; they had never discussed questions which would be likely to raise an awkward controversy or unpleasant debate, or which would waste Council's time, 17845.—During first six years average number of meetings was once in nine months; now they were once in six months, sometimes sittings lasted two days, 17846.—The Department was convening authority, 17847.—It was within witness's legal power to call Council more than once a year; matter was decided by questions arising on which Department or Boards felt they ought to take public opinion; then Council would be called, 17848-50.

Constitution of Agricultural Board.

Agricultural Board consisted of twelve persons, two-thirds of whom were appointed by Council of Agriculture and one-third nominated by Department; mode of election was that at triennial term of new Council the Council retired into four rooms, dividing themselves into four provincial committees, each elected two members to Board, while Department nominated one for each province, 17853, 18330.—Members of Agricultural Board might, though not necessarily, be members of Council, 17854-5.—It was an indirect election, but men might be taken to be fairly representative; they filtered down through these nominations, 18332-4.

Constitution and Functions of Board of Technical Instruction.

Board of Technical Instruction dealt mainly with subjects affecting urban communities, and consisted of three persons each appointed by County Councils of Dublin and Belfast; one person appointed by Joint Committee of Councils of the several Urban County Districts in the County of Dublin; one person appointed by Council of each County Borough not above-mentioned, of which there were four, and one person appointed by the members from each province of the Council of Agriculture; one person was appointed by Commissioners of National Education, and one by Intermediate Education Board; and, lastly, four by the Department, thus making total of 21; so that outside eight members appointed by Council and Department Board was practically an Urban Board, 17856-7.

Constitution of Committees of County Councils and Urban Districts.

Committees of County Councils and Urban Districts for purposes of this Act consisted of members of appointing body, and also of co-opted outsiders, varying in size; throughout all machinery there was combination of elective and nominative principle.

Devolution of Functions of Central Government.

Most important part of Department's work, financed out of its endowment, including most of Technical Instruction work, was strongly influenced by Council of Agriculture, and were really controlled by Agricultural Board and Board of Technical Instruction, simply because they controlled funds; this control enabled Boards, after reveiwing main proposals, to accept them or to suggest modifications and refuse to accept proposals unless such modifications were made, 17857.

Number of Meetings of Board.

There was no fixed period for Board meetings; there had been thirty-five meetings of Agricultural Board and twenty-two of Technical Instruction Board since Depatrment was constituted, 17858-60.—There was average of about six per annum, 17890-900.—Attendance at Board meetings was extremely good, 17872.—Meetings were convened by Vice-President, 17861.

Provincial Committees.

Provincial Committees were not usually convened at all except in case of death or retirement of one of elected members of Board, 17862.—Their electoral function was discharged normally once in three years, and when contingencies arose, 17863.

Powers of Boards.

Authority from which Boards derived power of interference was purely financial, but very effective, 17864.—They had nothing to do with administration, appointments, etc., but were very critical and could easily make wishes known if they objected to any part of Department's administration, 17865-6.—Council had no legal control over them, but Boards were not likely to fall foul of Council; two-thirds of Agricultural Board owed existence to Council, 17867.—Boards controlled action of Department by sanctioning a scheme, or suggesting alterations, 17868.

Procedure in Working out Schemes by Department and Board.

In order to meet difficulty of Department, when engaged in special scheme, needing more money than had been anticipated, witness had organised the following procedure: at each meeting he gave, as far as possible, details of proposals for various schemes, while Board gave covering vote, allowing these schemes to be carried out and received full account at next meeting for this concession, witness consulted Board upon matters for which he was not responsible to them, such as dealings with sea fisheries, and some branches of technical instruction, 17869-70, 17889-91.—Ultimate responsibility remained with witness, but thus machine worked harmoniously, 17871.—Work sometimes actually begun before covering vote was given, 17893.—Agricultural Board had approved scheme in its entirety, and would not stop it before it was worked out; there was such immense variety of schemes, that elasticity of procedure was necessary, 17894-6.

Question of Friction between Vice-President and Boards.

Personal factor was of great importance in the whole business, but Board could, as matter of fact, get rid of Vice-President if he did not conduct himself properly, 17873.—Undoubtedly Government would remove him if any serious friction arose with Boards, 17909.

Example of Scheme in which Preliminary Authority to proceed was given.

Witness gave concrete example of scheme in which they had this preliminary authority to proceed, in carrying out experiment in connection with peat-fuel; after having worked out scheme as far as possible with expert officers of Department, he explained it, in all its bearings to Boards giving estimated cost and general details of working; after discussion the Board, if they approved scheme, would vote sum estimated as probable expenditure involved, and Department would then proceed to work it out, 17897.—At each meeting of Agricultural Board all different schemes that had been submitted to Board were set out, the Board going fully into any matters they chose in connection with them; if scheme were of local application, it came before Board for approval, having already been agreed upon between County Committee and officer of Department, so that dissent would then embarrass both local authority and Department, 17900.—With regard to concrete scheme, at period when progress was reported, Board could criticise, and advise amendment of method of carrying out scheme, but, without strong reason, they would not reverse what they had already approved of, 17901-3.—Sometimes scheme was suggested between Board meetings which witness was certain Board would approve of; he then made himself personally and financially responsible for proceeding with scheme, in anticipation of Board's sanction, 17904.

Department and Representative Government.

With regard to constitution of Department being based upon principles of representative Government, technically, Department consisted only of President and Vice-President, that was of Chief Secretary, *ex-officio* President, appointed by Prime Minister and witness, as Vice-President, appointed by one of Principal Secretaries of State, 17874-7.—If Department consisted of the two Boards, with Vice-President as Chairman, it might rest more firmly on principles of representative Government, but that could not be so in existing circumstances, because a very large sum of voted moneys had to be administered, for which responsibility must be to Parliament, 17878.—The moneys came from various sources, 17879-80.

Relations of Department with County Donegal.

Witness could not say, at present, that some popularising of Department itself would bring County Committees into more ready touch with it, because Department had been object of much virulent attack, but friction between Department and County Committees was getting less every year, 17881-2.—Appointment of agricultural instructors was main difficulty, though whether it ought to be so was debateable, 17883.—Witness could not think it right that vitally important interests, such as working of these schemes, ought to be sacrificed to friction between Department and local authority; realising unfortunate nature of dispute, witness had made suggestion to County Committee of Donegal that rule they objected to should be debated at Council of Agriculture but though there were three representatives from County Donegal on Council of Agriculture this was not done; witness believed there was very strong opinion in favour of the rule, 17884.—No guarantee was given, or asked for, that findings of Council of Agriculture, if point had been debated, would be final, but strong hint was contained in witness's suggestion, 71886.—Department were most anxious to do their part to remove any difficulty in way of schemes being put into operation in County Donegal, 17885.—Witness could not speak his mind as to bringing County Committees more into touch with his Department, because he was bound not to take part in general politics, 17887.—Was aware that rule referred to was not peculiar to his Department, 17888.

Boards and Committees a Success.

Witness was entirely satisfied with choice exercised by Provincial Committees, in electing Boards, 17906.—This experiment in democratising administration of Ireland had been a success, apart from little local troubles, as in Donegal, which would be got over, 17907.—Witness considered framing of this Act by Mr. G. Balfour one of finest pieces of constructive statesmanship ever seen in Ireland, especially linking of their Act with Local Government Act, 17908.

QUESTION OF A DEADLOCK BETWEEN VICE-PRESIDENT AND BOARDS.

Constitution was, no doubt, such that a deadlock could easily arise between Vice-President and Boards, but way in which institutions were worked was of more importance than institutions themselves, 1791. —It was true deadlock might be caused through no fault of Vice-President's that difficulty applied to all Governmental institutions, 17911-2.—Final determination as to which was offending party was in hands of Government of the day, since everything that was linked with Parliament must be so, 17913.

FINANCE.

Coming to finance, the endowment fund of Department, expenditure of which was subject to approval of Boards, was £190,000, 17920.—Under Section 15 of Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act Department's annual income was £166,000, derived from following sources: Local Taxation (Ireland) Customs and Excise Account, £78,000; Irish Church Surplus, £70,000; Equivalent of Salaries of Irish Judgeships, abolished by Irish Judicature Act of 1897, £12,000; Equivalent of Expenses of two Agricultural Institutions, at Glasnevin and at Cork, now administered by Department, £6,000; Parliamentary Vote, excluding £18,000, which was transferred to endowment, and £25,000 which went to Congested Districts Board, though appearing in Department's Parliamentary Vote, was £147,146 for year 1906-7, so that total income from endowment and Vote was £337,146, this sum to cover all expenses of administration of Department; in first years, Department's expenditure was very small; at its start, capital sum of £204,905 was handed over for capital expenditure, but it naturally took long time to get all machinery in motion, and therefore at first expenditure was low; from the very first Department made education chief agency in its work, and this necessitated expenditure on buildings and equipments, staffs, etc., also a great amount of pioneer itinerant work was necessary to make people understand objects of institutions, 17922.—Surplus accumulated during years of low expenditure partly explained difference between the £166,000 and the £190,000; there was also £10,000 for interest on investments; £5,000 formerly paid to Royal Dublin Society for improving breed of horses and cattle; £7,000 from the Ireland Development Grant; and £2,000 from Congested Districts Board as contribution to schemes in congested districts, 17924.—Out of these moneys Department made grants, in different parts of country, for equipping laboratories and science classes, etc., 17926.—Present state of accumulations was: £395,000, with £122,500 earmarked under Act of 1899, and with £139,900 hypothecated, leaving balance in hand £132,600, 17926.—At present moment they were spending more than their income, and consequently reducing balance, 17927.—This all came out of endowment funds in past years; none came out of savings on the Vote, they all went back, 17928-9.—On unspent balance of accumulations they were receiving interest; this was included in item £10,000 of capital and savings, 17930-1.—Accumulations were being gradually decreased by normal schemes; therefore time would come when normal income would not suffice for normal expenditure, 17932-4.—They would then be reduced to annual expenditure of £347,000, this sum including total cost of administration, 17935.—With regard to work of Department, main principle was to delegate as much local work as possible to local committees, 17935.—When, however, expenditure was for general purposes, or experimental in one or two districts, it was administered from Central Department, in consultation with Board concerned, 17936.

FRUIT GROWING AND MARKETING.—FRUIT DRYING.—JAM FACTORY QUESTION.—CIDER-MAKING.

Main lines of work were Agriculture, Technical Instruction, Fisheries, Transit and Industries; agricultural work fell under number of classes, of which witness suggested that Fruit and Vegetable Drying and Preserving should be selected for further detailed information, 17936.—With reference to question

about supplying assistance to jam factory on representation from outside, it had been brought up by Mr. Micks, in evidence; since Department had started some of its most important work, though it took time to develop, had come to be encouragement of Irish fruit-growing, including both small and orchard fruit, 17937-8.—One great difficulty to be got over was distribution, in fresh condition, of greater part of fruit, and particularly the disposing of second grades of fruit which could not be consumed fresh; in good fruit-growing districts, as Drogheda, market for fresh fruit, though not good, was capable of improvement; but market for second grade fruit was so bad as to make people in many cases give up trying to sell, 17939.—By second grade fruit witness meant inferior qualities, not inferior classes of fruit, 17940-1.—In case of apples, there was elaborate scheme for growing varieties which would come in between English and American supplies, in point of time, but here they met difficulty which applied to many Irish products, that, until one could produce improved product in sufficient quantities to get it known in some large centre of population, and thus create demand for it, it would either only get price of average products, or else, being sold under foreign brand which it came nearest to, middleman and not producer would capture profits; Department had laid down that, while not its business to pay cost of distribution, yet while such an industry was experimental it was justifiable to give pioneer producer such rebate on freight charges as would put him in same position in marketing small quantity as he afterwards would be with large quantities; great difficulty was to go through experimental stage with small output, and railway companies could not be expected to upset rates in order to favour small consignments; with regard to disposal of second-class fruit, in Drogheda instance, when Department started, jam factory had been established privately, but was not successful, since time was not ripe for enterprise; the Department then took up industry themselves, experimenting also in drying fruit and vegetables and in cider-making; of course, with no idea of continuing for any length of time, but merely of experimenting and subsequently handing over industry to private enterprise; it then came to Department's knowledge that Fruit and Confectionery Committee of London Chamber of Commerce had taken exception to Department's action, and it seemed likely that questions would be raised in Parliament; witness took whole responsibility for matter, but, having tried experiment, both valuable and costly, determined to hold on, and partially recoup Department for experimental losses, as long as possible; when serious objection was raised, they at once handed over concern to private enterprise; three jam-making firms had added the fruit-preserving business to their concern, 17942.—It had become local business at Portadown and Drogheda; another firm had undertaken drying of vegetables; a company was formed to take over Department's cider-making plant, and the unsuccessful jam factory, having been run for a year or two as fruit-preserving business, was also sold, 17943.—If this whole business was being carried on, on Department's lines, which was no doubt the case, witness believed it would develop very important Irish industry, 17944.—Witness did not consider expenditure on such experiments lost, they had really accomplished their object, 17945-9.—There were already jam-making firms in existence before experiment began, who raised no objection to operations, 17950.—Jam-making was not the novelty introduced, but drying vegetables and fruit, which was new industry, 17951-3, 18393.—It was now established as independent and prosperous industry, 17954.—Total expenditure on Portadown undertaking was £10,318, and upon Drogheda £2,719, 18393.—Cider-making was not new industry, though Department's process was new; cider was old industry in Ireland, and Department had assisted its revival in the south, 17954.—Ireland was good apple-bearing country; apples ripened well, but had to be carefully grown, 17955-6.—Certain varieties had to be grown in order to get exactly right market, and climate was not good enough to do away with need for careful attention to orchards; temperature was good in some parts, 17957-8.—Very little cider was drunk in Ireland; the Irish make was not quite known yet, 17959-60.—Ireland was conspicuously suited for certain class of fruit; Mr. Moore, of Botanical Gardens, with other experts, was in favour of Department's fruit-growing scheme, which was being developed largely under his advice, 17962-3.—At Cork Exhibition, in 1902, there was fruit show, quality and quantity of which astonished expert judges, and at a surprise Exhibition in Dublin, in 1904, English experts and fruit salesmen were astounded at fruit-growing capacity of country, 17964.—This surprise exhibition was not confined to gentlemen's gardens, but small growers encouraged, 17965.—Witness thought that though disposal of second-class fruit was obstacle to making industry profitable, excessive proportion of such fruit was not due to climatic conditions, causing energy of tree to be thrown into wood and not into fruit, 17966-7.—Referred to case in which gentleman was induced, by success of Department, to experiment in fruit-growing on good grazing land, producing one of the best young orchards in Ireland, 17968.—Extent of this land was about five Irish acres, 17969.—Witness heard that good black currants could be grown even on poor bogland of West, 17970.—Conditions of country were unquestionably such that industry could be successfully developed, but both people and districts must be carefully chosen, 17971.—In Loughgall district of Armagh, which had been served by Portadown experiment, fruit-growing industry had developed; witness doubted if this were very favourable district, 17972.—People there came from Devonshire originally, and were prosperous under not very favourable circumstances, 17972-3.—Some small areas of orchards, since industry were started, were in the fourth year, most in third, second, or first years, 17974.—Spring frosts cut down blossoms to some extent, even in Ireland, 17976.—Mild weather in February brought on blossoms, which were often injured by late frosts, and summer winds were severe in some parts, 17977.—Kerry, though not one of best districts, used to be celebrated for cider and pippins, 17977-8.

EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON HORSES, FISHERIES, FLAX-GROWING, &c.—CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES.

In connection with powers of Department, there were attached to it, in addition to statutory bodies, expert committees who advised on matters requiring expert knowledge, 17979.—There were such committees for horses, for cattle, and other live-stock, for flax-growing, forestry, and tobacco; on technical instruction side there was Statutory Committee, described in section 23 of Act of 1899, this was Consultative Committee on education; there was also Consultative Committee representing school interests, and Standing Committee of Technical Associations, appointed by annual congress of these associations, 17980.—Expert committees on live stock, flax, forestry, and tobacco were appointed by the Department, 17981.—These committees were merely advisory, their opinion being consulted and acted on as far as desirable, 17893.—There was also Fisheries Committee for inland fisheries, 17983-4.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

As to other main functions of Department, witness did not propose to discuss technical instruction in detail, broadly it was divided into two sections, one carried out through ordinary schools, secondary or primary, while other dealt with education in special institutions, 17985, 17987.—There was rather administrative than educational difference in education given in secondary schools, and that financed from local rates and endowment, given mainly in evening technical schools, 17986.—Grants were payable in day secondary schools worked under Intermediate Board, and also for technical subjects taught in evening schools, there was also immense amount of itinerant instruction in domestic economy, manual instruction, &c., 17987.

ITINERANT INSTRUCTION, MANUAL INSTRUCTION, &c.

Manual instruction carried out by itinerant instructors had been very successful where instructor was good, 17988-9.—Instructor stayed in one centre nominally six weeks, but this might be extended, 17990.—There was no rule governing visits of instructor to same district, it was partly controlled by demands in other localities, 1799A.—As to instructor in town in County Mayo, who stayed there six weeks, and on return after eighteen months found his pupils had nearly all left country, and had to begin with new pupils, leaving again after six weeks, this town being Claremorris, and instructor, Mr. Lynch, witness would like fuller particulars of case, but agreed that it might be better for instructor to remain longer in one place and finish work, but there was only certain amount of money to pay these instructors; local committee could, if it choose, retain instructor for a year, rather than have short courses at intervals, but if they decided otherwise, witness could not very well over-ride their discretion, 17994.—If scheme were not satisfactory in County Mayo, then its committee should recommend modification to Department, 17996.—Witness personally would have larger course in fewer districts, but at same time was not prepared to say that with limited funds it would be wise to confine instructor to small number of districts seeing that those districts left out contributed equally from rates, 17998-9.—Matter was really one of expediency to be decided between Department and local committees, witness distinctly refused to admit that short courses were useless, even at long intervals, but some compromise might, no doubt, be arrived at by consultation between various authorities, there was no constitutional difficulty in the way, 17999.—With regard to expending money instead, on central school in county from which permanent results might be expected, such a school would deal with very small minority of population, those who were able to attend it might become more useful members of society, but witness thought that with means at Department's disposal, present scheme was better, 18000.—The six weeks' courses of manual instruction were preparation for practical life of Irish farmer, with regular attendance it would give him education small, but lasting and valuable, 18001-3.—As to natural sequence of six weeks' course in manual instruction, if continued for six months, in Kilkenny they had had several courses, which had led up to very promising cabinet-making industry, 18004-6.—Probably considerably more than six weeks' instruction would be required before they could start industry of this kind in County Mayo, 18009.—Instruction was given in use of tools, and in applied drawing, 18007.—Course really was intended to make students handy men, enabling them to make gates, fences, &c.; it was a necessary preliminary to their ordinary life, 18011-2, 18042-3.—Summarising views on itinerant manual instruction, witness thought system extremely useful, but agreed in desirability of longer and fewer courses, matter depended very much upon whether pupils looked forward to agricultural or industrial career, 18010.

CONTROL OF BOARD OF TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION OVER SCHEMES.

Advice as to character of courses, &c., was in first instance given by Departmental experts, but before any course of instruction, financed out of moneys which Board of Technical Instruction controlled was agreed upon between Department and County Committees, it must have been approved by Board, 18013.—The Board's function was financial, but on technical grounds they might refuse funds, 18014.—Procedure of Board of Technical Instruction was to discuss and approve schemes agreed to between Department, County Committees, and Urban District Committees, they could not make scheme, and Department could not make them approve of it; it was matter governed by commonsense, 18016-9.—Technical Instruction Board had no legal power to compel expenditure on projects of which they themselves approved, but had indirect power, as by refusing to approve of Department's schemes, they could force it to a compromise, and induce modifications according to their wishes, 18028-1.—Assuming that Board took one view of scheme and Department another, each adhering to own view, deadlock would be caused (though in six years this had not been the case), but no scheme could work if those who had to carry it out could not agree, 18022-3.—This was a representative institution, representative element should, and did, prevail, 18024A.—In witness's view it was necessary in any administrative scheme that ultimate decision should rest in one hand, 18026.—It was very obvious that schemes of technical instruction could not possibly be administered by elected body of twenty-one men from various bodies, 18027.—There were nothing constitutionally wrong with principle, providing that one man should be responsible for administration of certain work employing public moneys, but that representative body should have right to say whether that work should be carried out or not, 18028.

NATURE OF TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Technical instruction was small part of ordinary instruction, it should be separated from ordinary education given in schools because it was dealing with wholly different class of pupils, largely young farmers who had left primary schools and never went to any other, 18031-2.—System of apprenticeship could still be practised in Ireland; in definition of technical instruction it was provided that it should not include teaching and practice of a trade, 18033-4.—If law concerning technical instruction were very strictly interpreted, it would be difficult to carry out instruction, 18035.—It would give carpenter's apprentice, for example, much better grasp of principles underlying his work, this was real aim of instruction rather than teaching work itself, 18036-7.—At same time as giving knowledge of tools, &c., it ought to develop certain aptitude which might serve man as tradesman or farmer, 18039.—Witness did not think reclamation of land was taught except so far as general agricultural principles were involved, this was not now principal industry in Ireland, times had gone against bringing bog land into cultivation, 18040-1.—Such rudimentary teaching as described in six weeks' courses was given to boys in some schools. There was difficulty of time table, and often in primary schools more important things had to be taught, 18043-4.—Sir Kenelm Digby's Committee had been inquiring into all these questions, and it would be better for the Commission to examine expert officers of Department, 18046.

TRANSIT FUNCTIONS OF DEPARTMENT.

Powers of Department were limited as to matter of transit; the Department had right to appear before Railway and Canal Commission, and were charged with duty of inspecting transit of live stock, with powers to aid in facilitating marketing and transit of produce; with regard to appearing before Railway and Canal Commission, Department might appear on behalf of aggrieved persons, being set in motion by them, 18046-7.—They had so appeared on only one occasion, having important case against Great Southern and Western Railway, which proposed to raise rates; in this case Department was victorious; in other cases, on investigation, they had always found that railways were acting within their powers, 18047.—This single appearance had been criticised as hardly being adequate discharge of important function, but really it was a test case as to railway rates; it had created precedent, and done away with necessity for appearing again; there was great deal of unseen benefit in this matter from Department's frequent negotiations with railways in case of any hardship; railway companies were always found ready to meet Department, but such negotiations were necessarily conducted in secret; they had been cause of securing much greater facilities and expedition, 18099-100.—On the whole witness was satisfied with general result of negotiations, though facilities were not all that could be desired; companies had always conceded more than they were bound to, 18101.—If law and financial policy of Government in developing agricultural industries had permitted it witness would have been glad if they could go further, 18102-3.—Witness had been speaking of Ireland generally; no special case in congested districts had required their action before Railway and Canal Commissioners, 18104.—Moral effect of action had been improvement and advantage to Irish agriculture in respect of transit; negotiations on behalf of "aggrieved persons" had led to much clearer thinking on whole question; people knew more of state of law and general principles on which rates were fixed; lack of funds was reason for not making greater progress; under Section 30 (1) Department had power to spend endowment, subject to consent of Agricultural Board, to upon cheapening and expediting carriage and distribution of produce; but to do this in largely effective way would be too heavy drain upon funds, 18105.—Witness believed work and powers of Department regarding carriage and distribution of produce included cattle, though not explicitly, 18106.—If they were contemplating exercise of such powers of course it would involve full knowledge of what was included under term "produce," 18107.—Carriage and distribution in this connection simply meant carriage to market and disposal of there, 18108.—Inspection of transit was carried out by staff of inspectors, who travelled wherever they were required, and attended to live stock and produce in transit, as well as enforcing all manner of Acts for regulation of railways in this matter, 18048-9.—In connection with transit of live stock there was, at ports of export and import, large veterinary staff in addition, and also portal inspectors, who formed sort of intelligence department; it was large service taken over from veterinary branch of Privy Council, 18049A.—It had entirely left hands of Privy Council, 18050

STATISTICS AVAILABLE OF LIVE STOCK IN COUNTRY AND EXPORTED.

Information as to movements of live-stock in and from Ireland was obtained from shipping and railway companies, 18051.—As to ages and movements of store cattle, the only way of ascertaining ages of cattle on grass lands was to take cattle census, except that to some extent census returns on land could be checked by portal returns, 18061.—Police returns gave what was on the land, 18062.—Cattle on these lands could be numbered and classified, 18063.—There were returns as to external movements; ages of cattle leaving country were known, and approximately ages of cattle going out, 18054-60.—As to question of furnishing statistics to show what would be effect of breaking up grass lands on economic position of Irish small holders, witness could not say offhand how far conclusions could be based on internal movements of cattle, 18064.—Police returns classified actual number of cattle on all grass lands at certain times being practically cattle census of holdings, 18065-6.—Witness thought it possible to distinguish between number of store cattle purchased by Scotch graziers and number purchased by local graziers, 18067-8.—It was part of Department's business to have information as to what took place at great Irish fairs, and veterinary inspectors attended, but it would be difficult to obtain accurate information as to destinations of trains full of cattle to different parts, 18109-11.

EFFECT OF BREAKING UP OF GRASS LANDS.

With regard to breaking up of grass lands and substituting small farmers for graziers, as tending to diminution of number of store cattle in West of Ireland, witness believed it would lead to increase, provided breaking up were intelligently done, not taking for this purpose best grass lands, which were required at present as part of agricultural economy of country; witness referred to finishing lands in Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, and other counties, 18074-6.—Estates Commissioners did not break up land; this was done by occupiers; it was important point, because there was great danger of redistribution of land, without sufficient agricultural education, and sufficient capital, etc., for proper tillage, 18077-8.—Assuming that land was intelligently worked, witness thought great deal of land now grazed ought to be tilled, but he could not say that grazing could be done without, though it could be reduced; it could not be done without even in five counties of Connaught, 18079-82.—Market in Ireland for fat stock was chiefly at Dublin and Belfast, 18089.—Market was supplied by Irish fat stock; there was some importation of American dead meat, 18090.—Irish fat stock was mostly grass-fed, 18091.—Witness could give figures showing total number of cattle exported and imported for each year since 1900, 18092.

Co-operative Grazing.

Grazing as now practised on eleven months' system could be gradually displaced with benefit, but witness would like to see system of co-operative grazing, 18083.—Thought objection that where several tenants grazed on one particular farm they took out as much and put in as little as possible, need not apply to well-organised society of small holders; no doubt this meant good deal of agricultural education, 18084.—Such a principle did not necessarily get rid of the encouragement belonging to individual holdings; it had difficulties, but also enormous advantages; small Irish farmers often had to send out cattle at huge rents to occupants of grass lands, as their own little patch of grass was too small, 18087.—Scheme was in its infancy, but promised well; case of co-operative farming in County Meath had resulted in much reduced cost of grazing to the individual, 18088, 18093.—If land were striped up witness thought position of these small farmers would be worse, but this was not sufficiently typical, 18094.—There were hundreds of such experiments in co-operative farming in Scotland, all very successful, 18096-7.

Assistance to Industries.

Concerning general policy of Department, it would be advisable for the Commission, besides studying evidence given on this head before Committee of Inquiry, to examine some of Department's officers, particularly, Mr. Fletcher, 18112A.

Legal Powers of Department—Limits of Competition with private enterprise.

Department could assist industries on certain main lines, most important, by means of technical instruction; this was governed chiefly by first definition clause of the Act, section 30, which defined technical instruction as instruction in principles of Science and Art applicable to industries, and in the application of special branches of Science and Art to industries, excluding instruction given in elementary schools, or teaching the practice of any trade or employment, but including instruction in use of tools, modelling in clay or other materials, 18113-4.—Second main line was by improving and assisting rural industries which, according to section 30, sub-section 1, included aiding of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairying, breeding of horses, cattle, etc., poultry, home and cottage industries, flax industry, and inland fisheries, with any industries immediately connected with any of these and instruction relating thereto, including also facilitating carriage and distribution of produce, 18114.—These words gave wide discretion, but both this definition and definition of technical instruction were meant to debar Department from promoting industries of urban character; third main line of assistance of industry was collection of information and getting expert advice concerning rural industries; this was contained in preceding section, 18115-6.—Powers of Department were thus extremely complicated, there was great difficulty in drawing line as to which industries might be assisted directly and which only indirectly through education, 18116.—In all this Congested Districts Board had absolutely free hand, 18117.—When Department came to put these powers into operation they found themselves much hampered, a quarry, for instance, being beyond their power to develop, according to legal interpretation of definition, 18118-18122.—Peat manufacture also they had imagined to be rural industry, but it was decided that it did not lie within the definition, until witness argued that experiments with peat fuel could be brought in under agriculture, as agricultural population, obtaining natural fuel at less cost, could apply labour thus saved to agriculture, 18122.—It was held that quarrying was not immediately connected with and subservient to agriculture, 18123.—Lime quarrying would have been allowable as necessary for prosecution of agriculture, 1812-45.—The quarry which they had desired to develop was Liscannor quarry for paving slabs, 18126-7.—Witness found it difficult to distinguish clearly between range of operations either agricultural or subservient to agriculture and those which were in nature of other industries, 18128.—Thought spirit of law was that everything was within their function, so long as they did not compete with private enterprise for production of finished article, but definition as it stood did not draw that line, 18129.—Department was governed by opinion of Law Officers of the Crown, 18130.—Object of work must be borne in mind; Act was clearly aiming at development of every industry which had close connection with agriculture and similar rural pursuits, though it had been explained that Act would have been worded so as to include quarrying, had its development been contemplated, 18132.—Quarrying for purposes of agricultural reclamation would be quite legal under the definition, 18131.

Comparison of Powers with those of Congested Districts Board—Question of Competition with private enterprise.

Functions of the Department were clearly less extensive than those of Congested Districts Board in reference to all those industries; in their case there was only one restriction, that they must do permanent good, and not give temporary relief only; they had power to spend public money on the establishment of any industry they chose, 18133-4, 18144.—It would be very bad thing if they were to spend public money on any enterprise when it had passed experimental stage, thus entering into competition with private enterprise, but witness maintained that Congested Districts Board were in legal position to do so, though no doubt powers would be taken from them if they acted in this way, 18135-6.—In case of jam factory at Drogheda and Portadown, already referred to, when they came to a certain point it was quite true they thought that they ought to go no further, but believed that legally they could still be running the jam factory, spending all their endowment on it, in competition with private enterprise, 18139-40.—On economic and administrative principles, such spending of public money would be quite outside intention of Legislature, but witness was speaking of letter of the law, 18141-3.—Congested Districts Board was entitled to aid with its funds in building up of industries that would permanently be of benefit to locality, 18145.—It had at all times been serious concern with Board not to aid in building up any industry that had not elements of permanent success, and its policy was to aid them to that stage when private enterprise might take them up, 18146-8.—It would not be prudent administration to continue assistance beyond this stage, 18149.—In the case of Foxford, which was wholly exceptional, Board gave very liberal financial assistance on scale which, if given in large number of instances, would have become serious competition with private enterprise; but in this case there were many peculiar considerations making it proper for Congested Districts Board to exercise powers more fully, 18150.—Question of Foxford industry had come up before Congested Districts Board more than once, and there had been complete unanimity in approval of industry as a whole, 18152-3.—Witness thought that such a Board ought not to compete with, and above all, ought not to discourage, private enterprise; ought not, for instance, to start enterprise with public money if it came to their knowledge that some manufacturer was preparing to start same industry, with good prospects of giving employment, etc., 18151.

Claim of Irish Industries to Special Assistance.

Witness agreed that past history of Ireland gave strongest claim to special assistance for Irish industries, while, at same time he did not entirely agree with evidence of Mr. Micks, at Dublin; he favoured indirect rather than direct means of promoting industries—education in its broadest sense was by far the best, though not most popular means of assistance, 18155

State Aid to Industries in Foreign Countries—Statistical and Intelligence Work.

Third main line of developing industries was by means of collecting information and getting expert advice; enquiries and reports upon commercial possibilities was one of greatest and most lasting services which a Government could perform; their inquiries in this respect had recently extended to foreign countries, where they found that there was not much more done for promotion of industries than was being done in Ireland, 18155-6.—Publication issued by Department—"*Ireland Industrial and Agricultural*"—put together by late Dr. Coyne, had spread great deal of information on subject of Irish resources and possibilities; after five years' work Department had at last succeeded in getting approximate account of exports and imports of the island; figures were for 1904, and 1905 would shortly follow, 18157.—Difficulty had always been in determining position of Ireland apart from England, as importer and exporter, there being no separate Custom Houses since 1826; Department were always ready to employ expert services in reference to any industries in contemplation, services being given free to those about to start them; these were powers under section 5, 18158-9.—Question of State aid to industries was one of the most difficult problems, because accepting principle of no competition with private enterprise, it was often very hard to see when such competition would take place; no doubt great harm would be done by aiding or even encouraging any form of industry which could not live without State support, 18159.

SLIGO CHURCH FURNITURE INDUSTRY.

In case of Sligo industry, Department did not assist it; industry was promoted by Mr. Cockran, and officers of Department, including witness, took active part in assisting him in investment of money, but Department, as such, put no money into enterprise, which was unsuccessful, 18160-1.—Officers of the Department assisted with advice in their private capacity, 18164-5.—It was fact that Mr. Cockran allowed those to whom he gave his money to select any industry which in their judgment had greatest chance of success, 18162.—Intention of advisers was to develop school and church furniture industry, and struggling sawmills industry was purchased for purpose, but it was found that difficulties of development were greater than had been anticipated, and the venture, though perfectly fair commercially, turned out unfortunate, 18163.—No teachers were endowed in Sligo, 18166.

ARMAGH AND DERRY SHIRT INDUSTRY.

There was an industry in Armagh—Co-operative Society which did shirt-making—which Department assisted, 18167.—At certain point it was handed over to Manchester firm having business in Manchester and Derry, but competing firm took exception to Department's action, saying it had injurious effect upon Derry industry, 18168-9.—The Department had really given very liberal teaching to people in extremely poor district badly in want of home industries, and no doubt this action did lower cost of production and, in so far, might be considered uneconomic; but really it was giving people certain dexterity without which they could not have promoted industry, and it was carried to point at which private enterprise took it over; in the circumstances, action was quite justified, 18169.—The Department did not subsidise the firm at all, but gave certain number of industrial scholarships, tenable in the works; that was, experts in this factory were treated as teachers, and girls went in with scholarship and learnt the trade, while scholarship made up difference to manufacturer between value of trained and raw labour, 18170.—Assistance which was given would have been given to Home Industries Society, but they came to agreement with manufacturer, and he took over whole organisation, receiving scholarship money on condition of employing certain number of persons approved by Department to learn trade, 18171.—The girls who came in did not get scholarship money, they did not want money but training; manufacturer was given scholarship money to make it worth his while to take raw labour, 18172.—There were no industries in Ireland directly subsidised by Department, but assistance was given in form of technical education, 18173-4.—It would be quite legitimate for Congested Districts Board to aid in creating industrial condition in community within congested area, with view to establishing industry that promised to be permanent in the place, provided method were sound, 18175.

QUESTION OF COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

As general principle, anything that would create industrial condition without actually running an industry was sound, object being to provide trained labour supply, expenses being always proportionate to amount of good anticipated, 18176-7.—Department were mindful of this principle within their legal limits, 18178.—As general statement it was true that where industry was already carried on by private enterprise, State aid towards entrance of new rival in sphere of industry must always be more or less in nature of competition, 18179.—Complaint from private traders of introduction of rivals, even for excellent purposes, would be quite legitimate; no State aid could possibly compensate for discouragement of private initiative, 18180.—If an industry were languishing or moribund, witness would have less hesitation in competing with it, because obviously no substantial injury would be done, 18181.—In every case would not hesitate to create trained labour supply; was quite ready to help any struggling industry to become self-supporting, 18182-3.—Existence of industry which ought to be further developed was often far more important reason for taking such measures as already explained than introduction of speculative new industry, 18184.—On the other hand, there was no use in attempting to bolster up industry dying for want of demand, 18185.

HOLIDAYS AND INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY.

It was the case that in contemplating competition of British and Irish factories one had to bear in mind frequency of holidays among Irish operatives, but holidays were readjusted with view to requirements of industry, that was if workers attended to religious duties early, they could work later in the day; such an arrangement was made for quarries at Mountcharles, for creameries, etc., 18187-90.—Witness had understood from Irish clergy that while it was not necessary to deal with question of Irish operatives working less number of hours in the week than British workmen, until occasion arose, yet if industry demanded, those in authority would come to arrangement with promoters of industry, 18191.—Witness was aware that two holidays in the week, for Jewish community, did not interfere with its progress and success, 18192.

RELATIONS OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENT—DUAL *v.* SINGLE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION.

With regard to desirability of dual or single system of administration of that portion of work of Congested Districts Board which was analogous to Department's work, witness pointed out that Department had large sphere of work which did not apply to non-congested districts only, but to whole of Ireland, such as administration of Fishery and Inland Fishery Laws, etc.; when Department was excluded from exercising functions in congested districts reason was, broadly, that Congested Districts Board had done immense amount of good work, were very popular, and, if there had been any proposal to abolish Board, probably Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act would not have been passed 1899, 18193.—Mr. G. Balfour's view, as he told witness, was that single administration was better than dual administration, and, had he been untrammelled in his judgment, he would have merged Board and Department in some way, 18194, 18266.—In 1903 position was that Department had to apply all its funds, of about £100,000 a year, for development of agriculture in non-congested portions of Ireland, while Congested Districts Board, with proportionately much greater income, was performing similar work in congested districts, 18194.—£100,000 was available for agriculture and rural industries, under definition of section 30 (1), 18196.—Congested Districts Board were able to spend in congested districts much more per head of the population than Department could do, 18198.—Witness had in mind fixed income, not reproductive income, of Board, the £86,000 made up from various sources, 18199.—This sum had to provide for administration, but provision for land operations, all expenditure not repaid by purchasing tenant, had come into stated appropriation of funds, 18199-201.

Rating Difficulty.

Administrative difficulties that arose on creation of Department were—(*a*) area of congestion; electoral division was area not known to Department's Act; under section 16 (6) of 1899 Act, rate had been raised practically all over Ireland; Department was working with 110 local representative bodies, and these, as well as Rural District Councils, could all raise rates, and, as principle was to do work through local authorities as far as possible, difficulty arose where portion of administrative area over which rate might be raised was congested, and where money, though raised partly on such areas, could not be spent therein; it was therefore decided to raise rate for purpose of Department's work over non-congested, and mainly non-congested, rural districts, excluding the congested and mainly congested; Congested Districts Board agreed to contribute *pro rata* in respect of congested portion of area included in district over which rate was raised, 18202.—This arrangement, which was the only practical one in the circumstances, necessitated much difficult adjustment between Department, Congested Districts Board, and County Committees of Agriculture; these last harassed by regulations under which their schemes had to be sanctioned by Board in respect of congested districts, while whole schemes had likewise to be sanctioned by Department; complications and overlapping could not be avoided, 18202-3.

Amending Act of 1902.

In 1902 Act was passed to enable County Committees to include all non-congested and exclude all congested electoral divisions from the rate, but some County Committees refused to put this Act into operation; change in system becoming necessary, negotiations between Board and Department took place while Act of 1903 was going through, and witness agreed on behalf of Department and Agricultural Board that Clause 18 of Act of 1899, which prohibited Department from spending any of its endowment in congested districts, should be repealed, though pointing out that justice to rest of country precluded any large diversion of funds, 18203.—In using word "district" witness meant rural districts in partly "district" witness meant rural districts in partly congested counties, 18204.—One difficulty prior to 1902, was that, in partly congested county, a district might have some electoral divisions labelled as congested, and others that were not, this making a hopeless confusion, as there was no means of raising rate for electoral division; smallest area for which rate could be raised was rural district, 18204.—Under 1899 Act rate had to be over whole county; under Technical Instruction Acts, rate could be over whole county or rural district, 18205.—Until Act of 1902 it was not possible for county authority to levy rate limited to non-congested area, this being probably accidental omission in Act of 1899, which, while allowing Department to insist on rate being raised over whole county, so that it might be able to take up Department's schemes, did not provide for Department giving anything in return for rate to that portion of county scheduled as congested, 18206.

Land Act of 1903 and Transfer of Agricultural Functions.

After passage of Act of 1903, enabling Department to operate in congested districts, working arrangement was come to between two bodies, given in Appendix to First Report of Commission, pp. 269, 270, 18206.—This arrangement came before Agricultural Board and was sanctioned by them; there were three authorities to be consulted—Congested Districts Board, Department, and Agricultural Board, the latter's approval being necessary before any agreement between the two former could be carried into effect; view put forward in Mr. Wyndham's minute, dated October 13th, 1903, was that land functions of Congested Districts Board were now assuming predominant importance in view of passage of 1903 Act, that they could not spend so much money as formerly upon other functions, particularly upon agricultural development, and that in handing over agricultural functions to Department they could not give sum of money equivalent to previous expenditure, 18207-8.—Act of 1903 had already become law when this Minute was written; it was pointed out in Minute that when using words "primary" and "secondary" work in regard to relief of congestion they referred only to order of time, that was, that re-distribution of land must come before schemes for developing agricultural industry; it was provided therefore that as primary work of Congested Districts Board was completed, funds should be devoted in aid of secondary work of Department, and, in meantime, a sum to supplement Department's work in cases of widespread poverty should be given; accordingly, £2,000 per annum was handed over and Board's establishment at Chantilly for keeping breeding animals through winter season; the transfer would not have effect of depleting savings of Agricultural Department or frustrate its policy, as, in proportion to completion of Board's primary work, further funds would become available for pushing on secondary work of agricultural and technical instruction; it appeared from this last consideration that Chief Secretary and Congested Districts Board recognised financial policy of Department in banking up surplus, this being done with knowledge that large capital expenditure would be required for educational institutions as soon as teachers could be trained, and country was ready for the commencement; witness had always regarded this policy with special pride, 18209.—There was considerable balance, but not as much as witness would like, 18210.—Memorandum also seemed to foreshadow handing over of further sums by Congested Districts Board to Department as primary work became complete; these considerations being important from point of view of Agricultural Board, as, Memorandum having been brought before them, their subsequent action was based on these anticipations, 18210. As to distinction apparently drawn in Minute between primary functions of Congested Districts Board, embracing land purchase and relief of congestion, and secondary functions, comprising agricultural schemes, thus distinguishing between relief of congestion and agricultural schemes for benefit of congested districts, probably what was meant was that obvious direct remedy to congestion was migration, enlargement of holdings, and changes of tenure as distinct from developing agriculture, 18211-5.—On 11th November of that year matter came before Agricultural Board, who, after long discussion, stated in confidential Minute that the Vice-President said Department estimated sum of at least £5,000 would be necessary for present year, in addition to the £2,000 to be transferred from Congested Districts Board for agricultural schemes in scheduled congested districts, adding that Department intended to ask each County Committee concerned to include congested areas in operations of their agricultural schemes; he therefore proposed that Board should sanction expenditure of £5,000 in connection with arrangement in question; the Board concurred, but desired to place on record their feeling that, whereas their Endowment Fund was intended to be applicable only to non-congested areas, and expenditure in connection with work taken over from Congested Districts Board must materially trench on that fund, deficit should be recouped at earliest possible date, 18215.—This referred to question of funds being available on completion of primary work, 18216.—They hoped that Chief Secretary would see his way to release further funds, relying on fact that Mr. Wyndham's Minute seemed to hold out hope of Congested Districts Board's being able, in a short time, to give funds formerly spent on work that Department was now to do to Department to do it with; what Board did was to give Department £2,000 for work which was then costing about £11,000, and as matter of fact, Board, who had been spending about £3,000 on Parish Committees, in present year spent about £12,000, so that difference between amount they were spending in 1903 and amount given to Department for work taken over was practically diverted to Parish Committees' work, 18217.—Department took over that £11,000 worth of work, with £2,000, putting upon them, roughly speaking, £9,000 additional expenditure, 18220-1.

Parish Committees.

Witness thought highly of Parish Committees, but regarded them rather in light of temporary expedient, 18218.—They were doing work largely analogous to agricultural work, and saving which Board effected by transfer of work with sum of £2,000, enabled them to subsidise Parish Committees to extent of £9,000, 18222.—Witness knew that Mr. Wyndham thought very highly of Parish Committees, 18223.—As to their efficiency, witness thought that wherever Parish Committee was working efficiently it would be great mistake to abolish it, but that possibly there were defects in their organisation; while special treatment was doubtless required in these districts, he looked forward to time when there could be uniform system of administration for economic and social development throughout country and division between congested and non-congested districts be done away with, 18261.—Additional expenditure on Parish Committees, rendered possible by Board's economy of £9,000, was, in exact figures, £8,131, having been £3,114 in 1903, and £11,245 in 1906, 18226.—Witness was not wishing to base any argument upon the figures, only that when considering great difficulties of the Department on taking over Board's work, due weight should be given to fact that Department was not able to be as bountiful as Congested Districts Board had been, 18228.

Expenditure of Department in Congested Districts—Reply to complaint that the Department was doing less than its duty, etc.

Department had not been able to spend as much as Board had been doing, for administrative as well as financial reasons; for instance, one difficulty was that Department's principle was different, as they worked, as far as possible, through local authorities, who raised rate in order to participate in schemes, while Board did all their work through central office; moreover, sanction of Agricultural Board for taking over work and expenditure in congested districts was not obtained till November, by which time all agricultural schemes had been arranged with the thirty-three County Committees, and Congested Districts could not be brought into scheme till following year—that was until 1904, 18231-2.—Department's expenditure on agricultural schemes all over Ireland was for first year (1901) £17,108, second year £35,209, third £39,888, fourth £53,377, fifth £59,881, sixth £64,480, and for current year estimate was £80,220, 18232.—Until 1903 Department could not spend money in congested electoral divisions, 18233.—Expenditure under Counties scheme, in 1904-5, the first year of new system, was £11,719, in the counties part of which are congested, and in addition £3,248 was given for special schemes in congested districts, 18236.—Matter was complicated by having County schemes which now applied to whole country alike, and the congested districts, after 1903, got their share of total County scheme and, in addition, supplemental expenditure, 18237-9.—With regard to question of whether Parish Committees spent their money upon objects not strictly agricultural, such as road-making, improvement of dwellings, etc., witness thought a great deal had been done by parish authorities to teach cultivation and development of land, but must not be taken as objecting to expenditure, 18240-1.—A wrong impression might be caused as to real objects of expenditure, because complaint now was that under Congested Districts Board this sum had been spent in improving cattle and so on, and now such work was practically abandoned, even going so far as to say that people were not getting proper return for £2,000 handed over to Department and thus creating prejudice against it, 18242A.—Witness understood he was wished to answer statement that Department was doing less than its duty; this he could not admit, though it was doing less than Congested Districts Board, 18243.—Would like to put before the Commission main lines of Department's defence; it should be remembered that in 1903 Congested Districts Board had been at work for twelve years, and Department had now been at work practically only two years, because they could not immediately adapt methods to methods of administration that Congested Districts were accustomed to; work of County Committees was rapidly increasing in volume, and would be much greater to-day but for confusion created by operations of two public bodies while working independently; for people in locality it must have been almost impossible to distinguish between functions of Board and of Department, 18244.—For twelve years people in congested districts had been accustomed to receiving assistance from Central Department, and they must require time to get used to receiving it from Committee of Local Authority; also Congested Districts Board had much larger sum to spend per head, 18247.—County Committees were bodies through which Department acted, but not Congested Districts Board; with Parish Committees Department had nothing to do; they had relations with Congested Districts Board, 18245-6.—Commission would doubtless bear in mind that money, which Department were apparently rather chary of giving away, was allotted specifically for rest of country, which had, therefore, claim upon it; also there had been comparison drawn between work of County Committees and Parish Committees; the former were quite new to the work, and in first years Parish Committees were not satisfactory, though they were now much improved; altogether there had been many difficulties; actual expenditure of Department, as against £2,000 received, was, in 1904, £1,969 on County schemes in congested areas, and on supplemental schemes, £3,248; the next year on County schemes £2,180, and on special schemes £4,514; in current year estimate was for £3,100 on County schemes, and £5,700 on supplemental schemes, 18248.—Supplemental fund came out of endowment, 18249.—As to putting in rate-spent money also in case for Department if it were raised off a district people might resent its being looked upon as a benefactor, 18250.—All these figures could be tabulated.—In addition there was sum of £10,000 voted by Agricultural Board in connection with potato famine in winter of 1904-5, by far greater part of which was spent in congested districts and was free grant, 18251.—It was given under Seed Potatoes Act, 18252.—Witness was quite aware that Congested Districts Board could not have expended funds for this purpose; it was matter of doubt whether Department ought to have done so, 18253.—Witness feared they would not get back any of the money, 18254.—Sum spent for purposes for which £2,000 was transferred was on average for last three years £6,500, working out at more than that if the £10,000 were included, 18255-6.—Witness would furnish outline of schemes in congested districts, county by county, on which Department's expenditure had been made, 18257-8.—In giving further information, at another date, witness would bear in mind Mr. Doran's answer to Sir A. MacDonnell's question, No. 3,400, 18259.

Views on Best Treatment of Congested Districts.

The proposal witness wished to put before Commission was that Department should, in some districts, administer centrally the special treatment required; he held, however, that the sooner this work could be delegated to committee of local authority, the better it would be; strong feeling of Department and of Agricultural Board was that what was lost at beginning in administrative efficiency in working with local authority, was gained many times over as local authority increased in interest and experience, 18259-60.—Witness felt that the sooner poverty could be treated wherever found, and not in special districts only, the more rapidly work of social and material advancement would progress, 18261.—Memorandum giving witness's views in full would be prepared, 18262.—In drafting this witness would bear in mind that Congested Districts Board was originally established to meet special needs of particular area, 18263-4, 18268.—As to its being intention of Legislature that Board should pull up congested areas to normal condition, witness thought plan adopted very simple and sensible; Mr. A. Balfour saying in effect, that he would give large capital sum to body of Irishmen who might be relied upon to give best thought to work, letting them expend income practically as they chose; but this was when wholly different state of things existed from now; witness could not conceive of Board being set up in 1906, composed as Congested Districts Board was in 1891, 18265.—With regard to duration of Board and Parliament's apparent intention that it should last till work was done, provided it was efficient, witness thought that if there existed in country another body which could do work in more modern way, a way more in harmony with legislative enactments since Act of 1891, such a proposition might hold no longer, 18267.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTION; DEPARTMENT'S WORKING DEFINITION, ETC.

The working definition which Department and Agricultural Board had adopted of congestion was "a condition of poverty due to deficiency of land or of other means of earning what was necessary to maintenance of decent standard of living, 18269.—Witness referred to rural congestion, excluding every town that was not a village, 18270.—This was working definition, applicable to conditions with which Congested Districts Board were dealing in certain districts, and Department all over Ireland, excluding towns and cities, 18271-2.—Definition applied to rural Ireland, with reference to special conditions requiring to be relieved, and different from some definitions in what it was not meant to apply solely to a deficiency of land nor to any particular district, 18273.—As to difference between this definition and definition of congested districts as congestion of labourers with allotments where there was no local demand for their labour; such a definition would hardly apply, for instance, to a fishing village, 18274-5.—Another definition was that rural districts were congested whenever large percentage of their inhabitants were unable to obtain decent livelihood by working in it, or from any industry which enabled them to maintain permanent connection with locality, this witness accepted substantially, 18276-8.—He had brought up matter in order that when discussing application of existing measures to exceptional conditions, Commission might understand what he meant by exceptional conditions, 18279.—Definition of some sort was necessary when administering public funds, 18280.—Witness would do away with present definition, which excluded several districts where there was congestion as marked as in scheduled districts, 18281-2.—Definition that was originally adopted had in view administrative convenience, but in working proved to be embarrasing and inequitable; it would be very difficult to frame any satisfactory definition on available statistics; policy for generally developing backward rural communities was necessary, with special treatment for congested districts, without giving them statutory right to be specially treated, 18283.—This opinion was formed as result of witness's experience, 18284.—Element of valuation in ratio to population could not be taken as guiding factor; personal inspection and knowledge of people's life was essential in determining whether district required special treatment, 18285.—Witness's definition would leave widest discretion to administrative authority; he would rather leave definition to administrative authorities responsible for economic development of backward districts, than attempt to define by statute which were communities or districts needing special treatment, 18286, 18289.—As to question with what amount of congestion district should be leavened in order to be regarded as congested, witness would not at all accept over 20 per cent. as percentage, 18287-8.—Restriction for local authority, under witness's definition, would lie in defining decent standard of living; it was hoped standard of comfort in Ireland would rise; such a standard as kept Irish people at home to-day would not keep them at home ten years hence, 18291-2.—As to leaving absolute discretion to Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board to deal within district which they regarded as needing to be dealt with as congested, rather than confining them to jurisdiction limited by definitions, witness would not like to prescribe policy for Estates Commissioners, and had nothing to do with Estates Commission, 18293-5.—Witness could not answer question as to whether there was objection to giving whatever body was constituted the administrative authority for dealing with congestion absolute discretion as to when and within what districts that special power should be exercised till he had some idea of what was administrative body and what its sphere of administration, 18296-9.

EXPENDITURE BY DEPARTMENT IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

With regard to expenditure of Department on Congested Districts, for the years 1904-5, 1905-6, and 1906-7, the amount was £20,711, plus whatever portion of the £10,000 given under Seed Potatoes Act fell to share of congested districts, probably £9,000 of it, 18300.—The £10,000 was given for the whole of Ireland, but the vast proportion was given to congested districts, 18301.—The sum came from Department's endowment, which proceeded from more funds than one, 18302-3.—This £10,000 was a free grant; effect being that cost to purchasers of potatoes was reduced to that amount, 18304.—Witness thought it was suggested at the time that in the past no interest was paid on seed loans by those who got the seed potatoes; that interest was paid out of a certain fund, which had now passed into Department's endowment, and that interest was now charged to people who got seed loans, 18305.—The £10,000 was contributed from the fund out of which, formerly, interest had been paid, but was nevertheless a free grant, because it was absolutely within discretion of Agricultural Board to vote it or not to vote it, 18306-7.—It was the fact that interest was formerly paid out of Church Temporalities Fund, which had been handed over to Department, but this was given to be expended with concurrence of Agricultural Board for certain specified purposes, and no obligation lay upon Department to finance Seed Potatoes Act, 18309.—It might be that, if the fund had not been touched, money would have been available to pay interest for people who now pay it, 18310.—The expenditure of £20,713 above mentioned was spent with same objects as by Congested Districts Board, and to produce permanent results, 18311.—The £9,000, intended merely to produce temporary results, was brought into matter because it was mostly expended in congested districts, and witness was defending Agricultural Board from charge of niggardliness in that regard, 18312.—Taking the £20,000 odd, it might be said that, on duties assigned for which £2,000 a year was paid, Department had spent nearly £7,000 a year, and in addition £10,000, or rather, such part of it as was assignable to congested districts; that was, they were £14,000 out of pocket on transactions in congested districts, having had three payments of £2,000, and Agricultural Board felt they could have been more liberal in the congested districts if they had not had to pay this exceptional sum, 18313-4.

QUESTION OF ABSORPTION OF BOARD'S WORK BY DEPARTMENT, WITH EXCEPTION OF PURCHASE AND SALE OF LAND.—RESOLUTION OF AGRICULTURAL BOARD AND PROCEDURE RECOMMENDED.

As to Agricultural Board's action with regard to work in the congested districts, a resolution passed at meeting of the Board on 17th October, 1906, defined their attitude: that it was to interest of country as a whole that single central authority should administer public moneys available for agricultural and industrial development, through technical instruction or otherwise; that Department, at present discharging, without adequate funds, certain functions of Congested Districts Board, would, if required, undertake such functions in full, save those relating to purchase and sale of land, provided transfer were accompanied with transfer of adequate funds, and of statutory powers given to Board but not to Department; that while general principles and procedure of Department were beginning to bear good fruit, exceptional treatment would have to be applied to particular districts, and therefore Advisory Committee from among those who had had experience in impoverished districts might advantageously be constituted; that in view of system of administration practised by Congested Districts Board it was advisable to urge County Committees to apply their scheme as far as possible over entire administrative area, but special schemes necesssary for exceptionally poor districts, had better, at first, be centrally administered, 18315-6 18318, 18324, 18396.—Purchase and re-sale of land, referred to, included work of striping and resettling land, and migration; these functions it was not proposed should be taken over by Department, 18325-7.—Witness was aware that suggestion had been made that land side of work of Congested Districts Board should be transferred to Estates Commissioners, 18317.—Transference of Board's schemes to Department would mean disappearance of Board, except as Advisory Committee for area at present treated as congested; Board would not necessarily be that Advisory Committee, but it seemed probable, 18319, 18415.—There was precedent for such Advisory Committee in Department's present Advisory Committees, 18320.—There was no precedent, to witness's knowledge, in British Islands for Department's organisation, but there were plenty abroad, such as Danish Department of Agriculture, 18320A-1. —Board of Trade had advisory committee on commercial intelligence, 18322.—Witness did not think proposal to make Congested Districts Board an advisory body on this basis was, so to speak, a compassionate allowance; as result of much thought and administrative experience, he had come to conclusion that resolution of Agricultural Board was generally sound, but recognised that no step should be taken without giving fullest weight to opinion of Congested Districts Board, which had had much larger experience of congested districts; thought at present stage, powers of two bodies might be merged; the growth of Department's system alongside that of Congested Districts Board could not be contemplated, 18323.—Main point was, for many reasons, that there should be single authority, and not two authorities practically doing same work, 18369, 18371.—Witness would suggest that powers and funds should go with functions, whatever alterations might be made in constitution of Department or Congested Districts Board, to deal with whole work, 18370.—Authority might possibly be remodelled, 18372.—All witness held was that Department as at present constituted and as likely to be developed, was fully competent to do work of Congested Districts Board, except land functions, 18373.—Assuming that Department was to be ultimate authority for dealing with whole subject, he fully agreed with suggestion of having body of advisers to represent interests of locality, and endorsed resolution of Agricultural Board, in which that proposal was made, 18374.—No further legislation would be needed to bring two bodies together in manner outlined because of powers given to Lord Lieutenant in Act of 1899 to transfer functions of almost any Department to the new Department, 18375-6.—As Congested Districts Board was not a Government Department it might be excepted, but witness assumed that consent of Board would be asked, 18377.—Failing agreement between two bodies, he did not anticipate that change would be made without overwhelming public opinion in its favour, so had never troubled himself much as to how thing was to be done, 18378.—As to notice having been given of the resolution of Agricultural Board, procedure did not require notice of motion, but members understood that evidence to be given on behalf of Department was to be discussed, 18380.—Members present who proposed to take over functions from Congested Districts Board were Mr. A. Clarke, Rev. Dr. Daly, Mr. R. Downes, Colonel N. Everard, Sir J. Gore-Booth, Mr. A. Lough, Lord Monteagle, Mr. H. de Fellenburg Montgomery, Mr. P. Mullally, and Mr. P. O'Neill; ten out of twelve were present, 18381.—These did not include Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, nor Dr. Healy, 18434.—Dr. Kelly had not expressed any approval of suggestion to witness, 18435.—Witness thought Dr. Kelly knew a great deal about portion of Congested Districts existing in his own diocese, and had also studied problem outside Ireland, 18436-7.—Possibly he might hesitate to express opinion on matter on which he knew Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell felt strongly, but this was mere surmise, witness did not know his reason for not expressing opinion, 18438-41.—Had not seen him, nor had correspondence with him since, 18443.—Witness subsequently found letter showing that Dr. Kelly inclined to view expressed by Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Archbishop of Tuam was absent from meeting, Rev. Dr. Daly, who was present, did not dissent from resolution, which was significant, 18461.—Inside Department everyone, including clergy, expressed opinions quite freely according to their judgment, 18462.—Congested Districts Board was semi-independent of the executive in this way, that by bare majority of members, it could administer funds in any way it chose under very wide discretion, and had not to apply to Irish Government for permission to do anything within its Act, 18382.—Its acts were reviewable by Parliament, but Board was comparatively independent with regard to Castle, 18383, 18385.—Expenditure must be according to sub-heads by which House of Commons voted the money, but there were very few sub-heads, 18384.—

Those officials of Board who were permanent civil servants were members of a Department whose salaries appeared as officials of Congested Districts Board in the votes, 18386.—£2,500 of money which went to Board in the vote was voted under heading Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland, 18387.—This was mere formality, probably because it was temporary Commission, it had no separate vote of its own, 18388.—With reference to future administration of Congested Districts Board, control of its funds, &c., witness thought he might, in giving evidence, have accepted suggestion contained in question 3400, addressed to Mr. Doran, too readily, 18389-90.—He was distinctly of opinion that, having regard to conditions under which effective administration of Congested Districts might be carried out, these conditions could be fulfilled by modification of his Department, 18392.—Wished to make it quite clear that he agreed with necessity for exceptional treatment as suggested in question 3400, but was convinced that examination of work and progress of Department, its difficulties, &c., would show that as a whole, with its local affiliations, it was fully competent to make this contribution to economic development of country; no Government Department had ever been submitted to such an ordeal as this Department in Commission of Inquiry held shortly after its creation, 18394.—There would be no difficulty except financial difficulty in providing for particular conditions mentioned, 18395.—Development of witness's scheme would substantially take the form expressed by resolution of Agricultural Board already referred to, 18396.—The Advisory Committee mentioned therein would be central, though there might be local committees as well, 18397.—It would be helpful to have local organisations, but they must be advisory rather than administrative, as far as Department was concerned, when schemes were worked by County Committees, possibly they might delegate functions to local committee, 18406-7.—The scheme for congestion would be brought under control of Agricultural Board, advised by the expert "Congestion" Committee, 18398-9.—Agricultural Board was in direct relations with County Committees, in the fact that two-thirds of its number emanated from those bodies, position was that Board advised Department which was in direct communication with County Councils, which appointed County Committees, so that there would be point of contact between Agricultural Board and county, 18400-1.—The supplemental schemes, which might be called Congested Districts schemes, using term in its legal sense, would not be administered by County Committee, but as to main scheme, Department would use every endeavour with County Committee that they should frame scheme so as to meet conditions of poorer portions of their administrative area, 18402-3.—There would be popular control exercised over supplemental scheme on Departmental plan, 18404-5.—In process of development of County Council witness would expect that their functions would largely extend to more minute functions referred to in this question, 18408.—Pending such development, there would be no special branch of Department itself created to deal with special districts, because of strong feeling that it was inadvisable to treat scheduled districts differently from other districts, Department's main object would be to bring backward districts with State help up to level where they would be able to join general organisation, 18409-10.—Till they were brought up to that level they would be specially dealt with, but Department did not wish to disturb present system in this respect, but that Boards should continue to be controlling authority over whole endowment fund, 18411-2.—In some special districts there would be special officers doing special work, but these in many cases would be doing analogous work in adjoining districts, 18413.—All these schemes were administered by committee of the county and through officers appointed by the county, so that in some counties central supplemental scheme would not be required; a county with small district requiring exceptional treatment might be given special grant in order to put in operation special scheme which could thus be administered by local authority; Department wished to develop administration by local authority as rapidly as possible, but problem of raising status of backward people was very complex one, and such bodies as Congested Districts Board and

PLUNKETT, The Right Hon. Sir H.—*continued.*

Department could better, in first instance at any rate, administer centrally, 18414.—Agency necessarily employed outside functions of County Committees and organisations for raising congested tracts to level of rest of country would be local committees, and perhaps Parish Committees in some districts; main work in first instance would have to be done rather intensively by body of expert officers, 18415.—Witness did not differentiate between officers of Congested Districts Board and those of Department, but administrative principle was involved, Department's principle was gradually to broaden basis of their popular control rather than continue Board's system, even with Parish Committees this did not lead in same degree to social development as Department's system, 18416. —Department wanted to introduce popular control into their agency for dealing with congestion as rapidly as was consistent with sound economic administration, 18417.—It would be very difficult for Committees of County Councils to act, although they were administrative bodies set up by statute, 18418. — Simplicity might be carried too far; in dealing with complicated problem, expert work would be required, also, in congested districts direct administration by central body had prevailed for fifteen years, consequently giving all such work over to local body would be very sudden revolution, 18419.—Class of work dealt with in this way, excluding purchase, sale, and distribution of land, would be general agriculture and industrial development, mainly through education, which, in its broadest sense, was real remedy, though in present depressed condition of people more immediate forms of assistance, such as improvement of live stock, etc., could not be dispensed with, 18421.—Congested Districts Board had already divested itself of handling of agriculture schemes, except agricultural portion of Parish Committee schemes; the Board still dealt with industries, 18422-3.—Board had budget of £5,000 or £6,000, managed by Mr. Walker; it would be very desirable to take over these schemes and co-ordinate them, 18424-5. —With regard to fisheries, at present managed by Mr. Green, an officer in Department, it would be no dislocation of work to take them over, 18426-7.—Witness considered work of domestic economy of enormous importance and it was intended to be carried out thoroughly in rural districts, 18428-9.—If such transfer of amalgamation were effected, Department would be able to find employment for all staff of Congested Districts Board, and many more, if adequate funds were given to carry out policy of Agricultural Board, 18430.—So that, if Congested Districts Board were to disappear, its work would be carried on by Department, and, so far as congested tracts were fit for it, under popular control of County Councils, but change must come about gradually, 18432.—Witness had already agreed that it would be important for Commission, in deciding which body would be better qualified to direct operations in the future, to investigate question in congested area itself, 18444.—County Councils had indirectly a voice in selecting Agricultural Board, 18445.—They named County Committees, 18446.—County Committee had no direct relations with Agricultural Board, but, no doubt, strong influence with it, first through Council of Agriculture, and secondly because every local scheme coming to Agricultural Board for its approval, had first been thrashed out between Department and Local Committee, or else approved in principle by Board, before going to County Committee, 18447.—Relations, however, were direct and immediate between County Committees and Department, 18448.—Regarding scheme for popular element in various bodies which assisted Department, the Department itself consisted only in technical sense of Chief Secretary and Vice-President, 18450.—Agency of Department being largely through local Committees, witness thought that Parish Committees, as conceived by Congested Districts Board, ought to provide the services of the best men in the locality for that locality, 18452-3.—As to central agency being necessary at first, to administer special treatment to congested areas, witness meant the Department of Government, as distinct from local representative body; he had in mind only two bodies, Congested Districts Board and the Department, 18454.—A special agency would be required for building up congested area to a *quasi* normal condition, with qualifying desire to delegate more and more work to local authority as poor districts were brought up to higher level, 18455.—Agency at present established to do that work was Congested Districts Board, in congested districts, 18456-7.—Witness, though filled with admiration for work done by Congested Districts Board, was inclined to think that work had perhaps been done on wrong lines, though even where results were negative, it did not follow that time or money had been wasted, 18458.—In considering whether Congested Districts Board should be disbanded while still doing effective work, the sole consideration should be how work could be most efficiently done; if, since Board was formed, whole system of administration in the country had become democratised, and people were gradually becoming familiarised with methods of organised self-help, more important than anything the State could do for them, then witness thought time had come to consider whether the institution ought not to be revised in view of altered circumstances; as matter of administrative experience he held that system of Congested Districts Board no longer suited peculiar needs of country, 18459.—It would be of the first importance, and part of work of the Commission to ascertain views of sensible people in districts most affected, 18460.—View that one could not pronounce on question who had not studied districts was most strongly held by Agricultural Board, several members of which, such as Mr. P. O'Neill, had made personal study of some of poorest parts, for this very reason, 18461.

POWERS OF GOVERNMENT TO EFFECT CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION—QUESTION OF CHANGE BEING DESIRABLE.

In the resolution Agricultural Board made condition of being asked to undertake functions, witness presumed they would be asked by Government of the day; understood that Irish Government had power, under Act of 1899, to transfer by Order in Council all functions of Congested Districts Board to Department, so that, if Board were to agree with this resolution, no legislation would be required; no doubt Congested Districts Board would be asked their opinion, 18336-9.—Witness could not speak too highly of members of Board; a real knowledge of congested area was more important qualification, therefore it would be important for a man either to reside a while in congested districts or to go about generally through poorest parts, 18340-2.—Going through congested area one could come to no other conclusion than that Congested Districts Board had done a great deal, 18343.—If it were necessary to institute comparisons, witness thought that Department had done work for fisheries and industries comparable to that of Congested Districts Board, taking into account respective funds, available powers, and time that bodies had been at work, 18344.—It would be very important for Commission to see with their own eyes work done by Board for fisheries and industries, and to profit by Board's experience, &c., 18345.—As to agreement about handing over work, witness's idea was that it would be strongly opposed at first by some members of Congested Districts Board, but that even in some congested districts feeling would be the other way, 18347.—Feeling in area itself, whether for or against, was factor to be considered, but necessary allowance made for change of principles upon which work was to be carried on, 18348.—With regard to time when such agreement about transfer of functions might be expected, when all facts were before the public, witness believed there would be strong majority in favour of simplifying administration by having single system on lines of Department of Agriculture, 18349-52.—He would not postpone single system to time when Congested Districts Board had done its work of pulling up West of Ireland to normal conditions, because that was distant, 18353.—It was matter of his own knowledge that Board had already done a great deal towards the levelling up of those districts, 18354.—Witness considered that Vice-President of Department of Agriculture ought not to express political views, in his official capacity, and deprecated questions of a political character, since he was at present giving evidence in his official capacity, 18355-62.—With regard to consideration of constitution of Congested Districts Board, on account of changes resulting in last fifteen years—from Local Government Act, for instance—it was possible that further political changes in Ireland might take place in another year, but witness would not, as at present advised, consider changes in his Department on this account, which would mean disappearance of Council of Agriculture and Agricultural Board, with which he was very well satisfied, 18495-500.—Great difficulty and confusion had resulted from fact of Congested Districts Board being engaged in carrying out similar work to that of Department in Congested Districts; this was inevitable when two bodies were working side by side on wholly different principles, with two sets of officers, and two sources of money for analogous work; co-ordination between Department and Congested Districts Board had minimised evils of dual administration, but it was still bad, and if continued without considerable further adjustment, to which they did not see way, might stay progress; clashing existed, especially in minds of people concerned, 18501-2.—Unless sphere of operations could be absolutely separated, which was not possible under present, or any conceivable circumstances, one body was better than two, 18503.—As to committing nine congested counties to care of Congested Districts Board, keeping Estates Commissioners outside those counties entirely, witness preferred not to give an opinion not having been able to become sufficiently familiar with land functions of Estates Commissioners or in late years of Congested Districts Board, 18504-5.

PLACE OF PARISH COMMITTEES IN A RE-CONSTITUTED SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION.

As to what Agricultural Board, in passing resolution, contemplated with regard to Parish Committees, witness could not state their policy, but thought their feeling would be to make as good use of these institutions established by Congested Districts Board as Board had done, and they might probably merge Parish Committee into some form of organisation a little more in harmony with work through local committees; whatever body might take the work over it ought not to be rashly revolutionised, 18363-4.—In considering whole question of Parish Committees, witness did not think if work of agricultural development were entirely entrusted to his Department that they would adopt constitution of Parish Committees for local service, but if any were doing good work they might be used for local administration; their system was more suited to Congested Districts Board's methods than to those of Department, 18463-4.

ATTITUDE OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD ON QUESTION OF TRANSFERENCE.

With regard to feeling of Congested Districts Board on question of transference, no doubt they would discuss question strictly on its merits; the question really was one of direction, rather than performance, of the work; it should be looked at, not from point of view of feelings of bodies engaged, but from that of real interests of population of these poor districts, 18365.—As to advantage of exceptional powers and independence of Congested Districts Board, of course, if its powers were transferred with its functions, the question of exceptional powers would not arise, and witness did not think dependence upon a popularly constituted element in Department would be at all restrictive; nor that there would be any embarrassment in administering congested districts work under this constitution, 18366.—There had at all times been disposition between Congested Districts Board and Department to work harmoniously together; they had alreadw adjusted many troubles existing in former years, 18367-8.

DEPARTMENT AND GAME PRESERVATION.

As to game industry, it might in some districts be important subsidiary means of subsistence; it was contribution to wealth, 18469-71.—In consideration of question whether game could be taken as within the meaning of Section 5 and Section 30 of Act of 1899 in regard to collection of information for purposes of agriculture and other rural industries, game might be brought in as subsidiary industry, although it had never been so considered; it was obviously very near to some subjects mentioned in Section 30 (1), 18472-4A.—If good case were made out for improving condition of poor people in any district by means of game preservation, Department would very seriously consider it; if district were so wild that nothing better could be done than to preserve certain class of game, that ought to be done rather than nothing at all, 18475-6.—Agreeing that game was element of wealth in country and that co-operation of people themselves was necessary to increase it, Department's efforts would be concerned as being all based on co-operation; it was certainly important matter to consider, 18477-9.

LIVE STOCK.—INFERIOR BREEDING ANIMALS.

With regard to live stock and the nullification of efforts to improve it, by inferior bulls being allowed to run loose over the country, the question had been debated at Council of Agriculture, and large body of opinion was in favour of drastic measures to check evil, but nothing could be done without legislation, 18481.—So far there had been no such consensus of opinion as would justify Department in making recommendation to Government in the matter, 18481.

GLOVE FACTORY.

Project had been started in County Tipperary for establishing glove factory, 18482.—Department was connected with it to this extent, that at Munster-Connaught Exhibition they arranged with Messrs. Fownes to give working demonstration of glove-making, on ground of its having been former Irish industry; this exhibit arousing great interest, inquiries were made in various localities as to possibility of inducing inhabitants to invite Messrs. Fownes to start industry, and at Tipperary, there being encouraging combination of forces, Department offered to pay cost of instructing certain number of workers, if Messrs. Fownes would come over and carry on glove-making for certain period; assistance given them would not really recoup them in case of failure, so it might be assumed that they anticipated success, 18483-4.—As to choice of locality, Inspector was looking round several localities, and got into touch with this particular district, 18485.—Formerly glove-making had been great industry, both at this place and in other parts, 18486-7.—Department were paying wages of two teachers in the glove factory, but were not giving scholarships, 18488-9.—Glove-making, as an industry, was not being carried on in Ireland at time of the Exhibition; it was not merely an exhibition of gloves, but a demonstration of various processes of manufacturing them; the gloves were not taken from Ireland, except that skins were probably Irish, 18490-4.

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DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. IV.

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See also pp. 13 *and* 545.

Explanation of Memoranda and Map.

At October meeting of Commission witness was asked to prepare memorandum on condition of fisheries during four periods, 1775-1800, 1800-1837, 1837-1870, 1870 present time, witness only prepared rough notes, Memorandum B sketched history of Irish fisheries since 1775, Acts of Parliament relating to bounties from 1763-1830 were added, 18508-10, 18527.—Witness afterwards prepared Memorandum C, which dealt with ports selected by Congested Districts Board along coasts of congested districts as centres for development, 18510.—A map was prepared by the Inspectors of Fisheries in 1891, with table annexed, of marine works constructed under Board of Works and various Commissions, some were completed before 1832, 18510-11.—Those carried out shown by coloured dots, 18513.—Points in colour were works made by Board of Works, or Piers or Roads Commission, or some Commission preceding that, works executed by Congested Districts Board marked by long strokes terminating in circles, added since map was first made, map showed marine works pretty well up-to-date, 18514-7.—A few works carried out under the Marine Works Act not shown, 18518, 18522-3.—With these exceptions map applied to the whole of West, 18521.—Exact description of each work given in "Reference" above table on map, or in list of Congested Districts Board Works, 18511.

Bodies carrying out Marine Works.

The works were not carried out according to a general plan, but built by different Commissions, a few by old Fishery Board in 1829 and 1830, 18512, 18527.—Marine Works Act administered by a body acting directly under Irish Executive, 18524.—It affected industries of coast in so far as Congested Districts Board had an interest in it and had, as had the Department of Agriculture in one instance, contributed 10 per cent. of the cost of works executed under it, 18525.

Division of Responsibility between Board of Works and Fishery Inspectors.

As Inspector of Fisheries witness was consulted in regard to construction of marine works, but expenditure of grant of £25,000 made in 1881, was carried out by Board of Works and a committee partly composed of Inspectors of Fisheries was appointed to select sites for works. Board of Works and special Fisheries Committee not at one, Board refusing committee's request for engineering advice, 18528.—Also refused by Treasury on grounds that committee had assistance of Board. Board only felt obliged to execute work decided on, Board and committee repudiated responsibility for selection of sites, 18529.—In 1870 Fisheries Loan Fund, collected during Famine of 1822 and administered till 1870 by private society was transferred to Inspectors of Fisheries who practically became a fishery board, 18534-5.—Inspectors never had power for building piers, though all the other authorities had, and this led to terrible waste of money, 18536-8.—Report of Allport Commission reviewed joint action of Board and committee, 18528-9.—Fishery and Harbour Improvement Authorities ought to be identical as in Scotland, 18529.

Report of Allport Commission.

Allport Commission reported on division of responsibility for harbour works between (1) Fishery Inspectors or Fishery Piers and Harbours Commission, (2) Board of Works, (3) the Grand Jury, 18532.—Commissioners commented on personal friction between the two Government departments, selections of sites and estimates of expenditure were made without competent professional advice, 18532A-3.—Abolition of the old Fishery Board followed by policy of non-interference, from about 1830-1847 practically nothing was done by the State for Irish fisheries, 18530-1.

GREEN, Rev. W. SPOTSWOOD—*continued.*

Withdrawal of Subsidy of £3,500 a year made under Act of 1829.

The £3,500 allotted to Ireland at abolition of bounties for building harbours was administered by Board of Works, one member being appointed Fishery Commissioner, witness thought that fund began with £5,000, declined to £3,000, 18539.—In Scotland the £3,000 allotted in 1829 had been continued ever since, 18540-1.—Ireland's £3,000 was granted for five years to wind up obligations undertaken, 18539, 18542, 18548.—Question whether it was permanent negatived by law officers, 18543-4, 18546.—Question came up over Act of 1842 codifying Irish fishery statutes, 18544, 18548.—£3,000 ceased about 1835, Irish Fishery Board was abolished about 1830, 18547-8.—Inspectors of Fisheries had no fund, and no body had permanent funds for building fishery piers in Ireland, 18549-50.

Present Position.

The £3,000 not received in any form, temporary Commissions appointed to deal with occasional grants, some given as loans, on whose repayment money was again expended, 18551.—Witness thought occasional grants equalled annual grants to Scotland, but were less judiciously expended, 18557-9, 18606.—Congested Districts Board had funds to expend on piers or whatever it chose in congested districts, improvement of piers was also part of purpose of annual sum allotted to Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, started in 1900, Department and Congested Districts Boards did not overlap, 18552-5.

Comparison between Scotch and Irish Fisheries.

Scotch fisheries seven times as productive as the Irish fisheries, 18567-8.—In considering Scotch fishery, herring fishing must be taken separately from trawl fishing, 18566, 18568, 18628.—Nothing in physical fact of distribution of fish to explain disparity, Irish coast fisheries just as valuable as Scotch coast fisheries, 18569-70, 18595.

Productivity of Waters.

Irish waters as good as the Scotch per square mile, 18561.—Very fruitful at different times and places, 18652.—And western herrings were the better fish, 18561.—Superiority was in quality of fish, 18676.—Formerly herrings were said to be permanent on Irish coast, occasional visitants only on Scotch coasts, but for the last fifty years the reverse had been the case, 18560.—For sixty years, while Scotch herring fishing was worth a million a year, there was no herring fishing in Ireland, 18561.—North Sea herring area four times as large as Irish Sea herring area, 18561.—West Coast of Ireland very much exposed, whereas on West Coast of Scotland there was sheltered fishing area in the lochs, 18561, 18563.—Very little fish inside the Long Island, 18564-5.

Expenditure on Fisheries.

Expenditure on fishery development not greater in Scotland than in Ireland except that Fishery Board and herring brand were maintained in Scotland up to 1859 at cost of State, 18602-4.—More expended in bounties in Scotland than in Ireland, 18668-9.—Bounties were paid mainly on results, 18670-2.

Means of Distribution and Geographical Position.

Scotland had the advantage of being more effectively in touch with markets, 18571.

Harbour Accommodation.

Scotland ate very little of the fish landed there, facilities for rail transit from Aberdeen to England greater than anything Ireland could have, 18635.—Great Midland towns of England were the market for Scotch and Irish fish, 18636.—Large proportion of Irish fish went to England, 18637.—

English and Scotch ports more convenient for Continental market, 18640-1.—Witness had himself organised transit across Ireland to England for fresh mackerel, 18707-8.—And steamers had taken herrings from Burtonport to Glasgow, 18710.—Where fishing was good, means of transit would be found unless it was a question of railway, 18710.—Longest time herrings could be kept before delivery in saleable condition was forty-eight hours, 18711.—Mackerel, herring, and other fisheries might be developed if railway was opened to Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven, 18587.—Scotland had better harbours, expenditure on harbours had been, if not larger, certainly more effective than in Ireland, 18573-8, 18597-9.—Facilities had been provided as the trade grew, 18601, 18604.—And the treatment had been systematic, 18606.—Expenditure had been controlled by the Fishery Body, 18607.

Much good could be done by provision of harbours in Ireland, 18590, 18599.—Those made hitherto very good as regards engineering, 18591-2.—Future expenditure should be controlled by experienced authorities in Ireland, 18593-4, 18600.—Experience of what was wanted more important than any other qualification, 18607.

No knowledge that fish really travelled, presumption was that they were local schools, 18681.—Very little difference between Castle Bay and Downings Bay herrings, 18682.—Downings Bay the best, Castle Bay gentleman had been caught branding their herrings Downings Bay, 18683-4.

Statistics affected by Steam Trawlers landing Fish near Markets.

Effective expenditure on harbours, &c. in Ireland would increase value of inshore fisheries, but it was impossible to bring value of fish landed in Ireland up to value of fish landed in Scotland, 18579-81. Trawl fish which formed so large a proportion of the total for Scotland came not from coast fisheries, but from whole of the North Sea, Faroe Islands, Bay of Biscay, Irish Coast, &c., 18582.—Proportion of trawl fish in Scotland nearly half of total catch, 18626-7.—Fish caught by Scotch trawlers on Irish coast did not affect comparison between Ireland and Scotland, as it was all landed at Fleetwood, 18629-31.—Nine steam trawlers owned in Dublin supplied Dublin market, 18634.—Some Irish-owned trawlers delivered in Milford to be in touch with markets they catered for, 18634.—Whole place fished by steam trawlers who caught fish where they did congregate, 18714.—Better harbour accommodation would not induce steam trawlers to land fish in Ireland, it was more economical to steam direct to English port than to break bulk at Galway or Blacksod Bay, and have fish transshipped, 18583-7, 18638-9, 18712.

Cured Fish.

Curing trade affected by different set of circumstances, higher freight from West Coast of Ireland more than counterbalanced by superiority of fish, 18641-5.—Western bays were worked by sailing trawlers delivering fish in Ireland, considerable number of steam trawlers also owned in Ireland, 18588.—Killybegs or Fenit would be suitable as harbour for steam trawlers, 18589.

Kind of Boats used.

Irish herring fishing might be as good as Scotch if there were harbours in proper places to keep boats that would be fit to take part in it, twelve fine boats wrecked on Donegal coast two months ago, 18608.—Recent direction of development of Scotch herring fishing was by extension of time during which fish could be got, 18609-12.—Larger boats required to follow fish out to sea, 18613-4.

Difference between Irish and Scottish Fishing Grounds.

Weather conditions in the Atlantic too unfavourable even for very big and well-fitted boats, 18615-6.—No unknown possibilities on East Coast of Ireland, 18617-8.—Supply of fish on East Coast of Ireland had fluctuated greatly from year to year, 18619.—It was not constant throughout the year, 18620-1.—Usual time for herrings from Howth to Ardglass was from July to November, 18622.—Six months of a dead season, 18623.—Supply as constant in inshore waters of Ireland as of Scotland, 18632.—Hard to compare outshore waters, because outshore waters of Scotland meant Iceland, 18633.—Coast fisheries might be defined as those worked by rowboats, inshore fisheries those worked by sailing vessels which returned to port every day with their catch, offshore fisheries those anywhere farther at sea than the latter, development must be looked for chiefly in coast and inshore fisheries, 18633.

Home Consumption in Ireland.

Small value of fish landed in Ireland as compared with England or Scotland due to small home consumption and fact that it would not pay to export more, 18648.—And the superior safety of catering of great English markets, 18649.—Much of fish consumed in Ireland came from English distributing markets, 18650.—Special Commissioner had been sent by Department of Agriculture to endeavour to develop fish trade in country towns, 18650.—His reports were encouraging to some extent, 18651.—Revival of Irish fisheries might have come sooner had there been in existence an authority with means and powers to promote Irish fisheries, 18653.

Number of Men Employed.

Nearly 100,000 men and boys employed in the year before the Famine, at present only 20,000, 18654-5.

Amount of Money Earned.

Irish fishermen in many cases earned more than English or Scotch fishermen, 18656-8.—In fast-going vessels it was machinery created by capital that caught the fish, 18659-60.—And a large share went to the boat, 18704-6.—In England catching of £7,000,000 worth of fish employed only 42,000 fishermen, in Ireland catching of £400,000 worth employed 26,000 fishermen, 18660.—Great deal of fish came into Ireland that was not caught there, 18661.

Class of Boat used.

Number of first-class vessels owned in Ireland very small and getting smaller, 18662.—Tendency was to go back to smaller boats, fishermen thought it paid better unless they could get steamers, 18662-5.—Development of steam not favourable to employment of large number of fishermen, 18666.—Very desirable where there was a valuable fishery as in Donegal to let men get larger and larger boats as they found them pay, 18665.

Brand for Mackerel.

Inquiries being held in regard to branding of Irish mackerel, 18674.—Irish curers had the matter very in their own hands, 18675.—Congested Districts Board had brought about a curing of herrings, 18679.

Movements of Fish.

Department's scientific explorations went about 100 miles out, systematic study made of physical changes causing movements of fish, 18685.

Fishing Season in Different Localities.

Fish caught twenty or thirty miles off Lewis, 18686-7, 18690.—Nobody fished twenty or thirty miles off West Coast of Ireland except in steam trawlers, 18688.—Nobody fished herrings except in April, May, and June, 18689, 18693.—April a voluntary close time off Lewis, men went to Shetland in late spring because that was when herrings were to be had there, 18694-5. In Ireland herrings could be caught off North-west coast far off at sea in April and May, and off South coast at same time, fish poor at first, excellent in May and early June, 18696-7.—Fishing then stopped till October, 18698.—Fishings going on all the time in North Sea and Irish Sea, 18699.—Herrings always to be caught in the Atlantic, but not enough to make a valuable fishery except in months mentioned, 18701.—Steam drifters would not improve matters, men could not pay interest on capital and make a living, 18702.—Though steam

GREEN, Rev. W. SPOTSWOOD—*continued*.

drifters would be useful in May fishing, 18703.—Connemara fisheries might be as good as 100 years ago if the herring came back, but at present it was useless to equip men with boats which they knew would not pay, 18713.—Change in fishery season last year, instead of coming as usual in autumn, herring did not come till January, and the same thing occurred with mackerel, 18714.

Downing's Bay Pier in the Wrong Place.

Downing's Bay pier was in the wrong place, 18715-8, 18723.—Site suggested by a Relief of Distress Commission, pier built by Board of Works, 18719-21.—Great opposition to site, 18722.—West of the pier there was a natural creek where water was deeper and still, 18717, 18724-5.—Present pier was in centre of the surf, 18725.—Boats lost before Christmas were anchored off the pier out in the bay, 18725-6.—Three boats at the pier saved with great exertions, 18726-7.—Others dragged anchor, 18728.—Wind began North-westerly and went North, 18729.—Men themselves stood the loss, part of it being met by insurance, 18730.—There were two objects in building piers, one to build deep-water harbours for large fishing boats, the other to build small slips for small boats; authorities, being apparently unable to decide which should be built, struck an average at each place, so that harbours were not good enough for large boats, and piers were needlessly expensive for small boats, 18731.

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DUTHIE, Mr. A. T.

Cod and Ling Fishing and Curing Trade.

Witness joined Board's service in October of 1893. In 1893 the Board had cured cod and ling at Inishcoo, Downing's Bay, Teelin, and Malinbeg, 30 years before a Belfast gentleman cured cod and ling at Teelin, but gave up the work apparently because the fish went away, 18732.—Teelin men said cod and ling did not enter the Bay for years, but became plentiful about 1890, many cod and ling curing stations had been opened before October of 1893, 18733.—Trade was prosperous, 18737.—Conger eel fishing came with cod, 18738.—The fish were sold in Liverpool and Belfast at an average price, those sold in Liverpool was perhaps bought for export, 18962, 18968-9, 18972.

Herring Curing.

Board opened a curing station for herrings at Inishcoo in 1893, and J. and R. Watson, of Derry, started herring curing at Burtonport in the same year, Board also opened herring curing stations at Inishmaane and Downing's Bay, Board afterwards opened herring curing stations at Magheragallon, &c, in order to remove station from Inishmaane to the mainland, where Board had built a pier convenient for boats from Magheragallon and neighbouring islands, the pier was not built for steamers, it cost about £250, Board opened herring curing stations at Gortnasate and Rosbeg, and curing stations at many other places, 18734-5, 18738.—The first herring curing on the coast was begun by Board at Burtonport, in 1892 the Board cured 20,000 herrings, 18739-41.—James Sweeney, of Dungloe, started curing about 1896, then the Donegal Fish Company started, others followed, for a few years, about 1893-8, the Board and Messrs. Watson bought and cured all herrings caught from Teelin to Downing's, and landed at Burtonport, 18742, 18745-7, 18751, 18757, 18798.—The late Father Bernard Walker was active in developing the fishing industry, but attributed the work to the Board, 18743.—Curing stations were opened by Board at Inishmurray, Tory, Malin Head, &c., 18744.

DUTHIE, Mr. A. T.—*continued.*

Profit on Curing Operations.—Commercial Work of the Board.

Board gave loans to fishermen for boats, nets, and fishing gear, 18745.—Board in early years worked curing stations for cod, ling, herring, and mackerel on Donegal, Mayo, and Galway coasts, employing skilled curers and training local ones, trade since handed over to merchants working on Board's lines, 18994-7.—Board's profit on their whole curing operations was about £300 to end of 1897, after 1897 not much curing was done by the Board, 18748.—Board's report of 1895 gave a profit and loss account for the year on herring curing, mackerel curing, and cod and ling curing, the accounts were compiled carefully, every item being charged that should be charged by any fish merchant, 18758.—The £300 profit was, of course, all a matter of accounting, 18771.—Board's object was to make the business sound, they were careful not to pay too high prices, merchants afterwards paid higher prices, 18749-51.—Board's policy was successful in inducing merchants to take over the trade, 18754-5, 18772.—J. and R. Watson's coming to Burtonport due to Board's initiative, Messrs. Watson worked in harmony with Board, 18752-3.—From 1893 to 1898 the fishermen needed all the Board's encouragement, 18757.—Board's operations were confined to congested districts 18759.—And extended from north of Donegal to Galway Bay, 18760.

Disposal of Buildings after Withdrawal of the Board from Curing Work, &c.

Board erected suitable inexpensive buildings for sorting fish, etc., 18761, 18776-9, 18781.—Depreciation was charged against buildings and plant, and that was set against the profit in the accounts, 18762, 18781-2.—The buildings had since been let to other curers, as far as possible to those who dealt fairly with the men, 18763, 18765, 18768-70, 18783.—The rent paid for buildings was not quite equal to the depreciation charged by the Board, 18784.—A mistake made by Mr. Sutherland in saying a loss of £13,000 was shown by a table was probably due to the fact that the Board built curing stations, boat slips, etc., which might be charged to curing, but could not fairly be so charged, 18764.—The retention of curing stations in the Board's hands was still desirable in some places, curing and fishing being less advanced in Ireland than in Scotland, and not yet ready to dispense with supervision, 18766, 18785-6.

The mackerel curing carried on on the Galway and Mayo coasts was also started by the Board, 18773. Kerry people carried on curing themselves, Board aiding them in starting barrel industry, 18774.

Downing's Bay was the centre of Board's herring fishing, there was a great deal of fishing at Burtonport, but it was not very successful in 1906, 18787.

Difference in Size and Quality of Herrings.

Burtonport herrings were equal to the Downing's Bay herrings in appearance, but did not hold as good a position in the market, perhaps because the Downing's Bay herrings were earlier known in America, both kinds were especially good, 18788-9.—Herrings caught at Kenmare Bay were small, 18791.—Herring fishing might be developed further south, there was good fishing in Kenmare Bay in January of 1907, 18790.—North Donegal herrings were the finest, 18796.—Atlantic herrings caught off the North of Ireland were larger than those caught off the coasts of England, Scotland, and the South of Ireland, 18797.—Herring fishing might be developed further south, there was good fishing in Kenmare Bay, two years before herrings had been caught at Kenmare Bay, and Board received and granted applications for nets, and also sent barrels and salt, no herrings were caught at Kenmare in 1906, but in 1907 they came, and the business was taken up by a Galway curer, 18791.—This fishing was going on about the middle of January in 1907, it was worked with small boats, and was inshore fishing, 18790-3.—Large boats would be useful for offshore fishing early in the season; when the herrings came into the bight small boats were better, 18794.

Prices and Markets for Cured and Fresh Herrings.

Donegal herring fishing had steadily progressed since 1893, Board trained boys and girls to gut, pack, and cure herrings to suit various markets, 18798.—But at first the bulk of the herrings were sold in Ireland at lower prices than afterwards, a barrel at first fetching 22*s.* in the West of Ireland, foreign markets had since been opened up by private merchants, Irish, Scotch, and English, who came to Donegal and cured herrings, and soon relieved the Board of the curing stations, in 1907 there were more than sixty herring curers and merchants on the Donegal coast, the demand for herrings was constant, the highest prices were paid to the fishermen, especially at Downing's Bay, the chief trade was curing, but fresh herrings were sent by rail and steamer to Glasgow and to Derry for England, herrings were kippered for England at Edernish, 18798, 18809-11.—The curing trade was the most profitable for Downing's Bay herrings, the market for fresh herrings was easily glutted, cured Downing's Bay herrings had fetched £5 a cran, but the average was £3, Castle Bay herrings fetched less, in one instance the Downing's Bay mark had been put on Castle Bay barrels, 18800-6, 18812, 18818-9.—Profitable character of curing trade was encouraging to the fishing industry as making Ireland independent of home markets, quick access to foreign markets was rendered difficult by her geographical position, but was less important for cured fish than fresh, 18807-9.—Witness thought no fresh herrings were sent from Downing's Bay in 1906, 18811, 18819.—The Bay was eight miles from a railway station, the railway's extension to the harbour and a daily service to Londonderry for Glasgow were desirable for cured fish, flat fish, and haddock trades, 18811-5 18820-2.—Downing's Bay cured herrings were all shipped to Glasgow and thence to America, Germany, or Russia, 18816.—It was a great matter to get the railway as near as Creeslough, 18817.—Line was planned before Downing's Bay became important, 18823-4.—At least before summer herring fishing began, but after Downing's became an important fishing centre, 18825.—Summer herrings were sent to Germany and Russia, autumn herrings to New York, where Jews were their chief purchasers, 18819.

Value of the Herring Fishing.

For autumn herring catch of 1893 the net earnings for the coast between Teelin and Downing's were under £1,500, £200 for the curing, and £1,000 for the fishing, in autumn of 1905 over £40,000 was made by fishermen, and £10,000 by workers at curing stations, including carters, there was nothing like this before the Board began, most of the work was done on the Board's lines, 18826.—In 1906 fishermen earned roughly £30,000, people employed by curing £5,000, the catch was less than in 1905, but the prices better, 18829.—The curers were unwilling to tell the prices they paid for herrings, 18829.—For Downing's Bay itself the figures would be better for 1906 than for 1905, the fishing being better there than at Burtonport, 18830.—The weather was greatly responsible for the short fishing, 18831.

Wages Earned and Employment Provided.

During herring fishing there was employment at curing for all who chose, the girls were becoming very expert, and sometimes earned £2 per week, curers usually paying 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per barrel, same rates as in England and Scotland, 18832-5.—May and June and September to Christmas were the working months, in many weeks curers earned nothing, 18836.—The workers were mostly the same people, girls who married gave up work, workers aimed at acquiring skill, and constantly improved, many workers from Burtonport and Kincasslagh went each season to Downings, Scotch curers who visited Downings were experts, and exacted skill in workers, girls from the Rosses were in demand, girl curers were not eager to emigrate unless they had friends in America, 18837-42.—Workers migrated to Killybegs and to Scotland and Shetlands in employ of the merchants they worked for at Burtonport and Downings, they were employed for the season, so with summer fishing at home they did eight months' work, there was a great demand for labour in Scotland, 18843-8, 18851-6, 18859-61.

Effect on Emigration.

This migration was a real form of technical education, 18857.—Scotch girls were good curers, 18858.—Irishmen followed the fishing well at home, but were not yet very experienced, 18861.—Fishermen who had gone to America came back to the fisheries when they had spent their money; the development of the fisheries was likely to retain the coast population in Ireland, 18849-50.

Summer Fishing and Size of Boats Employed.

The first summer herrings caught in Donegal were bought and cured by Board in May, 1895, and sold in Germany at the same price as Castlebay herrings, up to 1901 small lots of summer herrings were obtained at Teelin and Tory Island; in 1901 there was a decided attempt to develop summer fishing at Downing's, curers paid Scotch boats in May, and the Board subsidised several boats at the rate of £4 per week; the experiment was successful, summer fishing had constantly increased since and occupied all the Board's large-sized boats, about fifty of them fishing from Downing's Bay in May and June of 1906, and twelve from Teelin, 18862.—The remaining boats engaged in summer fishing from Downing's were Scotch, and formed two-thirds of fleet, about a third of these Scotch boats were steam-drifters and two-thirds sailing boats, Scotch sailing boats were larger than the Board's, 18863.—Scotch boats were attracted to Downing's by quality of herrings, and prices obtainable for them; summer fishing being carried on out to sea needed larger boats than fishing near the shore, 18864-5.—The proportion of big boats on Irish coast was not large, Board built the first big boats in West of Ireland, Board's boats at Downing's fished as well as Scotch sailing boats, medium-sized boats were being built to suit both summer and autumn fishings, men could not afford two boats, the sailing boats procurable cheaply in Scotland were too big for Donegal fishing, 18866-7, 18870-1.—The tendency was towards fishing from steamers, but fishermen needed first practical training in sailing boats, 18868-9.—There was room for other boats as well as Irish in the Atlantic, all increase in fishing benefited the local fishermen, but more Irish boats were required, 18872, 18875.

Inn-Shore and Off-Shore Fishing.

The limit of fishing development was not yet determinable, at present summer fishing was chiefly offshore while autumn mackerel and herring fishings were only inshore, there were out at sea fishings not yet touched; development was to be looked for in summer off-shore fishings and autumn in-shore fishings, 18795, 18876-7.—Board already had half the required number of boats suitable for both fishings, in these boats summer herring fishings from Downing's had been carried on for two or three years, more boats were being built to replace others wrecked and to satisfy applications, 18878.—Yawls worked the inshore fishing in Kenmare Bay, 18879.—In-shore fishing not attractive to boats from a distance, Scotch fishermen joined in it in small boats which they generally left behind when they went home, 18880-4.

Barrel-Making.

Board at first bought barrels in Scotland for the curing, in 1895 they opened a cooperage at Teelin with a Scotch cooper and six apprentices, the latter serving the usual four years' apprenticeship, in 1896 a cooperage was opened at Burtonport with the same arrangements as at Teelin, and was successful till the short fishing of 1906, which left Board about half their barrels on hand.

Price of Barrels—Question of Profit and Loss.

The barrels were sold at cost price, that is, cost of materials, freight, wages, 7 per cent. depreciation on property, 25 per cent. depreciation on working plant, DUTHIE, Mr. A. T.—*continued.*

etc., the cooperage had hitherto paid its way, 18885-8.—Board's barrels were about the same price as imported ones, Board at first charged 3*s.* 9*d.* per barrel, prices of materials had constantly risen, and Board now charged 4*s.* 3*d.*, the purchasers were Scotch curers who would not have bought barrels more costly than those they could bring with them, Board made no profit, 1889-93.—Some Scotch curers brought barrels with them, Board's cooperage could not supply all Downing's Bay and Burtonport curers, as it was intended to train coopers, about twenty-six had been trained. Scotch curers employed their own coopers all the year, so had surplus barrels they sent to any fishing, 18894-9, 18914, 18922.

Training of Coopers.

Some good coopers had been trained by Board, all were now employed, some working on their own account, some in Scotland, all at herring fishing and curing stations, they would go anywhere, those making barrels for herring curers worked the whole time of the fishing, 1900-2.—Board's coopers' apprentices were on same terms as Scotch apprentice coopers, were allowed to visit curing stations and became smart at curing, it was desirable for Board to retain hold of cooperage training for a time, their cooperage system gave constant employment to many lads at good wages, 18905.—Fish-curing was an important element in fishing development in Scotland, Irishmen were preceding to the same work as the promoters of barrel-making in Scotland, curing firms in Ireland had started coopering, but not to a large extent, 18906-10.—There were generally half-a-dozen coopers' apprentices at Burtonport, the numbers were always full, they had only a foreman to look after them; sometimes the supply of barrels was behind the demand, in 1906 6,000 barrels were made, but for the first time a number were left unsold, in consequence of the short fishing, 18911-2.—In taking apprentices one season's requirements had to be considered with needs of other seasons, 18913.—The coopering trade having been set going by the Board should now be continued by independent merchants or coopers, 18915-6.—They might gradually produce a full supply of barrels for the Irish coast without Board's assistance, 18917-9.—The Board's having made no loss on coopering was encouraging, 18920, 18928.—Board not willing to discourage introduction of barrels by fishermen and coopers from a distance or manufacture by individuals locally, 18921.

Complaint of Insufficient Supply of Staves.

As to complaints made of Board's not supplying staves according to contract the facts were that in 1906 staves were scarce and Board would have had a difficulty in obtaining a supply had it not purchased in the previous October, one Burtonport cooper did not apply for staves till January or February, two months after the distribution of the staves had been arranged, Board was unable to give him all he asked, but offered a loan which he refused owing to the difficulty of getting staves to Burtonport; the case referred to was that of two brothers who had served apprenticeship in Burtonport and then worked in Scotland a year, returned to Burtonport and were employed by the Board, one went to America and returned, and about 1905 the two began barrel-making on their own account, Board supplying materials, in 1906, when materials were scarce, Board gave them staves from Burtonport, and would supply them for the coming season, one of the lads had gone back to America, Board was always willing to grant such applications, 18923-6.

Cod and Ling—Fishing in Currachs.

In early days of Board cod and ling fishing was successfully carried on in yawls from Teelin, Malinbeg, Tory Island, and in North Mayo at Porturlin, Portacloy, Muincrenagh, Inishkea, and Achill Island, 18929, 18942.—Cod and ling fishing was carried on in canoes or currachs made of twigs covered with tarred cotton, they were skilfully handled, went three or four miles out, had small sails, no keels, were the cheapest form of boat; none such existed in Scotland, they cost £3 to £5 and were made by fishermen, they landed easily on a strand, not on sharp stones or rocks, 18929-41.—Autumn mackerel fishing in Kerry was mainly from currachs, larger than Mayo currachs, 18936. In Board's early days cod and ling was the principal fishing, at Donegal and Mayo stations Board bought, cured and dried these fish as was done in Scotland, men's earnings were good, Board made experiments further out to sea with boats from Scotland and good takes of cod, ling, and conger eels resulted, improved type of boat was introduced, 18942.

Introduction of Improved Type of Boat.

Zulu boats were obtained from Scotland, and were given to Teelin crews, the Teelin men were the first to go in zulu boats to open the autumn herring fishing at Downing's, Board supplied instructor in each boat, crews soon learned fishing, mending and attending to gear; about same time Greencastle yawls were built and given by Board to crews at Porturlin, and Portacloy, 18942.—Greencastle yawls were of Dronthein build, perhaps first built at Greencastle, their building centre was at Portrush, this yawl had less sheer than Shetland skiffs, 18943-4.—Scotch fishermen were sent to teach crews long line fishing and handling of yawls, satisfactory fishing at North Mayo stations resulted, long line fishing was extended along Galway coast, Aran Islands, etc., at Aran Islands yawls were introduced on South Island where only currachs had previously been used, Kilronan men successfully fished long lines from nobbies used for mackerel fishing, large boats often earned £150, 18944.—Large boats were always in Irish hands, Scotch instructors were provided by Board but many crews were several years without instructors, 18945-6.

Fluctuations in Long-Line Fishing.

There has been a falling-off in long-line fishing in recent years on coasts of Donegal, Mayo, Galway, and Scotland, and at Inishowen, it was always fluctuating, would probably revive, 18947-8.—It had fallen off in West of Ireland about thirty years before, scientists unable to account for the fluctuation, 18949-51.

Success of Zulu Boats.

Zulu boats were successful, eighty had been given to the Donegal crews on the share system, and were employed almost entirely at herring fishing, larger ones being built, and were in great demand, 18951.

Nobbies.

Nobbies had been introduced for Galway spring mackerel fishing, and were employed by Burtonport crews between Rossbeg and Downing's, 18951-2.

Cured Mackerel Trade.

America was the only market for cured mackerel, 18952, 18960. Attempts to find markets in Europe had failed, 18953, 18960.—There was little home demand, 19954.—Principal centres for sale of cured mackerel were New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, 82,000 barrels having been sent to America in 1905, 18956.—Most of them from Kerry, Mayo, Galway, and Cork coasts, 18959.—There were 200 lbs weight, and about 300 fish in a barred, and sometimes more fish, according to their size, 18957-8.—Mackerel on north coast of Ireland were lest plentiful, large, and good than off Kerry, 18960.

Cured Herring—Prices and Markets.

New York was the chief centre for selling cured Donegal herrings, many had recently been bought in Boston, 18956.—From 1894 to 1897 Board cured 1,500 to 2,000 barrels of herrings annually, most of them being sold in Ireland, since then most of the herrings had been sold abroad at higher prices while the Irish who could not pay these high prices but had a taste for salted herrings imported cheaper ones, 18960-5.—Herring curing had been in the hands of private merchants since 1897, autumn-cured Downing's Bay and other Donegal-cured herrings sold at higher prices in New York, a few Donegal-cured herrings sold in Ireland, 25,000 barrels of Donegal-cured herrings were sent to America in 1905, and no complaints of ununusually low prices were made, Germany and Russia took most of the summer-cured herrings New York taking some, 18982, 18993.—Donegal-cured herrings fetched the highest prices not excepting Castlebay herrings, curers treated the fishermen fairly, £3 to £5 per cran was paid for Donegal herrings in summer of 1906, 18993.—Herrings were sent direct to St. Petersburg from Downing's Bay in steamers, Norwegians being the principal carriers, herrings went to Germany *via* Glasgow, Leith, and Hamburg, 18983-5.

HARBOUR DUES PAID ON FISH.

Steamers loading at Downing's for Russia or Glasgow paid usual dues on vessels loading for foreign ports, merchants paid dues on barrels shipped and on crans of fresh herrings landed, the tolls were levied by the County Council, the Board getting no tolls, County Council repaired piers and found a harbour master, 18986-91. In 1906 eighty steamers, each 200 or 300 tons burden, made calls on the Donegal coast in connection with herring fishing,, about fifty called at Downing's, at most other places no dues were charged so comparison with dues at Derry or Glasgow was not possible, 18992.

CONSUMPTION OF FISH IN IRELAND AND THE HOME MARKET.

The demand for dried salt fish in Ireland was constant, quantities of saythe were sold, especially about Belfast, and also dried cod and ling, these would be sent to Irish markets by the Board if they were obtainable or could be sold at the prices paid abroad, 18966-7.—The cheaper fish imported from Scotland might eventually be supplied locally ; Board endeavoured to give Ireland the preference as a market, 18970-2.—The fish imported into Ireland included cured herrings from Stornaway and fresh fish brought to Dublin by trawlers working Irish coast, 18973.—Board aimed at getting the best prices for herrings and had succeeded owing to the competition of merchants and the good quality of the fish, 18974-5, 18978-9.—Board constantly endeavoured to introduce Irish fish into Irish markets, 18977.—Board's present duties were supplying boats, nets and fishing gear and generally fostering the fish trade, 18979.—Supplying Irish markets and bring them in close relation with fishing centres were desirable objects, 18981-2.

PROVISION OF BOATS—SHARE SYSTEM.

Board began the giving of boats on share system; boat and gear were given at prime or net cost, agreement was made with the crew and the boat's earnings were divided into nine shares, five for the six members of the crew, one towards wages of skilled instructor who was paid a fixed weekly wage by Board, three shares to a sinking fund for cost and upkeep of boats and nets, when the instructor was no longer needed the ninth share devoted to his wages was added to the sinking fund, 18998-19000.—Board had an account with each boat, and charged two and a half or three per cent. interest on balance of loan, 19001-4.—When the loan was paid off boat and nets were probably handed over to the crew, each man becoming owner of a sixth share, 19005-6.—The system had been successful, no more serious differences occurred than under loan system, 19007.—In registering, the name of each member of the crew was entered as part owner, or one man might register, 19008.—The agreement with the Board was signed by all the crew, 19009.—Distraint for debt was not possible while the Board owned the boat, afterwards only on the debtor's own share, 19010.—The boats were registered under the Merchants' Shipping Act, 19012-14.—Six boats were already handed over and eleven others paid up on the 30th of September, 1906, each of the eleven had an average of £57 to its credit, 19015-9.—Crews who had paid the loan and still required an instructor paid him themselves, this seldom happened, 19020-1.—Fishing industry was extending in Donegal, thirteen other share boats owed Board only an average of £18 each, 19022.

BOATS LOST IN DOWNING'S BAY IN DECEMBER, 1906, AND QUESTION OF INSURANCE.

On 2nd or 3rd December of 1906 twelve boats were anchored at Downing's, a little below the pier, when a very heavy storm burst, each boat had two anchors out and strong chains attached, heavy sea seemed to have rolled anchors over sand at bottom, twelve boats drifted, dragging anchors, to rocks below hotel, where they were wrecked, it was an unavoidable accident, 19023.—Two years before Congested Districts Board and Department of Agriculture had begun insuring boats against total loss, 19024-8.—Board and Department each gave £500 to fund, two-thirds the value of the lost boats was £800 to £900 and was met by insurance, £500 or £600 of this was due to the Board, eleven boats were destroyed but some of them were worth only £60 or £90, the total damage was about £17,000, the fishermen's share of the loss was not yet determined, 19029-40.—Board would give new boats on the old terms, 19042.—Two boats, though paid up, had not been handed over, otherwise full loss would have fallen on their owners unless they had insured, 19044-7.—A crew who became full owners were not obliged to insure but were advised to do so, 19048.—Men were not eager to insure for two-thirds only as better terms were known to exist in Scotland, including insurance for partial loss and full value of boat, 19049-50.—After the disaster most of the crews who had not yet insured took out policies with Board, 19049.—Board originally became an insurance company because no one else would, Scotch companies being formerly uncertain about the Irish coast and objecting to taking insurances for boats of small value, 19054-5.—A Fraserburgh company recently approached were contemplating giving up business in consequence of the development of fishermen's insurance clubs with £1 and £2 shares and the development of herring fishing from steam drifters, the Fraserburgh company had been asked to reconsider the question of insuring Irish boats, 19056-7.—£400 in premiums had been added to the Board's original insurance fund, the disaster just described was the first call on the fund which still stood at £600, 19058.

SCOTCH AND IRISH COASTS COMPARED.

Scotch coast better sheltered than the exposed West of Ireland, coast fishing was carried on in Scotland on many days when it was impracticable in Ireland, harbours of refuge and piers were desirable on the Irish coast, 19070-3.

PIERS AND HARBOURS.

Downing's and Teelin piers were little used till Board began work, provision of piers in West of Ireland had not been overdone, the demand for them might be, 19079-81.—Safe and commodious natural inlets existed at Kenmare, Dingle, and Valentia, there were a harbour and pier at Dingle, but the water was deep, Kerry coast was less exposed than Donegal, and parts of Mayo and Galway, and Kerry had natural shelters, 19082-3.

DEMAND FOR BOATS—SHARE AND LOAN SYSTEMS

Forty applications for share boats were in hand; owing to number of applications crews often had to wait a year or two and some meantime fished from yawls; crews applying often consisted of some men with experience of fishing and some with no experience, 19059-64.—Farmers living inland asked for boats, 19065.—Boats were about twenty tons, zulu boats fished far out as well as inshore, Downing's zulu boats competed successfully with large Scotch sailing boats, in summer the sea was not very stormy, 19066-9.—Rapid increase in the number of share boats was prevented by lack of funds and by the inadvisability of having many boats with inexperienced crews, development of the Irish fisheries was to be expected, already fishing was popular with the men, 19074-7.—Share boats were better than loan boats for instruction purposes, each member of crew having an interest and so possessing an incentive to take advantage of the instruction, the crew were bound to take care of boat and gear, Board was able to dismiss unsatisfactory men for breach of agreement, share boat system gave men the means for good fishing, Board undertaking repairs and full supply of gear, 19084-5, 19093-6.—Nets were made chiefly at Lisburn by William Barbour and Sons, mending nets was included in the instruction given to the fishermen, 19097-8.—Poor people could not obtain security for loans, 19086.—Share Boats were Board's property till paid for and instalments of the debt were paid as they were earned, DUTHIE, Mr. A. T.—*continued.*

19088.—Under loan system the same instalments were payable in good and bad years, 19489.—Loan boats were often allowed to get out of repair, in Scotch crofters' case the loans were never repaid and granting them had ceased, 19090-2.

Barrel-Making and Supply of Staves.—Kerry Coopers.

Staves for barrel-making were procured from Sweden *via* Scotland, when Board's steamer fetched them, 19100-1.—Kerry barrel-makers were supplied with materials by Board, there were well-known coopers in Kerry, many of whom had been engaged in making firkins for salt butter, till the trade in fresh butter from creameries took away their occupation, and about 1898 they applied to Board for assistance to take up barrel-making for cured mackerel; Board's officials recommended training Kerry coopers at Donegal cooperages, a number thus acquired a good knowledge of barrel-making, but on returning home found a difficulty in getting materials, and on application to Board received staves; in 1906 instead of 30,000 or 40,000 feet of staves, Board sent to Dingle and neighbourhood 400,000, sufficient for 25,000 barrels, staves were generally given as a loan and paid for in December, but in some cases were paid for in cash, 19099-101.—Barrels were made at Dingle, Cahirciveen, Castlegregory, Castletown-Berehaven, and Bantry, 19102.—The short fishing in 1906 lowered the demand for barrels, and some were probably left unsold, 19103.—Coopers could not well obtain staves in Ireland or buy as cheaply as Board, 19105.—Board supplied staves at so much per thousand feet, charging cost price including freight, 19104, 19105A.—Freight charged was for voyage from East of Scotland to West of Ireland, Kerry, Galway, and perhaps Cork, it amounted to about £100 on about 180,000 to 200,000 staves, 19108-9.—This did not pay the steamer but was the most that could reasonably be charged, 19109-13.—The Board allowed some freight on all materials brought to their cooperages, 19113.

Boat-Building.

Sixteen or seventeen of Board's largest boats had been built at Killybegs Industrial School, in February, 1907, there were three orders at Killybegs, four or five nobbies had been built there, and a number of yawls, work was proceeding briskly, 19114.—This school was a Roman Catholic school for educating and training boys, and was partly maintained by a Treasury grant, boat-building was one of its industries, 19115-9.—Board paid school the same prices for boats as were paid in Scotland, the Scotch boats cost more, as freight was added to the price, a grant was made to the school by the Board in addition to payments for work, 19120-3.—A zulu boat was built at Arklow in May, of 1906, 19124.—The boat-building station of Kilronan on Aran had been closed, the manager having died suddenly two years ago; it was difficult to get materials to Kilronan where not even a blacksmith's shop existed, and everything had to be brought from the mainland so that the boats were expensive, 19125-7.—There were building stations at Baltimore and at Feenish Island, boats built at Baltimore ware mostly nobbies, some yawls were built in Connemara, 19128.

Connemara Fishing Prospects.

On Connemara and North Mayo coasts fisheries might be developed by efforts continued for years; of the districts in the West of Ireland these were ones most in need of industries, and fishing was their only hope as the land was very poor, the men would require close supervision and permanent teachers even out of the fishing season; the people were not past hope, 19129-41, 19154.—Practical fishermen were wanted in Connemara, not fishery officers as in Scotland, 19137.—Irish youths were averse to apprenticeship for fishing, Connemara and North Mayo youths should be dealt with locally, they objected to leaving home; age limit for Donegal share boat crews was from twenty to thirty, or eighteen to thirty; there should be a similar limit in Connemara; after training they might move round the coast; instruction boats should be sent to Connemara, 19143-56.

DUTHIE, Mr. A. T.—*continued.*

Clare Island Fishery.

At Clare Island there was herring fishing with yawls and nets near shore in 1905, the herrings could not be fished far away from shore, the islanders had not taken up the fishing, 19157-8, 19160-4.—Board had a station at Clare Island and a supply of barrels and salt and means of dealing with herring and mackerel, herring fishing had been carried on there for years and a Cork firm formerly had a curing station there, 19159.—But there was no harbour for large boats, 19162.—Clare islanders needed instruction, 19165.—But the fishing was less important to them than it was to Donegal men as the land in the island was better than in Donegal, 19166-8.—Impossible to fish from Clare and Achill islands in rough weather, 19169.—An expensive harbour was not needed in Clare Island, but the existing one might be improved, 19170.

General Prospects of Fishery Development.

Irish fisheries had every prospect of development, the whole Atlantic being a field for them, fishermen would best develop the industry themselves, the maritime population of Ireland and competitors from abroad would share the results the good prospects of fishing now in view were due to the Board's work, 19171-5. Development would necessarily be slow but where fishing succeeded there was immediate benefit as in Donegal, 19176-9.—Witness's remarks regarding the prospects of fishery development referred to Donegal coasts, the neighbourhood of Aran Islands, Cleggan, and places where mackerel fishing had been carried on, but not to North Mayo, 19180-1.—In 1907 Donegal was receiving no grandmotherly help from the Board beyond loans, crews were paying in great part for their own instruction, but Donegal could not do entirely without the Board for some years, instructors had been fewer in recent years, many crews working without them, new crews ought always to have sufficient instruction, 19182-6.—Eventually lads would learn fishing by entering boats with experienced crews and learning from them, 19187.—The Board might eventually cease to help fisheries, 19188-9.—Efforts at Gorumna and Costello and further east might develop fishing without interfering with turf business, old men might work turf boats while the young men fished, 19190-1.

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See also pp. 551.

Experience of Witness.

Witness had been a manufacturer all his life till in February of 1898 he gave up a business partnership to organise technical and industrial classes for Board; previous to 1897 he had reported on industrial projects, including Foxford Woollen Mills, schemes for improving Donegal homespuns, for weaving instruction, and for grading and measuring homespuns, 19192.—Witness had been a linen manufacturer, 19193.

Board's Industrial Classes.

Board's procedure regarding technical and industrial classes was to rent a classroom in a suitable district, or where no appropriate room was available an old building was adapted, occasionally the Board built a room; schoolrooms like those Board had erected at Lettermullen, Costello, Carraroe, and Pullathomas were very valuable, the clean, whitewashed classrooms had a civilising influence on girls, Board paid teacher's salary and cost of rent, fire, and light, teachers gave instruction, and despatched work (all of which was piecework), no work was purchased by the Board, 19193.

Lace Trade.—Irish Lace Depot, &c.

Teachers received orders from the Irish Lace Depôt, the Hibernian Lace Company, and other wholesale firms, which made prompt payments, 19193.—A supply of superior lace tended to increase the demand, neither demand nor supply had existed in 1897, but in ten years the Irish Lace Depôt's turnover had risen from £6,000 to £35,000 per annum; for years the Irish Lace Depôt took the bulk of the work, but orders from many wholesale buyers were accepted, teachers were not allowed to sell one firm's patterns to another, and the work of any one class generally went to one firm, 19193, 19204.—The Irish Lace Depôt was formerly a shop in Dublin, with a business of £4,000 or £5,000 a year, Lady Aberdeen took over the Depôt, and became financially responsible for £6,000, a company was formed whose directors were not to receive remuneration, all the profits were to go to pay workers and extend the business, the nominal capital was in seven £1 shares, 19193-4—The directors were not shopmen, they met fortnightly, and acted on the Board in the ordinary way, 19195-7.—The Depôt was now a valuable business, Lady Aberdeen still remained a member of the organisation, and took the chair at the last meeting, 19197.—Depôt did a large wholesale trade, and received goods by parcel post from many of Board's and other classes, and from isolated workers; Depôt disposed of goods in Paris, the Continent generally, and America, wholesale prices were promptly paid to workers, 19198, 19219.—Depôt's business was confined to receiving and sending out lace wholesale; lace dealt in was crochet, Limerick, guipure, applique, and point, 19199-200.—Depôt's capital consisted of profits which had accumulated, and could only be employed to develop the lace industry; the capital was fully occupied in the business, 19203-5, 19216.—The only payment to the directors was five per cent. on the nominal capital, 19206.—A managing director and a secretary received salaries, 19208.—There was an annual meeting of shareholders and annual accounts, the accounts were audited by public auditors in Dublin, and might be submitted to the Registrar, 19208-10.—There was a special clause in the Limited Liability Companies Act applying to such industrial and provident associations as the Lace Depôt, 19210.—Depôt's capital was employed in holding stuff from the time of payment till it was realised, 19213.—Business with distant places only permitted stocks being turned over at most four times a year, 19214.—The capital was always in the form of goods worth a large sum, 19215.—An elaborate stocktaking appeared in accounts, 19216-7.—The Irish lace business amounted to about £100,000 per annum for various firms, 19197, 19201-2.—Fifty-three classes established by the Board were producing lace and embroidery at close of 1906, the earnings of workers in 1906 being £21,580.—The laces produced were crochet, guipure, applique, Limerick, needlepoint, renaissance, the latter being sold as Connemara curtains, 19218.—The geographical distribution of the earnings was—Donegal, £2,397; Leitrim, £119; Sligo, £2,766; Mayo, £10,197; Galway, £4,583; Kerry, £629; County Cork, £879, 19249.—Depôt took production, and it and other organisations trained teachers; teachers were scarce, some of the Board's teachers went for instruction to Depôt, 19219-9A.—Depôt spent money on training teachers, improving designs, and assisting to make lace marketable; Depôt's teachers were available for the country, 19220-1.—Depôt paid the same prices as other wholesale firms, and so accumulated profits, 19220, 19223.—Teachers were paid by Board, Depôt paid only when teachers went to it for instruction or to see variety of work, 19223-6.

Wages and Hours.

Workers in 1906 were about 2,000, including learners; beginners' work was worth little, but generally marketable; only its market value was paid to learners, 19227-9.—Average earnings for diligent, skilled workers was 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per week, many earned 12*s.*, workers at home industries were always employed otherwise part of their time, 19230.—Hours varied, average wages represented ordinary factory hours work, 13231-4.—Age of seventeen was often too late to acquire proficiency, ignorance of sewing and absence of hereditary instinct for lace work increased learners' difficulties, the second generation of workers became experts, 19235.—Conditions of Belgian lace industry similar to Irish. Belgian hours probably longer and remuneration less, 19237-40.—Nottingham lace was not comparable to Irish, as it was made by machine in a factory, 19241.—A small industry in bobbin lace existed in Buckinghamshire, 19242.—A lace-maker's earnings at piecework were proportionate to her skill and expenditure of time, 12*s.* per week was fair wages for a home industry, in an exceptional case a girl earned £26 in twenty-six consecutive weeks, 19243-4.

Location of Classes.

A few classes had been classed as successful; there were not many classes in Donegal; a class round the poor district of Lough Mask, whose members had all been donkey-girls or spring labourers, turned over £2,000 in 1906, 19244-8.

Difficulties in the Way of Starting Classes.

For eight years workers had been fully employed and more often pressed for delivery than lacking orders, 19251.—Difficulty of providing employment was illustrated by the district about Belmullet, parts of which were forty miles from a railway station, the Belmullet people were unaccustomed to steady work, and therefore, though extremely poor, were not prepared to do any work that was not quickly remunerative; private enterprise had no prospect there, 19251-6.

Pullathomas Class.

Board opened crochet class at Pullathomas, and the industry was gradually extended, 19251-6.—Board paid girls threepence a day for three months to attend classes, 19251, 19257.—Girls preferred this steady daily payment to the chance of earning three shillings a week by their industry, 19257-9, because of the certainty of the smaller pay, 19268.—They were only induced to continue work by the promise of an extra shilling if five shillings were earned, 19260-2.—This Pullathomas class turned over £1,750 in 1906, 19261, 19272.—In districts like Pullathomas, where no public opinion about industry existed, and where no one was aware of results possible from steady work, workers who earned 10*s.* a week offered an example to others, and so formed public opinion, 19265-7.—Complete dresses made by girls in remote North Mayo districts were worn in Paris, and sometimes fetched high prices, patterns were provided, 19260-70.—Pullathomas was a purely country district Board had bought the estate, 19271.

Earnings Compared with Valuation.

Eight classes now existed in seven electoral divisions of North Mayo within an area of 72,695 acres, where the poor law valuation was £4,830 and the population 7,945; the eight classes earned £6,158 8*s.* 10*d.* for 1906, 19272-3.—The population of Knocknalower, comprising Pullathomas, was 1,640, some Knocknalower girls were too far away for Pullathomas class, 19274.—Knocknalower girls were earning more than £1 per head of the division's population, 19275.—Earnings of lace-workers in these seven divisions were 50 per cent. higher than the valuation, 19276.—And more than the rent, 19277.—Donegal earnings for lace were small, knitting embroidery, homespun, weaving, and other industries being practised there, 19263-4.

Educative Effect.

Civilising influence of classes, pupils recognisable by their improved neatness, 19247-8, 19280-3.—Many lace classes were in remote districts and the influence exerted by them resulted in improvement of the standards of comfort; some of the earnings had been applied to the purchase of cattle, and some workers had opened savings bank accounts, 19277.

Age of Pupils.

Board did not take pupils under the age of fourteen, girls were refused employment when their young brothers and sisters did not attend school, school attendance was thus improved; schools were numerous, but attendance bad, 19278-9.

ILLITERACY IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS.

Percentage of illiterates over five years old in Knocknalower electoral division was 44·3, in Knockadaff 48·4, in Muingnabo 50, in South Galway more, 19284-5.—School attendance was bad in the North Mayo district, 19285.

REMEDIES SUGGESTED—FREE MEALS AND TEACHING OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

Witness believed many of the children in the congested districts were poorer than the school children in receipt of free meals in England; in relief time of 1898 free meals costing £2,185 for 367 schools were given in Cork, Kerry, Clare, and Mayo, and the school attendance improved; 572,000 meals were given at one penny a head, 19286.—A piece of bread and some vegetable soup could be provided for one penny, 19355-7.—Lady Dudley's nurses reported that children's diet in worst districts consisted of potatoes, milk, tea, and dry bread, Indian meal sometimes replacing potatoes, in some instances children under nine months had been given boiled flour and water; free meals to children in poorest districts were desirable, in connection with them domestic economy could be taught, and would increase school attendance, 19287, 19302-5.—In Dunfanaghy, Glenties, Belmullet, Westport, Clifden, and Oughterard Poor Law Unions there were 37,000 children of school age, 22,000 on the rolls, average attendance 13,000, free meals would raise attendance to 20,000, nutritious meals at one penny a day for five days a week during five months would cost £8,400; each National school should have a room for cookery and domestic economy classes, 200 rooms at £100 each would cost £20,000, for which interest at five per cent. would be £1,000, cost of instruction at £1 per week woud be £4,000, sundries £1,600, 19287-8.—National Board left domestic economy teaching to patrons of schools, expert itinerant teachers of domestic economy were necessary, 19295-300, 19306.—It would be difficult for managers of schools to provide domestic economy teaching, 19301.—Domestic economy teachers should be in connection with primary system, and could generally visit four or five schools, 19307.—The six Poor Law Unions previously referred to were the worst, they were in Donegal, Mayo, and Galway; free feeding was not needed in all parts of these unions, it was needed in Kerry and elsewhere; about 37,000 children would be affected by a free feeding scheme, 19311-2.—Poor law valuation was very low in these six unions, and high taxes for local rates were necessary, highest known rates were 12*s.* in the £, 19313-5.—The 18*s.* and 19*s.* rate quoted as existing in Scotland would be in the poorest districts, 19316.—School children's long absence from home necessitated a meal at school, but in general their food was insufficient, 19317-8.—In winter the school meal should be the principal meal, necessitous cases being fed, some children would not need a free meal, 19319-23.—Witness's aim was to bring the children to education which they never got, and to build up their strength, 19324-6.

SPECIAL CLAIMS OF POOREST DISTRICTS.

The Penal Laws were the primary cause of the illiteracy, the immediate ancestors of the illiterates having been denied education when these districts were without communication by road with civilisation, 19289-91.—Other places equally remote were not equally without education, Scotland had had an organised educational system for 340 years, 19292-3.—A penny in the £ rate in a South Galway district of 6,000 people would produce only £10, 19294.

DIETARY QUESTION.

The dietary described by Lady Dudley's nurses, 19287, was that used in the Belmullet district of Mayo and in South Galway, 19327.—The adult population looked well, but could not do the heavy day's work of an English navvy, 19328-9.—A few Irish navvies did heavy work, but it was the well-fed men who went for such employment, 19330-2.—The men from these congested districts in West of Ireland were not strong physically, the percentage of those who went to America and became insane was larger than that of any other nation, 19333.—Connemara men were superior in physique to Lancashire cotton operatives who got meat, but less fresh air, 19334-6.—The people of poor districts like Belmullet were a slum population, part of the submerged tenth, but highly moral, 19254, 19337-9.—The effect of the diet mentioned was not yet visible, as tea was a comparatively recent introduction, 19340-1.

CONDITION OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Witness had seen many schoolrooms in the localities under consideration, they were less attractive than those built by Board, it had been necessary to utilise what houses were available as schools, 19342-3, 19345.—They had fires, and many children still took turf to school, 19344-5.—The children were worth highly-trained teachers, the schools could be made more attractive; the accommodation might be adequate with the poor attendance, but would be insufficient with compulsory education, 19345-7.—Schools were crowded in certain months, 19348.—Many were in bad sanitary condition; a school in Annagry, 13 ft. 3 in. by 23 ft. 6 in., held eighty children, the building was a poor one, favourable to the contraction of disease, 19349-51.—There were 35,000 cubic feet, making 44 feet each for eighty pupils, there were sometimes ninety pupils, 19351.—A new school was being built by Monsignor Walker, 19352.—Proper accommodation was necessary and a room for domestic economy teaching desirable in all these schools, 19353-4.—There was a regulation in Ireland regarding the space to be provided for a child in a National school, 19370.—Witness saw many school managers, but he knew more of the pupils than of the teachers, 19359.—Attendance had improved since the abolition of fees, it might have declined in Kerry, where the percentage of illiterates was less than in Mayo, Galway, or some Ulster counties; attendance had improved in Mayo and Galway, 19360.—Decline in attendance since abolition of fees had not been mentioned by school managers, 19361.

FREE MEALS IN NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—PROVISION OF RAW MATERIALS FOR VEGETABLE SOUP.

Potato was the only solid in the dietary given above as prevailing in the worst districts, cabbages, turnips, onions, beans, etc., could grow where potatoes did, but were not raised in these poor districts, 19362-3.—They would be required for the vegetable soup, 19364.—A school garden to raise them would be valuable, children supplied at school with these vegetables would ask for them at home, the vegetables could at first be brought from a distance, 19365-7, 19369.—The meal would cost less than a penny if the vegetables were grown locally, but this would involve agricultural teaching, 19368.

HINDRANCES TO INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.—BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF INSTRUCTION IN DRAWING.

The Board's industrial classes in many districts might be more valuable than they were, workers sometimes emigrated after training, sometimes the people were apathetic, illiterates were numerous; insistence on steady and punctual attendance at school and a daily habit of doing something punctually would help industrial development, unpunctual attendance at classes was a great difficulty; instruction in drawing was needed to enable workers to adapt themselves to new designs, quickness at adopting new designs had secured steady employment to classes, drawing lessons once a week were given in several classes, and the Board had sent promising pupils for drawing courses at Cork and Dublin, 19372.

KNITTING INDUSTRY.

Machine-knitting was supplanting hand-knitting in Donegal, within the last two years Board had given instruction at numerous centres, supplying machines at cost price of about £5 5*s.* on good security; workers could earn 8*s.* per week, hand-knitting had been paid as low as 2*s.* per dozen pairs, 19373, 19375.—The 180 machines now in use were earning about £2,500 a year, 19374-5.—Machines were paid for in two years' instalments with 3½ per cent. interest on loan, 19376.—And then became worker's property, 19377.

PROGRESSIVENESS OF COUNTY DONEGAL.

In Donegal the people's readiness to improve their condition exceeded that of any other congested district; Donegal population had always been industrial, and the county's geographical position was favourable, 19378-80, 19392.—At Londonderry there was, about the middle of the nineteenth century, a large hand-sewn industry involving relations with Glasgow; Donegal was not isolated from the world as were the remote districts of Mayo and Galway, 19381-2, 19392.—There were home industries in Donegal before railway development, Mayo and Galway had only recently been opened up by the railway, 19383.—Donegal people had been accustomed to seek work in Gasgow shipyards, etc., the county had a bracing climate, 19384-5, 19392.—In Annagry, which was very congested, there were men who had done very careful work in building ships, laying down electric light, etc., and this experience must have an effect when they returned home, 19393.—Connaught had been the dumping ground of all who could not get on elsewhere, the Act of Satisfaction to the Adventurers to Ireland gave the adventurers all the Irish land, Connaught being left to the dispossessed, and this was the explanation of Connaught's present inferiority to Donegal, 19386-91.

HOMESPUNS INDUSTRY.

Numerous classes for weaving instruction had been held in Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork; production of homespun in competition with machine-made goods was not very remunerative, there was a considerable industry in South Donegal, where the population carded, spun and wove the wool of their own sheep, and sold the product at monthly fairs of Carrick and Ardara, and in the open market, industrial loans for improved looms and spinning wheels were given by the Board, the annual turnover of this South Donegal industry was about £11,000, Board measured, and till recently graded and ticketed the webs according to quality, 19394-5, 19399.—The mills the Commission visited at Convoy were woollen mills, witness's remarks referred to the hand-weaving of homespuns, similar to the Harris industry, 19396-7.—Grading the tweed might be resumed, there was a tendency to use machine-spun yarns for homespun, and the Board stopped grading webs till a pure homespun could be secured, 19398.—The homespun was chiefly sent to England and America, 19399-400.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY INSTRUCTION.

Congested Districts Board was the first Board in Ireland to start a regular system of domestic economy instruction by itinerant teachers; a class lasted four months, Board had six certificated itinerant teachers who taught cookery, laundry, domestic economy, classes were given when suitable building could be found, and twenty to twenty-five pupils in the forenoon, as well as twenty to twenty-five in the afternoon, secured; classes were popular and serviceable, making of nourishing food from inexpensive materials was taught; girls taught at the classes easily obtained situations as domestic servants in Ireland or on emigration; Board's certificate for attending classes had a recognised value, ninety classes had been given comprising 4,800 pupils, 19401, 19418-9.—Board never refused applications for domestic economy classes, Donegal had had more than other congested counties because it had asked for more, 19402-3.—Domestic economy classes were impossible at most National schools for lack of a suitable room, 19404.—Applications for classes generally came through the clergy, 19405.—A district in Mayo, mentioned as having no classes, had little population, 19406.—A class for four months cost about £55, including rent and repairs to buildings, 19407-8.—Applications for another class where one had already been held were often received, but as a rule classes were held in new districts, 19409.—Places in Donegal that had had no classes for two years were themselves to blame for not applying, a class was being held in Inishowen, the parish priest spoke strongly of the benefit it conferred, a teacher was sent to Carndonagh a month after Commission was there, another class had been applied for there, 19410-2.—Four months were required to give efficient instruction, after four months attendance dropped off, 19413.—Syllabus of these classes included under cookery, making tea, coffee, cocoa, bread, sauces, puddings, cooking meats, fish, vegetables, eggs, plucking, cleaning, trussing, and cooking fowl, making pastry and soups, invalid cookery; meat was always obtainable, and beefsteak pie could easily be made, 19415-6.—Cleaning and scrubbing were taught under head of domestic economy; under laundry were taught washing and drying flannels, washing, starching, ironing, and folding linen, removing stains from table linen, washing, stiffening, and ironing lace and silks; under domestic economy were taught making beds, setting breakfast, dinner, and tea tables, waiting at table, cleaning sitting and bedrooms, cleaning silver, brass, tin ware, knives and forks, washing china and glass, blackleading, cleaning irons and preventing their rusting, cleaning windows, boots, &c., making poultices, personal and household cleanliness, cleaning pots and pans, 19417-7A.—These classes were primarily intended to improve the home conditions, but also to fit girls for domestic service, cookery had to be taught in order to render the classes attractive, 19420-1.—A small proportion of girls who attended classes at Sneem were enabled to go to Parknasilla and Kenmare, 19423-4.—Most of the girls were being fitted for work outside their own district, but it was better they should go prepared than unprepared, girls with certificates got good situations in America more easily than girls without, 19422, 19425-6.—In Sneem a girl walked eight miles each way daily for class, giving seventy out of a possible eighty attendances, 19427.—Twenty-five per cent. of pupils had emigrated. service was easily obtainable at home if desired, Board gave Cork and Dublin registry offices the names of teachers, 19429-30.—No other of Board's classes called forth so many testimonials to the Board, 19434.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION CLASSES.

Board employed itinerant manual instructors, about twenty-six classes in carpentry had been given. pupils were taught to make doors, gates, window-frames, wheelbarrows, &c., and were given £1 loans for tools, loans being repayable by instalments, 19435-7.—Donegal manual instruction classes were prominent, 19438.—In early Christian Ireland every child was taught a trade, the common people being instructed in the woollen industry, at that time there was practical instruction similar to that of the Romans, Ireland in the dark ages of Great Britain was the world's university, 19439-42.—The trade might object to carpentering classes in Dublin or Belfast, but in remote districts there were generally no carpenters and manual instruction classes were very valuable, as pupils could effect improvements in their houses; Irish emigrants to America were handicapped by their lack of skill with tools, 19447-8.—Since 1881, the year of the Land Act, the industrial classes might have almost disappeared from parts of the South and West of Ireland, but not from the North, where they had employment, lack of employment drove them to America, where they were valued, 19449.—Board had had applications for wood-carving classes, but it would be long before commercial success could be attained, as previous training and proper instruction in drawing were lacking, and Swiss carvings by families skilled for generations were cheap, 19443.—Irish had an artistic talent for design; of two girls sent by Board from Banada Lace School to Metropolitan School of Art one took first prize at South Kensington for an original design in competition with the United Kingdom, 19445-6.—Miss Sinclair had had a wood-carving class near Donegal, there had been no application to the Board when she gave it up, such an application might have been granted, witness doubted whether the area near Miss Sinclair's home was congested, 19450-1.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEN.

Provision of employment for female workers was progressing, but owing to the scattered populations of congested districts there were difficulties in finding centres for factories employing both sexes; home industries better suited to the people's needs and to training of an industrial population than were factories requiring large capital; absence of coal and iron, and the expense of transport, made employment of men difficult, their only openings were increased tillage of the land under peasant proprietorship, fishing, and quarrying, 19452.

QUARRYING.

Quarrying would be a big enterprise, 19453.—Red granite existed at Burtonport, and green marble in Galway, where the Department of Agriculture had taken some steps, but the freights were very high, 19454.—Not much enterprise had been shown in working quarries; the objection that the Recess green marble quarry was hampered by the people's pasturage rights, which prevented the overload of the mountain being deposited below, would not hold if there were enterprise, as the land was bog and heather, 19455-6.

TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

The capital required for textile industries placed them generally beyond Board's capacity, spinning and manufacturing cloth needed £300 to £350 capital per worker, cotton spinning about £250, linen-weaving £70, spinning linen £100, machine knitting had spread in Donegal, because it needed only £15 capital per worker; highly organised industries required much capital, 1½ cwt. of coal was needed for a web of a hundred yards of coarse linen, the West of Ireland was the wrong side for coal, 19457.—Foxford might be repeated here and there in the congested area, woollen industry's future was hopeful, but starting mills with insufficient capital would cripple it, capital and the training of workers formed the whole problem, manufacturers must ultimately come from Ireland as the Lancashire and Yorkshire populations were insufficient in numbers and deteriorating in physique, 19458-60.—Witness was not yet afraid of competition from China and Japan, but it threatened, Donegal carpets could compete with Indian, 19461.

WATER POWER.

Water-power in hilly districts of West of Ireland was not dependable, and was generally in remote places, in view of expenses, including sluices and compensation for fishing rights, water-power was often more expensive than coal, 19462.—Water-power converted into electricity might be used with advantage, but as the falls on Irish rivers were generally small, electrical development might be rather expected in the direction of burning peat and coal, 19463.

PROSPECTS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LACE INDUSTRY.

Five years ago the starting of additional lace classes was as risky as now, the lace market had been produced to a great extent by the supply, and the demand might grow to any extent, development of the industry in Ireland had been phenomenal and promised a great future, every lady wanted some handmade lace, ladies would not wear machine-made lace knowingly, but in the last three years much machine-made lace had been sold in United Kingdom as handmade; Mr. Boland's proposed Irish trade mark to be applied to hand-made lace would stimulate the industry, 19464-5.—The trade mark was to be used on homespuns and other genuine articles of Irish manufacture, 19466.—Board's supervision of lace-making should not be withdrawn too soon in poorer districts, 19467.—A proposal had been before Board to charge percentage on earnings in North Mayo to pay for classes, several of which were within 10 per cent. of being on a commercial basis on a turnover of £6,000 for 1906, the outlay being £600, the moral elevation of the people was itself a big return, 19468.—In many districts the lace industry could stand alone, and ultimately would, 19469, 19474.

EFFECT OF LACE INDUSTRY ON EMIGRATION.

Since lace work began, there had been less emigration in some districts, 19470.—Emigration was a habit in some places hard to break, relatives in America sent tickets for the journey, and the likeliest girls went, 19471, 19475-6.—Lace workers trained in Ireland were working in America behind a 70 per cent. tariff, 19472-3.—Witness objected to phrase "training lace-workers for America," in 1906 £21,000 were paid to the poorest people in the West of Ireland, 19474.—Education should not be withheld to discourage emigration, the Irish should be given the chance they never had before now, 19477.—Embroidery classes were held in Donegal, for instance at Ardara, where they were doing fairly, though in competition with lace, as the linen business was good the demand for embroidery was at present large, brought good wages, and in Donegal reacted on the lace industry; variety of work and competition were approved by Board as one industry did well when another was depressed, 19478.—There were classes in South Kensington for art embroidery, a class started by Board in Carrigart and carried on by Miss Hudson produced a beautiful work which obtained a fairly ready sale, this class employed many girls, some girls preferred art to plain embroidery; South Kensington had no difficulty in selling such goods, Carrigart's difficulties were due to lack of advertisement, 19479-80.—There was a drawn threadwork class at Ardara.

FOXFORD WOOLLEN MILLS.

At inception of Board's work Board gave financial assistance to Foxford Woollen Mills and Ballaghadereen hosiery industry, Foxford received a grant of £8,333 besides £1,164 for mill-race, 19485, 19492.—The payment to Foxford was made before 1897, 19486-7.—A loan was added, now mostly paid off, 19489, 19492.—Capital advanced to Foxford was for buildings, 19490, 19493.

MESSRS. MORTON'S CARPET FACTORIES.

The Board also induced A. Morton and Company, Darvel, Ayrshire, to begin making hand-tufted carpets in Donegal, carpet factories were now working at Killybegs, Kilcar, Crolly, Annagry, 19481.—Board paid £3,049 to Morton and Company, 19482.—Each factory cost Messrs. Morton about £3,000, 19483.—Messrs. Morton were the proprietors of the factories, 19484.—Messrs. Morton were giving employment to all who needed it, wages were not high owing to competition of native Indian labour, including convict labour, but at Annagry and Crolly about £2,500 per annum were paid in wages, which was a great deal for that neighbourhood, the four factories together paid about £5,400 in wages, 19494-6.—If the factories were closed at Annagry and Crolly, buildings would belong to Board, on Kilcar and Killybegs factories the Board spent only £900, part of which was for the site, 19497.

LOCAL TAXATION.

Witness would hand in table showing local taxation in two well-off districts compared with that of five poorly-off districts, in Navan, a well-off union in County Meath, a penny in the £1 raised £392, in Glenties £92, in Navan the rate on land for 1904-5 was 1*s.* 11*d.*, on other hereditaments 3*s.* 4*d.*, in Glenties 4*s.* 10*d.* on land, 7*s.* 8*d.* on other hereditaments, in Cahirciveen the rates on land were 4*s.* 5*d.*, and on other hereditaments 7*s.* 2*d.*, 19498-500.—A higher poundage rate was required in poorer districts to raise the same sum as in wealthier places, and the people in poorer districts objected to improving their houses, as improvements produced abnormal increase of rates, 19501-2A.—The valuation of land was made apart from the valuation of buildings or other hereditaments, 19503-4.—Local Government Act resulted in grants in-aid in relief of taxation, 19505.—Grants-in-aid in Glenties Union would be 1*s.* 3*d.* per head, in Navan 5*s.* 8*d.*, the district needing most getting least, 19506.—The amount of the grant was calculated on the valuation, and did not discriminate regarding poverty, 19508.—The grant was afterwards increased, 19509.—Witness did not think proportion contributed by Imperial grant to local expenses was higher in Ireland than in England or Scotland, 19510.—The subvention in aid of local taxation for certain services such as medical service under the Poor Law should secure equal poundage rates for these services all over the country, at present taxation fell most heavily on poorer districts, 19511-2.

INDUSTRIES—EXTENT OF WORK OF INSPECTION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Witness was head of branch of Board dealing with industries, his staff consisted of one temporary clerk paid 35*s.* a week, 19514-6, 19521-2.—Much of witness's work was visiting districts, but at present correspondence claimed much time, and his work was in arrears, 19517-8, 19529.—Changes regarding his work could probably not be made till Commission had reported, 19519-20.—Witness's inspections extended from top of Donegal to bottom of Cork and Kerry, for the six months ending June of 1906 he travelled 1,500 miles on cars, 3,000 in trains, he inspected winter and summer in all weathers, 19524-8.—Witness travelled on outside cars costing 6*d.* to 1*s.* a mile, 19529-31.—A motor would be quicker and cheaper, but it was doubtful if under present Treasury regulations it would pay him to motor, 19532-3.—Only two classes under his supervision were near a railway, 19534.—Money devoted by Board to witness's department was not especially ear-marked except in estimates, but was probably between £9,500 and £10,000, 19535.

LADY DUDLEY'S NURSES.

Lady Dudley's fund for nurses for poorest Irish districts was of enormous service, there were thirteen nurses in the region between Donegal and Kerry they had great influence in improving the conditions of life, as they spoke freely to the people about sanitation, &c., they had saved many valuable lives, much of their work related to maternity cases, all the nurses were stationed in very poor crowded districts, 19536, 19543-4.—Lady Dudley's scheme was affiliated with that of the Queen's Nurses, but Lady Dudley originated, organised, and worked this branch and collected the money, 19537.—Board had built houses for nurses at Annagry, Arranmore Island, Geesala, Cahirdaniel, Dooks, Glengariff, and two more were to be built at Bealadangen and Spiddal; Lady Dudley's nursing fund paid 2½ per cent. on money advanced, 19536, 19538-8A, 19540-1, 19549.—Nurses were employed under Lady Dudley Nursing Fund not by Board, 19539.—Witness procured loans for houses, looked after buildings, and usually called on nurses in passing, 19452.—Extension of nursing system was prevented by lack of funds; in view of recent report of Poor Law Commission, and possible abolition of workhouse system, part of the latter might eventually be replaced by this nursing system, 19545, 19563.—If nurses were provided from Queen's Nurses, the Board could aid in providing houses, Board not tied down by rules like other departments, 19547-8, 19551.—A substantial contribution for the nursing was within Board's powers, 19550.—Board could pay wages, 19552.—The public health authorities were the local sanitary authorities, and the Local Government Board, 19559-60.—The latter had maternity nurses in dispensary districts where the guardians contributed, but in many dispensary districts of the West there was nothing of the sort, 19561-2.—There was no general scheme for nursing, public health authorities could have midwives and could have nurses in hospitals and infirmaries, 19563-6.—In laying down a general scheme it was essential that the nurses should be thoroughly trained, 19567.—In Scotland the local health authorities paid for parish nurses, 19568.—Local medical officers in Ireland were in harmony with nurses, 19567.—Each of the thirteen nurses operated within a radius of six miles, 19570-1.—In order to save life Lady Dudley's nurses would go beyond the three-mile radius fixed for the Queen's nurses, but were not entitled to charge for this, 19572-5.—The lady who gave evidence at Burtonport was stationed at Annagry, she had 3,500 people in a seven-mile radius, 19576-7.—Nursing schemes, education, domestic economy, industrial development, all helped towards general improvement of the population, 19546.

OVERLAPPING OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENT.

There had been one or two cases of overlapping with the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Department, as Department were doing the same work as the Board; witness would not recommend Board to spend money where Department was spending it, though glad the Department should supplement Board; the Department's schemes worked by County Councils were not likely to have the beneficial effect of Board's; Department recently gave Board a list of domestic economy classes they were conducting in congested districts, average duration of classes being six weeks, classes for so short a time could only result in making the pupils imagine they had learnt as much as would have been taught at a four months' course, 19553.—Where County Councils had a technical instruction scheme a penny in the pound rate was raised in congested and non-congested districts, and the congested districts naturally wished to benefit, but the amount raised was too small, and the area over which instruction was spread too large for much result, 19554.—There had been only two cases of over-lapping of Board's and Department's classes, 19553, 19555.—Vice-President of Department always received the Board's printed minutes, and knew where the Board was working; there was room for both bodies; it was true that the two were doing similar work, but the Board began first, 19556-8.

VALUATION OF DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.

Twelve electoral areas in Donegal, nine in Mayo, six in Galway had a valuation less than 10*s.* per head of population, in Sligo, Leitrim and Cork there were no divisions with valuations under 15*s.* a head, in Kerry none under 10*s.*, and only one, namely, Bandon, under 15*s.*; in some divisions originally scheduled the poor law valuation had on account of emigration risen to 30*s.* per head, but these divisions still remained part of congested districts, in 118 electoral divisions the valuation was 30*s.* per head and over, 19577-8.—In Annagry division the valuation would be 4*s.* 1*d.* a head, 19579.

COMPARISON OF AGRICULTURAL WORK OF BOARD AND DEPARTMENT.

Witness was not concerned with the bee-keeping industry, Mr. O'Byrne, a valuable man, formerly instructor under Board, was now employed by Department, which took over all work regarding agriculture, such work was less well done now than under Board, less money being now available, and there were complaints of neglect, 19580-2.—A sufficiency of money was needed to make work efficient, 19583-4.

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CAMPBELL, PROFESSOR J. R.

SCHEME OF EVIDENCE TO BE GIVEN IN REFERENCE TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Before appointment witness had been professor and director of agricultural education in Yorkshire College, a constituent college of Victoria University, 19585.—Memorandum handed in by witness was a statement of evidence regarding agricultural development given before the Committee of Inquiry into working of Department of Agriculture; the evidence was under three heads, agricultural work applicable to the whole community, agricultural work applicable to counties partly congested, and special need of congested areas; in speaking of partly congested areas Cork and Clare were excluded, their congested portions being very small, 19586-8.

INITIAL PROCEDURE OF DEPARTMENT.

Agricultural branch of Department started in autumn of 1900; staff's first duties were explaining to County Councils the Act's provisions and the steps needed to put it in operation, considering suggestions for agricultural development and making acquaintance of people the Act concerned; staff studied peculiarities of Irish agriculture, size of holdings, farm buildings, tillage of land, crops grown, class of stock raised, dairying, horticulture, poultry-keeping, social position of farmers, their business methods, capital, education, aspirations.

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM PRELIMINARY STUDY OF CONDITIONS.

It was concluded that Department's most important work was to found a permanent system of agricultural education, that in applying Department's endowment towards developing agriculture it was desirable as far as practicable to work through local authorities, that the first work to be taken in hand was the improvement of live stock, and that many of the proposed projects must first be undertaken by Department's officers and gradually transferred to local authorities, 19588.—Witness attended as many of initial meetings as possible, he was then new to conditions prevailing in Ireland, 19589-92.—He had previously travelled through the island for his private information, visiting congested districts and west, 19593-4.—He and chief inspector gave their whole time to the work, 19592.

Division of Work between Local Authorities and Department.

The administration of schemes was delegated to a local authority when the county could be made the unit for the work and each district could benefit in proportion to its contribution, as was the case with schemes regarding improvement in live stock and itinerant instruction in agriculture; work for which county was not a convenient unit was administered from the Department's offices, for example investigation of outbreaks of disease in stock, improvement of management of creameries, 19601.

Constitution and Functions of Local Authorities.

The local authorities were the thirty-three County Councils, each of which appointed a Committee of Agriculture composed partly of members of the Council, to which committee the County Council generally delegated, subject to Department's approval, full powers for administration of funds, County Council alone could raise rate for Act's purposes, rate sometimes one penny, sometimes one halfpenny in the pound, halfpenny rate in County Waterford raised the smallest estimated amount for the current year, namely, £538, halfpenny rate in County Cork the highest, namely, £2,116, the total amount for Ireland being £35,245, of which £31,923 was allocated for agricultural schemes; Council usually transferred proceeds of rate to Committees who applied it to agriculture and technical instruction, the distribution between the two purposes was not generally specified by the Council; in the first year thirty-one County Councils raised a rate and appointed Committees, the thirty-three had done so since, 19601.

Relations between Department and Local Authorities.

Department and Committees were in satisfactory relations, leading members of Committees were constantly in conference with Department's officers; at first when procedure was not understood difficulties and delays occurred but had been now largely overcome; some individuals had felt aggrieved by action of Committees or Department, as was inevitable when public funds were distributed among farmers to encourage improvements; each Committee was in constant communication with central office and invited by Department to submit views on working of schemes before commencement of each agricultural year; suggestions of Committees were generally adopted, and Committees' grievances against Department could be ventilated through the Council of Agriculture, to which Department was answerable, 19601-2.

Procedure in regard to Schemes Prepared for Ensuing Year.

Views of Department's inspectors who had been in touch with Committees were ascertained at close of agricultural year and considered with those of Committees; Committees of experts advised Department regarding horses, cattle, and swine, flax, tobacco, and forestry; an outline programme for the ensuing year was prepared, and in August was laid before Agricultural Board with statement of sums required from Department's funds; after voting of funds by Agricultural Board a conference of County Committees' secretaries generally discussed new provisions in schemes and arranged dates for meetings of Committees which were attended by Department's inspectors, and at which the details of the programme were determined, the complete programme was then communicated to Department who intimated their approval and maximum contribution, 19602.—Where a County Committee was alive to the county's interests the year's work except what depended on the seasons was usually in full swing by October; appointment of local Sub-Committees was important; County Committees met generally once a month, Department's representative attending when possible, minutes of meetings were forwarded to Department, who, after examining the accounts forwarded their contribution to Local Committees, 19603.

Amount of Department's Contribution.

In early years Department paid half cost of each general scheme, and in poorer counties five-ninths, for the last three years three-fifths in poorer counties and five-ninths in others; Department had other expenditure, cost of judging shows, etc., 19603-4.

Adjustment of Expenditure of Department's Endowment.

Department took pains to divide expenditure fairly between counties, necessity for limiting expenditure was only beginning to be felt as the simultaneous action of the counties had prevented any one Committee from advantageously spending much beyond its normal income from rates and Department's contribution; for instance most counties were ready to employ an agricultural instructor but sufficient instructors were not obtainable; Committees retained unexpended balance of rates, balance of Department's Endowment was retained by Department and invested till it could be applied to erection and equipment of agricultural institutions, 19604-6.—Information given above applied to both congested and non-congested districts, 19607-8.—Increase in expenditure by County Committees indicated appreciation and rapid development of schemes, 19608-9.—In the first years Department had unexpended balances which were now being expended, 19610-3.

Agricultural Education.

Leading Irish farmers to value education for their sons was the most difficult problem before Department, and received most attention; at one time agricultural education was provided at many public institutions and in National schools, but at Department's formation the only institutions remaining were the Albert Training Institute at Glasnevin, and the Munster Institute at Cork, 19614, 19648.—Witness thought that in National schools there had been little sympathy for agricultural teaching owing to the Treasury's reluctance to provide funds, but the teaching was long general in those schools and given by the National schoolmaster, 19618-24, 19644-7.—From 1838 there was a training school for agricultural teachers, it still remained, 19625-6.—Witness was sure there had been an official syllabus for agricultural instruction, in National schools; there had been efforts to introduce itinerant instruction; the Recess Committee stated in 1896 that these efforts conflicted with Free Trade doctrines and ended in failure through action of public opinion other than that of Ireland, the Liverpool Reform Association having originated an agitation against the newer agricultural system of the National Board of Education in Ireland, and having disputed the State's right to train farmers and stewards at public cost; successive Chief Secretaries were hostile to the system, 19615-7, 19627, 19636-7.—Among them were Mr. Herbert, Mr. Cardwell, and Sir R. Peel, Mr. Cardwell being especially opposed to agricultural teaching in workhouse schools, Sir Patrick Keenan said the system always met the fiercest hostility of the Treasury, 19628, 19630, 19636-7.—The Recess Committee consisted of voluntary associates of all creeds and parties to consider Ireland's outlook, 19629.—Recess Committee's opinion, as given by witness, was contained in letters from Sir Patrick Keenan to the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction and to the Lord Lieutenant on Agricultural Education in Ireland, which were Irish State papers, Sir Patrick referred to the introduction of agricultural education in 1848, 19631-5.—The teachers of agriculture in National schools had an insufficient knowledge of their subject; agricultural teaching in Great Britain had long been under Science and Art

Department as a system of teaching from books in special schools, and this was probably the case in Ireland, but the Treasury should have continued to supply funds for agricultural teaching and have given training to teachers, 19638-42.—Witness did not advocate teaching agriculture in National schools now, 19643.

Albert and Munster Institutions.

The Albert Institute at Glasnevin was a purely Government institution, the Munster Institute or Dairy School at Cork was established by a local Committee, Government contributing a large proportion of the funds, 19648-58.—When the Munster and Albert Institutes were handed over to Department agricultural teaching once general in National schools was still continued in thirty-eight by National school teachers trained at Albert Institute who usually worked a farm with the school, 19658-63.—Department were precluded from giving agricultural instruction in National schools, 19640, 19658.—Department had had difficulty in staffing agricultural institutes with trained Irishmen for when it assumed office the Albert Institute's training was inadequate; at that time, at Albert and Munster Institutes, there were two six months' courses per annum, one for male, one for female students, practical agriculture for the men, dairy work and domestic economy for girls; science was taught at Albert Institute in lectures by specialists who were not agriculturists, no laboratories existed, 19663.

Attitude of the People in regard to Farm Life.

Young Irishmen were eager to escape farm life, their education aimed at other occupations, often the most intelligent of a farmer's sons was educated at the expense of the son intended to succeed to the farm, 19663, 19743.—In many parts younger sons could find employment as workmen on farms but did not wish to, even in such congested districts as Castlerea the land would provide employment if it were tilled, 19664-6, 19671-7.—Desire to leave land not due to lack of training at school, in Great Britain farm labour was thought more dignified than in Ireland, Irish ideal education was commercial or literary, 19666-8, 19678-9.—Young men applying to attend Albert Institute included youths from Maynooth, men who had failed for civil service, Department attempted to exclude these, students had to prove they were to get farms, 19669.—Department desired to prevent use of agricultural schools as stepping stones to other professions, 19680.—Desire to leave land not unnatural, 19670.—Employment of more than one man was not possible on £10 holdings, 19673.—It was to be hoped reforms regarding land laws would affect public idea of dignity of farm labour, 19681.—Purchase of their holdings by tenant farmers might result in a respect for farm work among farmers who found it remunerative to employ themselves and their sons on the land, 19682.—The rural population's exodus to the towns was a fact, 19683.—The want, during forty years, of a practical training for boys would not wholly account for it, 19684-7.—Economic causes were more accountable, 19688.—On many farms agricultural labourers might have 15s. a week and a cottage, but not under existing conditions, 19689-92.—Farm work was less unpopular in Scotland where wages were better, 19693-8.—Those Irishmen who desired to acquire land wished to become graziers and practise cattle-dealing as more dignified than farm labour, 19700-2.—Small holdings bought at excessive prices were wanted as homes by men who worked large part of year in Great Britain and returned still disliking farm work in Ireland, 19703-7, 19709.—It was the younger men who disliked farm labour, 19708.—Witness's opinion was based on experience of young men attending Department's classes and on interviews and correspondence with young men, 19710.—Witness could not say farmers complained of their sons' unwillingness to work on farms, 19711-2.—But they complained that labourers all left, 19714.—Many young men tried to find other employment at home before going to America, those that did work worked to escape the land, 19715-7.—Physical unfitness resulting from the conditions of school life was not the cause of the disinclination for farm work, 19718-25.—But lack of proper feeding was a cause, 19721.—Old men were better workers than young men owing to the system of home education, 19726-9.—Though the National school ideals might be partly responsible, 19730-2.—In England the farmer's children had to work on farms except when at school, 19729.—Irish boys might perhaps work a little in busy seasons but not otherwise, 19742.—Botany would not be useful to those young men who had to earn their livelihood, 19733-4, 19738.—Witness did not advocate teaching agriculture or gardening to boys under thirteen or fourteen, 19739-41.—Processions of unemployed were seen in Irish towns; men in rural districts did not go about as public mendicants, 19735-7.—Witness knew an estate where the land had been given to the residents, some of whom were labourers and remained so though they had received holdings, they had not even taken advantage of Estates Commissioners' offer of £30 to build a house; this state of things would not be permanent, but reluctance to till the land would long continue; farmers could only be instructed in agricultural science by itinerant teachers who gave lectures, visited holdings, and discussed practical problems with farmers, and often succeeded in persuading them of the advantage of technical teaching for their sons, the most capable farmers took most interest in education, 19743.—The smartest among the farmers' sons generally went into professions, many of the less smart probably went to America, 19746-7.—Agriculture in Ireland was backward, the holdings too small for economical management, the farmers' financial resources small, the system of agricultural credit bad, 19747.—Even since the Act of 1881 improvement of the land was regarded as involving increase of rent, 19747-54, 19757-9.—There was no Compensation for Improvements Act in Ireland, 19752.—Witness did not know a case where fear of increased rent had prevented a farmer making improvements, 19755.—And thought that under the new Act farmers did not fear alterations of rent, 19756, 19759.

Need for Itinerant Instructors.

Residential district instructors in agriculture would be little use, itinerant instructors were necessary, 19760-2.—And at present there were only two or three per county, the number would be increased later, 19762.—They were already doing a valuable work, 19763, 19766.—The districts where they operated had not been visited by the Commission, 19764-5.

Training of Teachers at the Royal College of Science.

At the Royal College of Science in connection with the farm and College at Glasnevin, Department had provided at one central institution the highest form of technical education for teachers and specialists in agriculture; the existence of the College was well known and its students came from all parts of Ireland, 19767-9, 19806-8.—Since 1900 it had trained thirty-four pupils, all now employed in Ireland by the Department, and in February, 1907, twenty-nine students were training at the College who would receive immediate employment when trained, there would probably be openings for many more, 19800, 19802.—The course was three years training in scientific agriculture, scholarships were provided by Department, 19801.—The pupils would be qualified as agricultural teachers, etc.; a test of practical knowledge of agriculture was applied before pupils were admitted to the College, 19803-5.

Training Given at the Albert Agricultural College.

At the Albert Agricultural College was provided a preliminary training for candidates for the Royal College, instruction to farmers' sons in the management of farms, instruction to men desiring to become creamery managers, horticultural or poultry experts, stewards, and agents, etc., 19769.—At the Albert College farmers' sons paid £15 premium, and others £60 per annum; there were twenty-five holders of free places obtained by examination; nine students paid the £25 and one the £60 fee, 19808-9, 19813.—The fee included everything, maintenance and education; the expenses per student were not quite £60, 19810-2.—For the free places there were more applications than vacancies, 19814.—There was an experimental farm on which labourers were employed, the students working half the day or less as this school was professedly a technical college; the Department thought it necessary to have one college of the type of those numerous

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in Great Britain, 19815-6.—Practical knowledge of all sorts of farm work was not at present required of candidates for Albert College but would be required a year later; the Department were averse to introducing too many regulations in addition to those in force when the Department took over the College, but measures were necessary to prevent the use of the College as a means to get out of Ireland, 19817-8.—Horticultural experts were trained at this College, 19818.

Establishment of "Agricultural Stations."

The starting of provincial institutions where apprentices could receive a year's practical and technical agricultural teaching for a fee proportioned to their means, had been delayed till teachers could be trained, but three such institutions were already established at Clonakilty, Ballyhaise, and Athenry, and others were contemplated, 19769-70, 19772.—Apprentices were seventeen years old and upwards, the age limit might be lowered, 19771.—These provincial institutions or "agricultural stations" charged students £3 per session where the aggregate valuation did not succeed £20, the £3 included maintenance, education, medical attendance, washing, etc., 19818-20.—A session was practically a year; when the valuation was between £20 and £40 the fee was £6, when between £40 and £100, £10, with valuation above £100 the fee was £15, apprentices who were sons of shopkeepers and going to have farms paid £20, 19821-2.—There was no standard for the distribution of the different classes of apprentices, none of these schools were yet filled because of the difficulty of fulfilling Department's conditions, but Clonakilty was nearly filled, 19823-5, 19828.—Cost of provincial institutions was entirely central expenditure, 19826.—In congested districts where the holdings were small central expenditure would be greater than where holdings were large, but there were no agricultural stations in congested districts, 19827.—The first provincial institution was started at Clonakilty because the Bishop of Ross offered the Department a farm in which he and Monsignor O'Leary were jointly interested under a bequest, 19828A-29.

Winter Schools of Agriculture.

In twelve counties already affected by itinerant instruction Department had provided twenty-eight winter schools of agriculture for training farmers' sons at small expense, 19772.—The twelve counties were outside congested districts, Department was also developing its programme in congested districts, 19773-4.—In winter agricultural schools the boys were not boarded, but came for the day in winter months when work was slack, suitable premises were arranged for and equipped by Department, pupils came on bicycles, by train, or on foot, in a poor country like Ireland the extension of the winter school system was desirable, 19829, 19834.—Attendance at them was increasing, with a sufficiency of teachers all the Irish counties would take up the scheme, witness had advised Department not to start these schools till qualified teachers were available, the failure of the National Commissioners' schemes was due to incompetent teachers, 19835.—There were no experimental plots of land at winter schools 19836.—Teachers were often confined to giving instruction in the schools, 19837-8.—While instruction on the plot was given by the itinerant instructor, 19837, 19842.—The plots were often at pupils' homes, 19836.—The itinerant instructor was in many cases identical with the teacher, 19838, 19840-1.—Teachers were appointed by the County Committee, 19839.—To have both an itinerant instructor and a teacher was desirable, as the instructor should be free to accompany farmers over their land, and consult with them regarding improvements, etc., 19842-4.—Classes were held in the day-time, a teacher might have two or three classes, 19845-6.—A teacher took pupils to farms in neighbourhood, the farmers of which were co-operating with him, this was as good as having experimental plots attached to the school, 19847-50.—Before Department took over agricultural work Congested Districts Board had demonstration plots, Department's instructors had now many such plots under their control, 19850-3.—For the teachers, however, it would

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be difficult and inexpedient to get holdings, when instructors became more plentiful more stations, schools, and demonstration plots would be desirable, 19854.—Pupils' fathers attended the meetings, and invited the teachers to the farms, instructors had an opportunity to impart much information to occupiers, who welcomed it when given with tact, 19855-6.

Agricultural Training for Women.

The Munster Institute at Cork and a school at Cookstown trained women in domestic economy of the farm house and in dairying, poultry-keeping, and other women's work connected with the farmyard, 19774-5.—This scheme for women corresponded with the Albert College for men, 19776-6A.—Many women trained at Munster Institute were employed under County Committees in dairying, etc., many obtained situations in Ireland as dairymaids and some as laundrymaids or domestic servants 19777, 19782.—They remained chiefly in Ireland, 19778.—And some, not a very large proportion, went home, 19777, 19782.—The girls, like the boys, went to the school, hoping to escape from the land, 19778-9.—The training helped them to emigrate, boys going to institutions had to bring evidence they were going on a farm, but a girl could not very well guarantee to marry a farmer, 19780-1.—Witness did not know what became of those girls who were not capable of profiting by the training, 19782.—Munster Institute was chiefly intended to train teachers, at other centres it was hoped to get girls to attend local schools to train for work at home, 19783.—There were a few centres for "Bean a tighe," or housewife training in congested districts, 19784.—Department had equipped a number of residential and day-schools for teaching young women domestic economy and farmyard lore, and was considering equipment of others, 19800.

Object of requiring Candidates for Agricultural Schools to prove that they were going on a Farm.

The object of requiring candidates for education at provincial agricultural institutions to prove they were going on a farm was to prevent the use of the school by men who were not going to farm in Ireland, witness did not say it was to prevent agricultural knowledge from going to other countries, 19785-7, 19790-1.—Subjects other than agricultural were taught at these schools, and men tried to use them for getting non-agricultural positions, 19789, 19792.—The rule was not yet applied at Glasnevin, and from there young men competed for non-agricultural positions, 19789.—A pupil at a provincial institute had to declare he was going to get a farm, his father and usually the parish priest had also to declare this, and other evidence was generally obtained, 19792.—Those schools were popular because the money terms were low, not because others were inadequate, 19793-4, 19799.—Department would be willing to educate farmers almost free, witness would advocate this, 19794.—The Irish coveted education, not merely as a means of escape from the land, but as a chance of advancement in life, 19795-8.

Itinerant Instructors, Direction of Work, &c.

The Department wished to provide in each county for farmers and their families a system of itinerant instruction in agriculture, horticulture, dairying, poultry-keeping, and bee-keeping, 19800.—Agricultural education by itinerant instructors had been useful in many countries, 19856.—The Irish schemes were revised at the beginning of each agricultural year, and local opinion regarding them was considered, Department at first sent out pioneer instructors each year, as more instructors became available the direction of the work was gradually delegated to County Committees, who appointed the instructor, arranged the work, checked and paid locomotion expenses and salaries of all, except the agricultural instructor, who was paid by Department, all these schemes were financed from the joint fund composed of the County Council rate and the Department's contribution; how long such schemes should continue had not yet been determined, but the County Council would decide, as the schemes were very popular the time would probably be much longer than Department had anticipated, 19856.—These schemes were at work in congested districts, including Donegal, and in all the counties, 19857-9.—All the Committees had been anxious for itinerant instruction; the Department had been blamed for not going faster, in another year witness thought there would be qualified instructors for each county, though not enough to supply all the demand, 19859-60.—In poor counties many instructors were needed, one was enough in a well-to-do county where farmers knew something of technical agriculture, one man per county was sufficient in Scotland and generally in England, 19861.—The work of the County Committees was steadily progressing, and only lack of funds would prevent it going much further, the rapid development of all agricultural schemes witnessed to their popularity, 19862.

System of Prizes to Cottagers clashing with Work of Parish Committees.

A system of prizes to cottagers which the County Committees had taken up, and which took account of improvements in the house and farmyard, called for some arrangement to prevent clashing with the Parish Committee schemes in congested districts, the latter included grants for work done as well as prizes, 19862-7.

Poultry-Keeping Instruction.

In poultry-keeping instruction there had been a little falling-off in the Western counties because Department had asked those counties to give more attention to distribution of eggs and improvement of fowls than to lectures, but at Western counties' request Department was next year to resume system of itinerant instruction in poultry-keeping, which was more popular than Department expected, 19867.—It was carried on in all counties but three, 19870.—In Department's first year there were no poultry farms, the second year there were 39, the third 220, the fourth 362, the fifth 462, 19873-4.—In February, 1907, there were 506, 19872.—Department's money limit for this work had been reached, 19875-6.—The first return of exported eggs just published gave two and three-quarter million pounds sterling for value of eggs and fowl exported in 1904, ample evidence showed benefit derived from instruction in poultry-keeping, a letter just received from a farm in England asked the cause of the extraordinary improvement of Irish birds and eggs, 19877.—Department had not yet been able to assure the English market that the eggs were sent across fresh, for this organisation was needed, 19878.—Fattening was also receiving attention, 19879.

Instruction in Home Dairying.

Instruction in home dairying was increasing, at first only one county engaged in it, last year 24, and in current year 28, 19879-10.—Each county appointed two or three itinerant instructors in butter-making, County Mayo had three, the instructress took an outfit with her, and gave classes about a fortnight's instruction, 19881.—A room being secured at a convenient centre, and the pupils supplying the milk and keeping the butter, local authorities arranging details, 19882-5.—Three instructors could do a great deal in a county by passing from district to district, a capable girl could learn butter-making in twelve lessons, 19886-8.

Number of counties teaching horticulture had gradually increased, 19888.

Nationality of Teachers Question.

No provision having till recently been made in Ireland for training qualified teachers, County Committees had either to wait while Department trained Irishmen and women or to obtain instructors from Great Britain; there had been much discussion, those members of the Committees most generally desiring the success of the work did not care about teacher's nationality, 19889, 19899.—Department advised delay to avoid discrediting the system at start, Irish teachers being more popular, 19889, 19890-2, 19894, 19900-2.—There was a body of feeling in the counties in favour of Irish teachers, 19893, 19897.—Department did not prevent County Committees from importing teachers, 19896, 19902.—In the early years many teachers were obtained through advertisement in Scotch and English newspapers, and the Department made no objection, Department had advised against such advertisement for, 1906-7, promising Irish teachers by the spring, 19900.—If the positions were filled up from Great Britain none would be left for students training at Department's institutes, 19894, 19897, 19900.—The great demand in Great Britain and elsewhere for instructors made it likely that only the inferior ones would go from Great Britain to Ireland, 19902.

Department's colleges could supply future demands for instructors, 29 students were training at Royal College of Science, and when trained would obtain immediate employment, 34 ex-students were in Department's employ, 19903.—These ex-students helped to keep Department in touch with Royal College, 19904.—They were brought up annually and conferences were held, 19905.

Post-Graduate Training for Instructors.

Witness advocated more post-graduate training, there was to be a fourth year as a post-graduate course at the College of Science, a demand for higher salaries might result, but greater efficiency would be worth more, 19906-7.

Trouble in Donegal in regard to Appointment of Non-Native Teachers.

In Donegal exception was taken to the appointment of instructors not natives of the county, at first Department had not objected to qualified persons receiving appointments in their own county, but natives were usually too well known to be effective teachers, instructors who were natives were sometimes inclined to remain at home all day, and merely act as lecturers instead of constantly visiting the farmers, as the salary covered the cost of maintenance instructors had an inducement to remain at home; an instructor had a good deal of patronage to bestow, and his relatives would be certain to exert undue pressure, farms for demonstrations and experiments had often to be selected by the agricultural instructor, and this involved expenditure of public funds on seeds and manures to farmers' advantage, under horticultural scheme seeds and trees were provided for demonstration plots, accordingly Department had ruled that instructors were not eligible for posts in their own counties; the Donegal County Committee had been invited to submit the question to the Council of Agriculture, 19908.—The Commission might take it that in the spring of 1904 the County Committee of Donegal, with Department's sanction, advertised for two butter-making instructresses, advertisements always stated that candidates must pass Department's tests; in May, 1904, the County Committee appointed two instructresses, 19909-12.—Witness did not think instructresses' ineligibility was indicated to Committee till after the appointment, the Committee had possibly not been made aware of the rule, 19913-4.—In regard to the discrepancy of three letters quoted by a Commissioner, one letter from Department, dated May 28, stating that as a result of the experience of 1902-3, Department had ruled no one should take up an appointment under schemes for 1903-4 in the county in which he or she resided, 19916-20.—A second letter of July, 1904, also from Department, stating that this rule had been in operation for the past two years, 19920-3.—A third letter from the County Committee to Department pointing out that a few months previously an appointment of an instructor resident in the county had been sanctioned by Department, 19923.—Witness explained that this resident instructor being a teacher of bee-keeping, was an exception to the rule, as local teachers of bee-keeping were employed to avoid expense, 19923-6.—Witness was sorry if Department were accused of discourtesy, he would have been glad to discuss the matter with Dr. O'Donnell, 19927-8, 19932.—Department had a live-stock scheme, small farm prizes, shows, and flax schemes in Donegal, the difficulty being instruction, 19929-31.—In butter-making the disadvantage of having instructors at work in their own localities was less than in other subjects, but if these instructresses were appointed from the county others for other subjects might also be appointed, it was over this matter the Donegal County Committee and Department first began to differ, other counties had accepted the rule, 19934, 19941.—Witness had suggested before another Commission that each of these two girls might be appointed to a part of the county away from her home, as had been done in Cork, 19935.—Department had not made this suggestion to Donegal Committee, as they were not yet satisfied of the girls' qualifications, 19936.—Donegal Committee had suggested to Department that Parliamentary constituency should be the unit for such appointments, 19937.—This might evade the difficulty, or a girl from the North might be appointed to the South and *vice versâ*, 19938.—Only Donegal applicants had asked for these posts, the reason of the appointments might have been the girls' knowledge of Irish, 19915, 19940.—There were several hundreds of farms for distribution of eggs, though none in Donegal, holders of these farms had to collect a number of birds to be approved by instructor, and often received part of cost of a house, an instructor might be asked to approve inferior birds offered by her relatives, birds approved received a £5 premium, 19908, 19942.—It was a fine point whether yielding to pressure from relatives was dishonesty, 19944-5.—Poultry-farming instructors were usually girls, 19943.—Witness accepted the suggestion that for butter-making the Parliamentary constituency should be the unit instead of the county, 19946-7.—But when a county could only afford one instructress she must either operate in her own Parliamentary division or be taken from outside the county, 19949-54.—In Donegal there was little money for instruction, perhaps only enough for two teachers, one for butter-making and horticulture and one for poultry-keeping, 19949.—The question of these two particular instructresses might be referred to the Council of Agriculture, but if on account of the appointment of one-third of this Council by the Department the Donegal Committee distrusted the Council some account should be taken of that distrust, 19908, 19955-9.—The Department's third were not appointed with the idea that they would defend Department's policy, against which they often voted, 19957.—Individuals on County Committees who had not voted against a resolution objecting to the rule forbidding selection of instructors from the county, had personally begged witness to keep the rule in force, as otherwise local persons would be constantly worrying them for positions, 19960-1.—The case of these two particular instructresses could be amicably arranged, 19962.—Department had not intended to arouse any feeling about the matter, witness had not seen all the letters referred to, if he could have discussed the subject with Monsignor Glynn or Dr. O'Donnell the difficulty could have been swept away, 19963.—It was not always safe to accept the nomination of the County Committee, 19964-7.—The technical qualifications of candidates must first be considered, 19968.—The responsibility for schemes rested with the Department, not with the Committees, Imperial as well as local funds being involved, 19969-71.

Effect of Breaking up Grass Land.

Probable effect on economic stability of small holders in Ireland of breaking up of grass land had been discussed by Council of Agriculture, but not referred to Committee on Cattle Breeding, 19603.—Ordinary grazing land would pay better under tillage if capital were employed and the land used intelligently, 19830-1.—Witness advocated mixed farming, 19832-4.

Horse-Breeding.

In live stock schemes progress had been made, 19973.—In horse-breeding schemes stallions were registered, in 1901 there were only 13 thoroughbred sires in Ireland and 97 agricultural sires, Clydesdales, etc., at present there were 76 thoroughbreds and 163 of the others, the figures for 1906 to 1907 would be larger, there were 1,554 nominations for mares in the first year, and at present 3,783; progress had resulted in increased expenditure and increased efficiency, 19974-5.—200 shows were held every year, the mares came to the shows, and were inspected by Department's veterinary surgeons, 19976.—Ireland exported horses largely, 19977.—The figures showed that County Committees desired to avail themselves of these horse-breeding schemes, 19979.—And showed also the increased opportunities given, 19980. Export of Irish horses to England had perhaps decreased since the war, during which the country was denuded of horses, 19981.—Motor traffic interfered with export of coaching horses, but not of hunters, 19982.

Cattle-breeding.

The introduction of high-class bulls under the premium system was carried out by every County Committee, each Committee desiring annually to increase expenditure, there was difficulty in obtaining bulls for service for small farmers' cows at fee of a shilling, 19982.

Premium Boars.

Premium boars were given out each year, premium at first was £5 per annum, but had to be increased to £8, 19982-3.

Small Agricultural Shows.

Sixty-one small agricultural shows were held in Department's first year in 1905-6, 140 were held, 19983.—Department gave £5,000 to County Committees for shows, the sum being divided between the counties, first on the basis of the valuation of the county, then on the basis of live stock, the mean was then taken, and that sum handed over to county, 19984-7.—Mayo and Galway received more than Meath, 19989.—The county's character was considered, the western counties getting more than others, 19990.

No serious Overlapping except in Donegal.

In the schemes for 1906-7 almost every county had adopted horse-breeding schemes, 19991.—In which and in farm improvement schemes there had not been serious overlapping, Department's schemes had not been extensively taken up in Donegal, 19992-4.—Donegal was spending nearly £2,000 on Parish Committee scheme, and County Committee was spending £600 on a similar scheme, amalgamation was desirable, 19994-5.—As congested districts contributed to the rate, their representatives were bound to see they received a fair share of the £600, 19996-7.—As to the question which body should administer the two funds on amalgamation, the body that contributed most money did so because it was the best endowed, the £600 was the ratepayers' money, 19998-9.

Department's Experimental Plots.

Department had experimental plots on which the land was accurately measured, notes being made of everything done, weight of manures, crops, etc., on demonstration plots farmers merely inspected and estimated results for themselves, 20002.—Itinerant instructors obtained plots from farmers in exchange for manure and seeds, and supervised the cultivation, 20003-4.

Matters dealt with by Department.

Department dealt with growing of barley, early potatoes, fruit, and tobacco, with vegetable preservation, cheese-making, and the improvement in management of creameries, 20005.

Poultry Fattening.

Not many poultry fattening stations had been long at work, none were yet safely launched, object was to send birds fattened to England rather than send them to England to be fattened, 20006.—Nearly all the export was store fowl, 20007.—Department's school for training poultry station managers was at Wicklow, any person desiring to put capital into a poultry fattening business was allowed by Department free use of an expert for a year when one was available, farms were not started unless capital was provided locally, 20008.—Poultry fattening should succeed as well in Ireland as in England, 20009-11.

Peat Manufacture.

Department had introduced into Ireland the machinery used for peat manufacture on the Continent and demonstrated the Continental system, 20002-13.—Ordinary peat briquettes were unprofitable, the only profitable form of peat industries was making fuel, litter, dust used for packing fruits, and to some extent brown paper, 20014-5, 20021.—A great peat factory had existed for some years near Portadown, and appeared commercially successful, there was one for paper at Celbridge, 20016-9.—It was not the machinery but the power for peat factories that was expensive, 20020.

Progress of work justifying system of Administration.

Department considered the diagrams shown by witness to Commission a complete justification of the system of administration by County Committees, progress had been slow, but as the procedure became known work increased in amount and quality, only one or two County Committees had held back, 20021.

Special Difficulties in Congested Districts, Overlapping of Department and Congested Districts Board, &c.

The seven counties mainly congested were Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Galway, and Kerry, at first Department's schemes in them were administered through local authorities, special difficulties presented themselves in these counties, but the progress there would bear comparison with other counties; owing apparently to an oversight in the Act of 1899 Department's agricultural endowment of £100,000 was earmarked for the non-congested districts of Ireland, so could not be applied to congested districts; the electoral division adopted as the unit in scheduling districts as congested was not co-extensive with the rural district forming the unit for rating under the Local Government Act, it was decided to raise the rate for Department's work only over the non-congested and mainly non-congested rural districts; thus the non-congested portions of mainly congested districts were excluded from the rate and the purview of the County Committee, while the congested portions of mainly non-congested districts were rated, but could receive no funds from Department; Congested Districts Board then agreed to contribute *pro rata* in respect of congested districts where a rate was raised, and on this subject much correspondence ensued between Department, Congested Districts Board, and County Committees, Board as well as Department having to sanction Committee's schemes; overlapping with Board's schemes in congested portions of mainly non-congested rural districts was inevitable, County Councillors from congested districts could vote against rate, and so block schemes in non-congested districts, the people concerned and many members of County Committees did not understand what all this meant; an Act passed in 1902 enabled County Councils to include all non-congested, and exclude all congested, electoral divisions from the rate, the Congested Districts Board intimated the discontinuance of their contribution to schemes of County Committees; when clause 85 of the Land Act came into operation it was no longer illegal for Department to spend money in congested areas, and in October of 1903 the Congested Districts Board having decided to apply to the primary purpose of land purchase and relief of congestion the funds they had hitherto expended on agricultural development, an arrangement was made with Congested Districts Board in October of 1903, and was set forth in Mr. Wyndham's minute printed in the First Report of the Royal Commission; in 1904 Congested Districts Board had been at work twelve years, and County Committees only two or three, the Committees' work was rapidly increasing, and would have been greater but for the confusion caused by the operations of the two public bodies and for the fact that people in congested districts had been for twelve years accustomed to obtain help from a central department, and needed time to grow accustomed to representative institutions as existing in the County Committees, 20021-4.—Congested Districts Board had larger funds for agriculture in congested districts than had the County Committees, Board had been spending £11,000 per annum, of which only £2,000 were given to Department; Mr. Wyndham's memorandum, before referred to, stated that as the primary work of Board was completed, further funds would be available for the secondary work of agriculture and technical education; until that policy was carried out or other funds were given to Department there could be no fair comparison between work of County Committees and of Board; Congested Districts Board had concurred in the policy of memorandum which stated that the congested districts would have to surrender in respect of agricultural schemes a part of their right to preferential treatment until the primary work of land purchase and relief of congestion had been effected, 20024-8.—It was on this understanding about surrender of preferential treatment that the Agricultural Board accepted the proposals contained in Mr. Wyndham's minute, 20028.—Agricultural Board was aware of inadequacy of £2,000 to meet the obligations towards congested districts, which Department undertook by this arrangement, but to remove the confusion the Agricultural Board agreed to vote a sum to complete county schemes, 20028.

Unfairness of Comparison between work of Parish Committees and of County Councils.

Parish Committees, whose work had also been compared with County Councils, had existed five or six years, and their work was not considered successful at first; all Department's schemes had to undergo a year or two of trial before they were understood, 20028-32.—£11,245 was spent on Parish Committee scheme in congested areas, while the seven County Committees received from the Department only £10,682 for ten schemes in congested districts, 20032-4.—The joint fund in County Mayo for ten schemes was £2,745, while Congested Districts Board voted £3,450 for Mayo Parish Committee's schemes, 20035.—The County Committee offered prizes for improvements in buildings, homesteads and cultivation of land, the prize being adjudicated in the summer by the itinerant instructor from a neighbouring county, 20036-9.—In Parish Committee schemes money was contributed to improvements, 20039-40.—Witness could not say what £10 would effect under Parish Committee scheme, any number of farmers might effect improvements in hope of winning Department's £10 prize, which exercised a great stimulating influence, 20041-2.—Witness preferred prize system, 20043-4.—It was in force in Donegal, but not in other counties, 20045.—Department's scheme provided few prizes, the prizes given in Donegal were so numerous as to be practically a bonus on improvements, 20046-7.—No reason why the sums contributed by the local committees might not be equal to, or greater than, those under the Parish Committee scheme, but they might be less, 20048-9.—With a sufficient organisation a prize scheme could be worked with a very poor population, 20050.—Schemes witness proposed for congested districts would not exclude the giving a small loan for improvements, 20051.—Parish Committees system had been at work since about 1897, 20054.—Agricultural Board had not contemplated the diversion by Congested Districts Board to Parish Committees any portion of the funds which Mr. Wyndham's minute stated were to be eventually "available for the secondary work of agricultural and technical instruction," 20055-6.—Department had only the minute to go by for their view of the arrangement, 20071.—It was not necessary to draw on the £11,000 for the estates work, the Agricultural Board were induced to take over and subscribe to the work on the understanding that the £11,000 hitherto spent on agricultural development was really needed for the "primary work" of land purchase and relief of congestion, including migration of the people and enlargement of holdings, 20059-63, 20066-71.—This primary work must, perhaps, take a long time, but many claims had come on Department from congested districts, 20064-5.

Arrangement of October, 1903, between Department and Board.

The arrangement between Department and Board made in October, 1903, took effect in 1903-4, 20073-4.—

Witness asked Commission to bear in mind the facts just stated, which many witnesses had ignored, there could be no doubt in the minds of the Agricultural Board, and witness had no doubt as to the nature of the arrangement of 1903, Mr. Wyndham's minute was clear, and that it was clearly interpreted by Department and Agricultural Board was shown by the Vice-President's reply and the Agricultural Board's minute at their meeting 19th of July of 1906, 20075, 20077-9.—Witness was aware of a pronouncement of the Board with reference to this pronouncement of the Agricultural Board, 20076.—For three seasons, while this arrangement was in operation, Department had aimed at developing their statutory relations with County Committees, County Councils had annually raised rates and carried on schemes for the whole county, and Agricultural Board and Department had provided additional aid for poorer districts, but as available funds were limited, expenditure on additional schemes was confined to those most likely to yield immediate return, namely, the introduction of sires, bulls, boars, stallions, jacks, and rams, at first the withdrawal of the money formerly given by Congested Districts Board was less severely felt, as many sires introduced by Congested Districts Board still remained, and as the sires diminished Department endeavoured to introduce others, in the belief ample funds would be forthcoming for the development of agriculture in these districts; the Agricultural Board at their meeting in January, 1907, voted £4,000 for the current year, this grant to be beneficial must be followed by equal grants in succeeding years, 20079-80.

Cost of Arrangement to Department.

Expenditure from the rates in congested areas of seven congested counties was £1,312 in 1904-5, £1,453 in 1905-6, £1,900 in 1906-7, from Congested Districts Board Department received for these districts £2,000 a year, not quite all of which was expended the first year, in 1905-6 Department added £180, in 1906-7 £1,100; on Department's own additional scheme £3,248 was spent in 1904-5, and £5,415 in 1905-6, for 1906-7 Department had £9,700, to which Agricultural Board had added £4,000, 20086.—Department had expected that the arrangement of October, 1903, would cost them £5,000 a year, it now cost them much more, 20087.—In 1902-3 Parish Committees spent £3,385, in 1903-4, £5,873, in 1905, £9,633, in the current year their expenditure was £11,000, 20088.

Experimental Schools for Girls at Loughglynn and Westport, etc.

In congested districts special provision of instruction calculated to effect standards of living was desirable, as an experiment Department had started a school for girls at Loughglynn, in Roscommon, and another at Westport, in Mayo, to teach farmyard lore, such as milking, poultry-rearing, etc.; Loughglynn girls were day pupils from the neighbourhood, who returned home at night, 20089, 20091, 20130.—Loughglynn school had been at work three years, Westport, two, 20090.—It was intended to plant a similar school in every densely populated district, 20091, 20092, 20130.—The education was called Bean-an-Tighe, because it concerned the work of the "Woman of the House"; the school or rural centre might be at the home of a religious community or a private individual, provided there was one woman superintendent who was prepared to devote herself to improvement in the home life of the neighbourhood, who possessed a practical knowledge of the needs of small farmers and cottagers, and was likely to win their confidence; the school staff were to aim at bettering the people's material condition, encouraging their attachment to their homes and country-side, raising economic efficiency and counteracting the tendency to despise farm life; pupils were not to be fitted for domestic service, factories or shops, and Department would not supply funds where girls did not return home daily; all girls and young women desiring information on home management should be welcomed at the school, 20092, 20102-4.—Girls of any age over fourteen, which was the usual age for leaving National schools were to be admitted, 20093-100.—The teaching was to be all practical, cream, poultry, etc., needed for teaching were to be brought by pupils, each taking home the product of her labour, 20100-3.—Where a school was successful an annual show of the products of the household, poultry runs, etc., was to be held, 20104.—A rural centre's accommodation should be a farm of twenty-five statute acres, with houses for cows, calves, pigs, runs for fowl, turkeys, geese, ducks, a fruit and vegetable garden, a dairy, washhouse and ironing room, kitchen with two open hearths, a range not being required, a room for sewing, etc., 20104.—Department did not provide the farm, but equipped it; a community provided Loughglynn farm, 20105-6.—The system would suit only populous districts and was contemplated for the congested districts alone, 20107.—There was no parish organisation that could be utilised for this work, the rural district, a poor law division about one-fifth of a county, was the smallest administrative area in Ireland, 20108-13.—The primary educational system might be utilised for domestic economy teaching, not farmyard work; these rural centres aimed at instructing farmers' wives with a view to improving the new holdings, 20115.—Similar schools existed in Belgium, they should be permanent, a generation or two might be needed for good results, 20116-7.—Hours for beginning work were not fixed, earlier hours were desirable, but progress depended on the pupil's enthusiasm and it was too soon to make strict rules; girls often came from a distance, 20118-20.—Importance for agriculture of early rising should be inculcated, 20121.—The centres would encourage home work, they were for females only, 20122-3.—Loughglynn school was now getting into order, 20124.—The teachers in charge of the school, who were the nuns at the convent, tended to devote too much time to industries, this would always be the tendency in such schools and the people had a tendency to take up industries on the chance of improving their position by getting away from the land; work should be confined to that bearing an agriculture, 20125-6, 20129.—The nuns' services were, however, very valuable, 20127-8.—Westport school took residential as well as day pupils; it was not near enough to small holdings to be as effective as Loughglynn, 20129.—Westport school was supervised by the Reverend Mother of a convent, but was under lay teachers; the teachers did not visit girls' homes as at Loughglynn, 20131.—No charge was made at Westport, 20132.—Department selected pupils from applicants; candidates unable to get into Cork school were sent to Westport; about 200 were always awaiting admission; fifteen were in residence; as many day pupils as came were admitted; residence was six months; at Cork there were four sessions a year, 20134-7.

Agricultural Shows.

A good deal of money was devoted to shows; greater economy might be shown, but as the agricultural shows were popular and grants for them taken from the rates, Department did not withhold their sanction; small local shows would be the most useful, but the large ones were of value and had prestige of long establishment, 20138-42.—The fancy farmer had too great an advantage over the small farmer, and in some shows prizes were unequally divided; Department's regulations restricting prizes to certain classes of people had been withdrawn, perhaps unwisely, because of the idea that they were undue interference and in deference to local authorities, 20143-6, 20159.—Department reserved the right to control shows, but after the first years left control to County Committee, 20147-50.—Shows were got up by voluntary organisers who obtained subsidies from the County Committees; Committees might impose conditions, Department exercising a veto on arrangements, 20151-4.—Under Department's regulations the Show Society had to furnish accounts; in allocating funds to a particular show County Committees had to consider the various shows in a county, needs of each district, and subscriptions and prizes for the particular show, 20155.—Department had never exercised their veto in regard to prize list, 20156, 20158.—The original schedule for prizes had been drawn up under Department's supervision and had undergone few changes, 20157.

Expenditure on Agricultural Schemes in Congested Districts.

Witness spoke of congested counties as seven, as he excluded Clare and Cork Counties, 20162.—A table showing each year's expenditure in congested counties from 1904 under distinct headings could be drawn up, 20164-5.—In regard to a table of annual expenditure on county schemes witness called attention to great increase of expenditure by County Committees, 20160-1, 20165.—In congested counties Department gave 30*s*. for every £1 from rates, in other counties, 25*s*., 20166.—In table of total expenditure from the joint fund for the years 1904-5, 1905-6 and 1906-7 the first two columns dealt with disbursements of local authorities; the objects of expenditure were detailed in an estimate for 1907, 20167-71.—Department began to operate in congested districts after an arrangement with Congested Districts Board in 1903, and in the first year spent on supplementary schemes in those districts £3,248; in 1904-5 and annually since Department received £2,000 for congested areas from Congested Districts Board, 20216-7.—The £2,000 was scarcely needed in 1904-5, but in 1905 Department had to add £180, and in current year £1,100 in addition to special schemes paid for by Department, 20218.—In estimate for 1906-7, out of £14,700 allocated to congested areas in seven counties only £1,900 was defrayed from rates; in 1905-6, of £8,147 only £1,453 came from rates, 20220.—Department was not entitled to spend money unless there was a local contribution, 20221.

Conditions on which Bulls were supplied in Congested Districts.

Department had supplementary schemes in the poorer parts of congested counties; Department had found that districts scheduled as congested were not necessarily the poorest, 20171-3, 20227.—In the premium bull scheme County Committees of western counties having selected premium bull-holders in the congested area and expended all the Committee's funds for that purpose, submitted to Department names of applicants they were unable to supply, 20175.—General system adopted by County Committees was that Department purchased a bull and sold him to a farmer at one-third cost price, the farmer received a £15 premium from the County Committee and out of the premium paid Department, within two years, the remaining two-thirds of the price, 20175-9.—The County Committee made regulations as to which persons were to send cows to the bull and the fees to be paid; Department generally insisted on a shilling fee to compete with a poor class of bull, 20180-2.—Well-to-do farmers might obtain use of the bull at a low price, 20183.—Department left it to local authorities to see there was fairness in the matter of whose cows should be sent to the bull, 20184-8.—Bull's owner could refuse cows beyond a certain number, 20189.—Bulls were eligible for premiums a second, third or fourth year; their high price made it desirable to keep them as long as possible; the animals were inspected on short notice and if not in good condition lost the premium, 20190-1.

Class of Bulls supplied.

There was difficulty in getting bulls; Department were seeking them at the moment at Perth where the breed was Shorthorn Angus, 20192-4.—Galloway bulls did well in poor parts of Ireland though they were opposed by traders as they did not fatten, and English breeders had mistaken Galloway crosses for Aberdeen crosses and been disappointed, but no other bull should be introduced into part of Connemara, where the breed before, of which few remained, were what Highland cattle would come to if kept long in the country, 20195-200.—Kerry cows were largely used in Kerry, but had not been a great success in Connemara; they were small but admirable, 20202-3.—At the moment cows were wanted most for beef and milk, 20204.—Department's chief inspector a permanent official; selected bulls, few were bought and for very poor neighbourhoods only; most bulls for the better parts of Ireland were purchased by farmers themselves, 20205-8.—Strong farmers would ask aid of Department's inspector in purchasing, 20209.—Bulls had risen in price; at Perth, shorthorns cost £19 in 1898 and £84 in 1906, 20210-3, 20215.—Argentine demand was responsible; Argentine was ready to pay £1,000 a bull calf in 1906, 20214.—Farmers in North of Ireland expected to get shorthorns at £36 and Galloways at £24, 20215.

Supplementary Schemes in Congested Districts—Funds available, etc.

Department's supplementary schemes were less regular in their provisions than County Committees' schemes, 20221-2.—Department's supplementary schemes were worked in those portions of the counties whose backward condition made it difficult for the people to take advantage of schemes under local authorities and where the people had been accustomed to refer to a central authority, 20223-8.—These districts were under County Committees and supplementary schemes were worked because the Committees' funds were insufficient and the farmers unequal to taking initiative, not because County Committees had failed in their duty, 20229-31.—Department kept a special staff for supplementary schemes and dealt directly with districts, 20232-3.—Rates raised by Committees had to be raised uniformly and expended on each district in proportion to its contribution, so that Committees could not give more, but less help to poorer districts, 20234, 20237-40.—Supplementary schemes were intended to raise poorer districts to level of others and enable them to take advantage of Committees' schemes; supplementary work did not result in Committee neglecting poorer districts, 20235-6.—Poorer districts required three or four times as much help as richer, 20241.—The Act permitted 2*d*. rates; Department did not contemplate more than a 1*d*. rate, 20242.—The rate would not cause bankruptcy; average holders in West of Ireland having a valuation of £6 or £5 would not be ruined by an annual charge of 6*d*. or 5*d*., 20243-6.—Expenditure on supplementary work in 1905-6 was £4,500, estimate for 1906-7 was double that, 20247.—Congested Districts Board spent about £11,000 in those districts on this work; they gave Department £2,000 a year to do it; Department relying on a memorandum of Mr. Wyndham's printed in the First Report of the Royal Commission had hoped more funds would be forthcoming as Department's Endowment was for non-congested districts, but as need was urgent Agricultural Board had increased the £2,000 to £9,700, 20248.—Department had originally expected to add £5,000 to the £2,000, 20249.—As Department had not been able to spend at once as much as Congested Districts Board had spent as the machinery had been put out of action and would have to be re-started, 20250-1.—It was not till the year 1906-7 that all the County Committees but Donegal had an agricultural instructor, Department's supplementary work had consisted in supplying Donegal, Westport, Galway and Tralee with one instructor each, who were engaged in supplementary schemes and had little time for agricultural instruction, but had carried out demonstrations of manuring and growing crops, nine additional instructors had now been appointed—one in Donegal, two in Kerry, three in Mayo, three in Galway, others would be employed if funds allowed, 20251.—Tralee was chosen as a convenient railway centre, 20252-4.

Supplementary Horse-Breeding Scheme, Class of Sires supplied, etc.

As a supplementary horse-breeding scheme nineteen stallions had been located for services of small farmers' mares at 10*s*. fee and less, 20254-5.—There were only four hackneys; with exception of half-breds and thoroughbreds all these animals had been taken over from Congested Districts Board, 20256.—It had been stated that hackneys ruined the breed and that Department were responsible, 20257.—Norwegian sires were pony sires, two were bought by Congested Districts Board, but were not welcomed, a strong half-bred sire of the general type of the animal in Ireland was needed in the West, the Connemara breed was merely the horse originally all over Ireland kept small by conditions of life, and animals brought to Connemara should be of same blood; half breeds were now registered, Department had bought two for congested districts, 20258-60.—Foals were sold in autumn in

Connemara at any rate, at Clifden Fair witness had seen 600 to 700 foals brought in, they were sold at £4, £5, and £6, and would be disposed of at Irish fairs, some were sold to England for pit ponies, 20261-4.—Foals could not be worked so young, in the West they were rarely bought at a year, they were sold for the sake of ready money, and because farmers could not afford to feed them, a year later they would fetch £2 or £3 more, 20265-70A.—£7 was a good price for the first year if the service was cheap, 20271.—Witness thought the Congested Districts Board were responsible for introducing hackneys, though the control might have been in the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, 20273-4.—Names and addresses of persons with whom stallions were located had been put on record, 20275-6.

Donkey-Breeding.

Asses were valuable to small occupiers, Spanish jacks were in great demand, but difficult to get, and costly, in 1906, Department had placed out forty-one for service a 1*s.* fee, half-bred jacks had also been placed but were less acceptable and smaller, Department were trying to breed a better class of half-bred jacks, 20276-7.—County Committees did nothing regarding asses from lack of funds, 20276, 20278-83.—In Spain as many asses were used as in Ireland, 20284.—Asses were useful for drawing turf from a bog, for going to market, etc., their slow pace might involve loss of time but many holdings could not support a horse, 20285-6.—Asses grazed by the roadside and cost little, they were ill-fed and badly treated in Ireland, 20287-8, 20292.—An ass could carry a man and draw a heavy load, 20289-91.—It was not subject to distemper, and was long-lived, 20293-4.—Names of persons with whom asses had been located had been placed on record, 20294.

Supplementary Premium Bulls in Wesern Districts.

In 1904 western districts were fairly well-stocked with bulls which were not handed over to Department but remained property of Congested Districts Board or farmers, 20294-5.—In 1904 farmers in non-congested areas were only beginning to understand premium system, those in congested areas took longer to adopt it; as the schemes of the thirty-three Committees required the number of bulls to be maintained at 900 the supply was difficult and could not be met from Ireland, and western farmers being less prompt than others in applying, the Department, in order that the West might have its fair share, bought bulls at early sales and kept them till western farmers applied; Congested Districts Board had given Department option of buying Goodbody farm at Athenry, and Department there established an agricultural station; County Committees having selected recipients of premium bulls Department reviewed what localities were inadequately supplied and supplemented from their stations; the chief drawbacks to cattle-breeding schemes were lack of funds, dearth of good bulls, rise in price of bulls, 20295-7.—Under County Committees' scheme and Department's supplementary scheme farmers themselves selected the breed of bull, farmers were reluctant to make their own selection from Department's stations; number of supplementary bulls in 1907 would be 130 as against 74 in 1906, and 33 in 1905, total for bulls under county and supplementary schemes should be about 300 in 1907, but the number depended on supply, inspectors had to see supplementary bulls were placed in districts most needing them, supplementary bulls were generally placed on same terms as County Committees' bulls, but as Galloway and Kerry bulls were less affected by advance in prices the terms for them were those formerly given by Congested Districts Board, 20298.—Improvement in cattle would be quicker if bulls at large unfit to propagate the species were castrated; this was a very important matter, 20299-301.—Supplementary premium bulls had not been placed in the poor district of Glencolmcille or Kilcar till the current year, a private individual had been placing bulls there in recent years, 20302-3.—Premiums being now given to three-year-old bulls the yearly demand might be less, premiums to four-year-olds effected little; there was reluctance to keep four-year-olds as they got too heavy, 20303-5.—Few supplementary bulls had hitherto been placed, there were two at Burtonport, 20306-7.—The cross from Galloway bulls in Connemara was an improvement on the old breed; the value of the progeny tempted farmers to sell them so that Department contemplated keeping up the supply of premium bulls in these districts for some time, 20308-10.

Swine-Breeding in Western Districts.

Swine-breeding scheme had especially appealed to western districts; at Athenry and elsewhere stations had been established where premium boars were placed to obviate the danger that non-congested counties would buy up all the boars before western farmers; County Committees or Department sold to applicants at cost price plus carriage applicants paying £2 down and the rest being deducted afterwards from premium; improvement in breed was rapid as swine were prolific and came soon to maturity; numbers of boars located had steadily increased throughout Ireland, 20311-2.—The hugh York breed was most in demand in west, in north the new plack pig from North of England, 20313-4.—Swine-fever was not under witness's department, 20315.—Witness's department had had no trouble with the fever except a little difficulty in moving boars, there was a difficulty for farmers wishing to buy from parts of England where the fever was prevalent, 20315-7.—System for boars resembled that for bulls, £5 premiums were given the first year, £3 the second, but boars were practically given free owing to recipients' poverty, 20318-9.—Want of proper feeding for pigs was a great drawback especially when potatoes failed, the pig always followed the plough, 20320, 20342.—There was scope for development in pig-breeding but it was well forward, first-class pigs were exported, Ireland's bacon trade was good, huge numbers of fatted pigs were sold in the west, 20322-5.—Age for killing nine to ten months, price £3 10*s.* to £4, 20326.—Pig trade was one of the most important trades over the lines from Mayo to Waterford and Limerick, 20327.—Pig-breeding was intermittent in the West of Ireland; it was natural that when prices were high more pigs should be bred than when they were low, 20328-9.—High prices were not wholly due to scarcity in Ireland, but sometimes to scarcity elsewhere, a scarcity of potatoes and low prices for years would be followed by decrease in number of pigs, 20330-2.—Variation was largely owing to price of bacon which depended greatly on imports, 20333.—Witness would not advise Irish people that pig-breeding should be constant; unless farms were tilled they did not supply food for pigs, and the profit of pig-raising depended on the prices given for the Indian corn, etc. on which the pigs were fed, 20334-7.—Milk was used in pig-feeding but could be utilised for other stock; it paid to feed pigs on milk when pork and bacon were dear, 20338-42.—Pigs were plentiful where there was tillage, 20342.—In view of the poor class of land held by small holders in County Mayo the large supply of pigs from Mayo was wonderful, 20343.—There would be no difficulty in getting farmers to keep pigs if they were assured of a food supply, 20344.

Sheep-Breeding Scheme, Supply of Rams, etc.

Department had tried a system of subsidising rams but as sheep-breeding did not lend itself to a premium system and scab was prevalent the system was withdrawn; measures to suppress sheep-scab had since been taken and Department had placed Blackfaced, Roscommon, and Cheviot rams in Galway, Mayo, Donegal, and Kerry; rams were sold to farmers at reduced prices names and addresses of persons with whom they were located had been placed on record, 20345.—Mountain land could be over-drained for sheep as certain plants consumed in winter required a damp soil but large areas would be improved by surface-drainage, 20346.—Cattle placed on a surface-drained mountain might destroy the drain, but this would depend partly on the sub-soil, 20347.—Department had some regard to the selection of individuals to whom they sold rams, but not to the nature of purchasers' holdings, 20349-52.—In this matter Department had to rely on inspectors and overseers who were instructed to see to improvement of animals and the advantage of the small man, rams had to be sold to small holders above mutton price or they would be re-sold as mutton, farmers imagined they gave full price for rams and Department encouraged the belief; many rams had been placed out but not enough, 20352-5.—Sheep-rearing on small Irish farms was probably as well managed as could be expected, 20356.—There were great numbers of sheep in Galway, Roscommon was a fine sheep-feeding country, 20357.—Snow did not lie long on the hills, nor deep enough to prevent sheep getting their noses into it, 20358-9.

POULTRY-KEEPING: INSTRUCTION GIVEN ESTABLISHMENT OF EGG-STATIONS, ETC.

Poultry keeping was a great source of income if properly attended to, many egg-stations for providing egg-settings of pure breeds had been established in poorer districts, in both non-congested and congested districts there was an unexpected demand for poultry-keeping lectures and instruction which Department had not thought well-suited to poorer districts; at Department's request County Committees of Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Mayo suspended lectures and spent more money on new settings of eggs, two of the teachers were continued and charged with arranging for supply of eggs and inspection of stations in the five counties during winter, while in summer they continued demonstrations and instruction; at County Committees' desire instruction would be resumed next year; the western district schemes aimed at improving breed of fowl so as to reduce the death rate and some success had been attained, Committees' desire to continue this work and the increased demand for improved breeds were evidence of progress, some evidence of improvement in eggs had been collected, 20360.—There was no egg-stations as yet in Donegal, 20361.—Congested Districts Board's influence was felt less in poultry-raising than in anything, to encourage poultry-raising required sustained efforts, interest in it had only developed within five or six years, but Congested Districts Board had egg-stations from the start, 20362-5.—Department gave farmers thirty birds of pure breed and sufficient cockerels at small price on condition eggs were sold at a shilling a dozen, and within the district; a premium of £5 was given if results were satisfactory, 20366-8, 20370.—Recipients of premium birds could themselves go in for breeding fowls, the eggs were only used for breeding so long as a shilling a dozen could be obtained for them, holders of egg-stations often got fine birds, 20369-70.—It was an object to get strong cockerels to change the blood in the native breed, the some was done with ducks, 20371-2.—Duck-rearing was pretty general in Ireland, Department's duck scheme had not been long at work, 20373-4.—Department encouraged adoption of movable poultry-farms, 20375-8.—There was a scheme for turkey-breeding from American turkeys which could be carried on in small holdings where land was dry, 20378-81.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS—DRAWBACKS OF DUAL ADMINISTRATION, ETC.

Witness exhibited diagrams showing progress of work by Department and County Committees in the seven counties, County Committees in West of Ireland were rapidly getting a grasp of the work, 20382-3.—There was an annual increase in number of premium boars, western counties having more than their share, but the supply was increasing; Department's acquisition of the agricultural station and breeding farm at Athenry led to a great jump in Mayo and Galway in the matter of live stock, similar stations in Kerry, Donegal, and the north of Connaught were desirable, 20384-6.—Agricultural Committees of the seven western counties where congestion prevailed had made excellent progress in non-congested areas, progress in congested areas was less, but Committees had there been a shorter time at work, funds were inadequate and the people unused to local representative institutions, now that Department were allowed to work in congested districts County Committees' work should be extended there; supplementary schemes by Department were also necessary, but should be administered by Committees' officials to avoid clashing or overlapping with Committees' work, 20386-8.—More money was needed for those districts and more work which should be done by Department, to whom the work had already been handed over and who had already almost superseded Congested Districts Board, 20389-90A.—The £2,000 a year given by Congested Districts Board to Department was wholly insufficient; the abolition of a dual administration for schemes regarding agricultural development as distinct from land operations was necessary to avoid overlapping and confusion, 20391-5, 20420.—Overlapping between schemes of County Committees and Department was avoided as the same officers administered both, County Committees as statutory bodies could eventually assert their right to administer both, 20396.—Congested Districts Board had withdrawn their scheme, 20397.—Department's inspectors and overseers who assisted western County Committees could alone see that a system was supplementary, not antagonistic to Committees' schemes; evils of dual administration were illustrated before 1904, when Congested Districts Board, Department and County Committees had conflicting schemes; alternative to present scheme was to deprive Department and Committees of statutory powers and create a new agricultural development department and board, but present Department and Committees were equal to the work, only money and a fixed policy were needed, 20420-1.—Congested Districts Board had no statutory powers regarding rates, if such functions were given it there would be two statutory bodies possessing them, 20421-3.—Department existed for the whole country outside congested districts, the establishment of another department would involve great administrative waste, 20424, 20426-7.—An arrangement by which neither Department and Congested Districts Board was abolished would argue the abolition of the rate, 20425.

CONSTITUTION OF COUNTY COMMITTEES.

Department urged County Committees to work through local district committees, 20398.—Depart- did not mind whence additional funds were provided, 20399.—County Committees were selected from County Councils and co-opted members outside County Councils who had special knowledge of congested districts from which they were drawn, 20400, 2040-5.—County Committees were drawn equally from well-to-do and poorer district, 20402.—County Committee was a statutory body under Department's Act passed two years after local Government Act, 20406-9.—Before County Councils' and previous to Department's creation there was an Agricultural Department of the Land Commission and the Congested Districts Board, 20410-1.—Persons really representative of people benefiting by agricultural schemes, including many premium holders, sat on Committees, witness had objected to the presence of premium holders, 20412-6.—Co-opting outside members was intended to secure persons with knowledge of live stock, etc., not theorists, 20415, 20417, 20419.—There were many theorists in Ireland always informing Department of their ideas, 20418-20.

EVIDENCES AND CAUSES OF BACKWARD CONDITION OF AGRICULTURE IN IRELAND.

Agriculture in Ireland, generally, was behind that of the best Irish counties, 20430-1.—Agriculture was bad in south-west Connemara, in many parts of West of Ireland it could be improved, in Donegal it was more advanced than in other western counties, 20433-45.—Backwardness in agriculture in Ireland was shown by preponderance of uneconomic holdings, the want of working capital and proper housing for farmers and stock; the increase in second-class pasture which would produce three times the wealth if well tilled, the satisfaction with the existing system of making Ireland a ranch to supply stock for British farmers to fatten, the practice of selling the best and breeding from inferior stock, the almost complete loss in certain districts of the art of tillage, the want of a regular system of rotation, the aversion to doing more than the minimum to clean land, the want of pride in farm work, the tendency to put off ploughing, sowing and harvesting to the last moment, the small value placed on time, the want of recognition that labour was the best manure, combined with other causes to keep Irish farming backward, 20446-9.—Abandonment of tillage was less prevalent among small holdings than large, both small and large holders would be compelled to return to tillage, 20450-3.—Farmers in Ireland generally were satisfied with the ranch system, 20454.—Witness advocated putting the large cattle ranches under tillage, but reserving a portion of each farm for fattening purposes, 20455-61.—In certain parts of Ireland there was first-class cultivation, 20467-9.—Unfair comparison between agriculture in Ireland and other countries was often made, but in western districts of Ireland the peasants were without land, buildings or capital, they were in isolation and risk of periodic famine, market gardening was not practicable owing to the districts' remoteness from markets, 20469.

Early Potato-growing.

Early potato-growing had been tried, but the small plots made it difficult to get a sufficient produce to tempt dealers, 20470, 20492.—Ireland could supply a blank between the Jersey Island and Scotch potato crops, the price would be good, but the market not long, as it would be succeeded by the great Scotch potato crop ; in some cases potato-growing in Ireland had brought £40 per statute acre and another crop was grown in the same year, 20471-3.—Experiments had been made in County Cork where farmers were well-off and might grow enough to tempt Glasgow and Liverpool merchants, 20474.—The tilling was not good in Cork, but was improving, 20477.—Early potato-growing was on the increase, generally, and the planting earlier every year, a large area in Ayrshire was devoted to it, 20475-6.—Irish labourers in South of Scotland only lifted and dug potatoes, learning nothing of the tillage or even the handling of horses and carts, 20478-9.—Potatoes were sold in the ground, they came into the market in June or early July, Ireland could not produce them before June, 20480-1.—Department's experiment in Cork had been going on and increasing slowly for four or five years, 20482-4.—Late frosts had damaged the potatoes, but the crop had never failed, 20485-6.—Late frosts were a risk in the south-west of Ireland, 20487.—Early potatoes from West of Ireland might be profitably sold in England when a footing was obtained in Great Britain's markets by utilising the bigger and more advanced districts, 20488-9.—Existing small farmers could not quickly be converted into early potato growers, but much might be done among the younger men, climate and soil were not against early potato growing, 20490-1.

Agricultural Products of Ireland.

Roots, potatoes, corn, hay and grass were all the products soil and climate permitted, they could not be exported and must be converted into beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry, for which there was always sale, 20492A-20494.—All that was needed, except with regard to beef, was the perfecting of the present agricultural system, 20495-8.

Question of Tillage of Fattening Lands.

Fattening land was unsuitable for tillage only when very heavy, as then tilling was expensive, 20500, 20504.—A large area of fattening land in Ireland to supply beef to Great Britain summer and winter was desirable, 20504, 20530.—There was an idea that the best fattening lands were too rich for tillage and that crops would fall down, but roots, turnips, potatoes and cabbages would not fall down, and if grain did it would only be in the first few years, the real difficulty was to get land rich enough, 20502-3.—Tilled land indisputably yielded better and supported more labour than grass land, 20498, 20505, 20508, 20533.—After a few rotations the fertility accumulated in grass land would have disappeared and manuring might be needed, 20505-6.

Advantages of Mixed Farming—Proportion of Grazing Land needed, etc.

Witness did not commit himself to advising tillage of poor land, 20508-9, 20533.—It would pay farmers of 100 acres of such land as that in the Golden Vale of Tipperary to till a considerable portion, 20510-5.—Tillage of small and large farms would be a gain to the national wealth, 20513-4, 20516.—Farmers who employed labourers could not profitably put the whole farm under tillage, 20516.—Huge tracts of land in Ireland would never need rest from tillage, but where land was poor parts must always be under grass to rest it and the grass was needed to feed the stock, 20517-9.—Some grass land in Roscommon bought by Mr. Fitzgibbon had been sold through Estates Commissioners to nine new occupiers, each farm contained about thirty acres, one occupier intended to go in for dairying and give two acres to roots, four to oats, two to seeds, two-thirds of the land remaining under pasture, this would probably pay him best, 20521-7.—Under a tillage system the best bits could be left under grass, the proportion of tillage on a farm was a question of capital for implements, etc., a horse was always necessary, 20528-9.—Even in the West of Ireland grazing land was needed, because the crops could not be directly exported, but must be converted into beef, mutton, pork, but much land might be put under tillage even in Meath, 20531-2.—There should be a reservation of the best grass lands in Ireland to meet the wants of the rest of the country if it were concluded that beef-production was best for the farmers, 20530, 20535-40.—The grass land need not be reserved if dairying, pig-rearing and poultry-keeping were found more profitable than beef or store production, prices in the next ten years would settle the question, 20540. The thirty-acre holdings in Roscommon would pay better if farmers tilled a portion of them, each farmer doing the work himself, with the aid, perhaps, of one son, a man with an active wife who attended to the stock would need little other help, 20542-4.—It was doubtful if it would pay to till 500 acres of land in Meath in existing conditions of labour, 20542.—Tillage might pay where the farmer employed one labourer, the profit of employing labour extensively in tillage was doubtful, 20546.—It was wasteful to keep stock three years, stock should be born in February or March and sold fat at two years old as was done in East of Scotland, 20547-50.—If grazing ranches were split up into small farms farmer would either remain graziers or become mixed tillage farmers and rear stores to be finished in Scotland or Meath, or farmers would themselves do the fattening, 20553, 20555.—To avoid having to sell stock under two years old for lack of means to feed them small holders should keep fewer breeding cows and have two cows, two calves, two yearlings, and two two-year-olds, 20552, 20555.—Stock could be finished by small holders in Ireland if proper buildings were provided, 20556.

Products suited to Small Holdings and Mixed Farming.

Witness saw no difficulty in breaking up the grass lands, he believed the question of fattening cattle and raising stores was nearly at an end in Ireland, and he advocated dairying, pig-feeding, and poultry-rearing as involving less competition than beef production, the amount of beef imported from Argentine had enormously increased of late years, while the price had fallen, mutton imports were also increasing, imports of butter, bacon and eggs had not increased, nor had their price fallen and they should be produced in Ireland, their production suited mixed tillage and small holdings, 20557, 20559-61.—For beef production on small holdings proper housing was needed, £30 allowed by Estates Commissioners was too little, 20558, 20619.—The slowness of land purchase operations would allow time for a gradual change to the system of small holdings under tillage, 20562-3.—On thirty-acre holdings stock could be fattened in the stall if buildings were provided, 20563-6, 20572-3.—Under the system recommended by witness small occupiers would get all the profits, 20567.—Competition from Argentine would soon extend to the higher qualities of beef, though not to the highest qualities such as Scotland could provide, and small holders in Ireland did not yet understand fattening stock, while they all understood dairying which produced immediate profit, a fall in the price of beef might at any time destroy the value of an ox, 20568-70.—Fattening could not succeed on second-class Irish grass lands, 20571.—Best grazing lands were mostly in one county, 20573.

Buildings needed on a Thirty-acre Farm.

Under Estates Commissioners' system of giving occupiers money for buildings the buildings could be erected more cheaply than by contract, as farmers could themselves help in the erection ; not £30, but at least £100 per holding was required and the need for buildings was urgent, 20576-86.—Buildings necessary to get the best results from a thirty-acre farm were a cowhouse with sufficient space and light to keep the animals healthy and avoid tuberculosis, a stable for a horse, a barn, a small covered place for roots, feeding-stuffs, etc., a pig-stye, fowl-house, and accommodation for calves, 20590-7, 20610.—Many thirty-acre farms in Great Britain with which Ireland had to compete had accommodation superior to this, 20598-9, 20612.—In Lagan district the farmsteads cost £600, 20600.—Roofs of cowhouse, stable, and pig-stye must be slated, barn and store could have corrugated iron roofs, 20601-8, 20610-1.—Builders were discussing the question of cheaper material than stone for walls, 20609.—The cubic space in cowhouses was very important, local authorities would not allow milk to be sent from farms unless the cubic space was sufficient to secure the animal's health, the standard in some places was 600 cubic feet per cow, Department recommended 500, in many cowhouses in the West of Ireland there were only 200, 20614-6.—A ground space 11 or 12 feet by 7 and 9 or 10 feet of height, making 840 cubic feet was needed for a house for two cows, 20617-8, 20621-3.—Witness put in as evidence a leaflet giving description of good dairying system, less than this would serve if there were facilities for keeping milk clean and space to keep cows healthy, tubercular disease in Irish stock was considered a danger, but witness thought them very free from it, 20623-4.—The houses should be enclosed in four well ventilated windows, bullock-fattening and the best milk production could not be carried on under an iron roof with light and air admitted through the gable ends, 20625-30. The land on which it was proposed to create new holdings was well suited to production of roots, potatoes, grain, grass, and hay, which it would pay new occupiers to convert into articles for human consumption ; without suitable buildings tillage was impracticable and new occupiers must remain graziers ; many of Irish farmers competitors in Great Britain had buildings costing £10 per statute acre ; Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board were providing new occupiers with inadequate funds for buildings, at least £4 per acre was needed, and more if buildings were erected by contract, 20633, 20639.—In the store-raising industry in Ireland cattle could remain out in winter but store-raising was expensive and risky, 20636-8.—Houses for cattle, horses, poultry, and pigs, a barn and a store where roots, turf, and artificial manures could be placed were necessities for new holdings, 20639, 20684, 20697.—In estimating cost of striping land and dividing it up for mixed farming, £120 should be calculated for building on each holding ; some occupiers would themselves contribute a portion of this, 20640-4.—Many occupiers had quite insufficient capital, without buildings and working capital it was worse than useless to settle men on farms, 20645-6.—£120 would suffice only if the migrant could himself do a great deal of work on buildings as otherwise a cottage alone would cost more than £120, 20647-9.—£100 advanced for buildings would mean £3 5*s.* added to holder's annuity, it might be easier to pay £15 5*s.* with buildings than £12 without, the expenditure would be reproductive, 20650, 20666.—Congested Districts Board had been expending about £120 on houses and out-houses ; their out-houses cost about £22 10*s.*, which was entirely insufficient, 20655-6, 20663, 20665.—The price of tenant-right paid to migrants for holdings they had given up would be too small for buildings and stock, 20657-8.—In all cases investigated by witness there appeared no reasonable grounds for expecting migrants to add at least for some time to buildings erected by Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, 20659-62, 20665.—Witness had investigated cases of migrants of Congested Districts Board in Dillon Estate beside Loughglynn House, 20663-4.—In these cases the tillage had not been improved, but that was two years ago, 20672-5, 20688.—The migrants at Loughglynn received loans for purchase of stock, 20684.—If a good cow-house were given other out-houses might be deferred. tillage was impossible with buildings like those the Congested Districts Board erected for £22 10*s.*, and which consisted of four walls, an iron roof, and no floor, so that it was only fit for fowls ; as far as the cow was concerned, she was better in the dwelling-house if she were kept clean, 20680-2.—£22 10*s.* houses had no arrangement for keeping her clean, 20683.—A better equipment of new holdings would give occupiers a better chance, but beyond a certain point it would be unwise to put up buildings, 20694.—Department's overseers reported occupiers were not making the most of the land as they might with better buildings, 20695.—A given sum of money spent by a public department would go as far as if spent by the farmer, 20697.—Dairy products coming from such buildings as Congested Districts Board provided would not pass the sanitary authorities, the same was not true of all the dwellings in Ireland as some had a floor, 20697-700.—Irish farmers could never compete successfully with others unless accommodation was improved, 20701.—In speaking of new occupiers witness referred to those settled on land which had been many years under grass and on which there were no houses, 20703.—Witness had not seen much of congested districts but had formed conclusions from what he had seen, 20687.

Class of Land which should be Tilled.

In new farms Estates Commissioners endeavoured to give each man a piece of good and a piece of bad land, the bad should not be tilled, 20705.—Very bad land should not be included in thirty-acre farm, 20704, 20706.—But sheep might be grazed on it, 20709.—Much bad land in Ireland might be reclaimed by drainage, great expenditure on drainage would not pay, 20710.—Tilling thin land such as that on poor sand would not pay, 20711-2.

Raising Cattle for Beef.

Witness did not advocate continuing beef production but if it were continued fattening land must be reserved from tillage, 20707, 20709.—The question of stores and feeding cattle was a fundamental one for farmers, raising of cattle for beef was the chief industry in Ireland but at present most unsatisfactory, the risk attending breeding owing to mishaps incidental to parturition, the risk of high death-rate attending calf-rearing as well as loss to the land involved in building up carcase and offal fell on Irish farmers and a high proportion of it on western occupiers ; few animals were made prime fat in Ireland, and profits on the rest went to cattle feeders in Great Britain who bought store beasts at 4*s.* or 6*s.* per cwt. less than the price of fatted beasts, and made further profit in the enhanced value the cake used in fattening gave the manure, 20741.—In a place where the land was not too bad, where the bull cost a great deal, and the service of the cow 10*s.*, the calf would be worth 20*s.* to 30*s.* when dropped, it cost about £4 to rear and fetched perhaps £6, abortion was a great cause of loss, and some cows died natural deaths or failed to breed, 20747-9.—Cattle would be more profitable if grazing and fattening periods were concurrent instead of consecutive as, though yearlings took longer than two-year-olds to fatten, two-thirds of the foods consumed by a fattening ox went to maintain the heat and energy of the body ; in Ireland an ox was left on second-class grazing land till two and a half or three years old, losing in winter much of what it gained in summer, and occupying ground which thus supported only two-thirds the number of cattle it might maintain, 20750-2.—Many Irish animals exported as fat were not really so and were finished in Great Britain ; the small western occupier raised stores for graziers or dealers which could not pay him with the land in grass but might if he produced roots, fodder, and grain, and fattened, or partly fattened them, as he could on second-class grass land, which if partly tilled could carry more cattle in winter and on an average of the seasons than it could under grass ; as the conversion of the grass lands into new holdings would take time no dislocation of the store stock trade need be feared, 20752.—Dislocation would result if conversion took place at once, 20753.

Effect of Foreign Competition on the Cattle Trade.

The figures of dead meat imported into United Kingdom for the years 1885, 1895, 1905, had an important bearing on the question of the cattle trade, 20754.—There was a prospect that Argentine would eventually send as good meat as that produced in Meath or Kildare except that Argentine meat would be chilled, at present Argentine forequarters were under average price of Irish fat cattle, 20755. —Canadian and United States cattle were fetching as good prices as Irish fat cattle, though less than the best prime bullocks of Great Britain, American competition would affect Ireland more than Great Britain, because Ireland did not produce the prime material, 20755-9.—There was no immediate prospect of production of prime fat beef in Ireland while Argentine beef was constantly improving and gradually would compete with prime Scotch beef though the chilling would always make a difference, 20760-1, 20777.—The Argentine did not suffer from the distance because it could produce so cheaply owing to its excellent soil and climate, and a new system of growing lucerne in Argentine was likely to revolutionise the trade there, 20762-4.—Ireland and Argentine could not be compared for natural advantages, 20766-72.—Irishmen who had not been successful in Ireland had had great success in the Argentine, 20773-4.—Home trade had nothing to fear from Canadian cattle; since Canadian stock-owners were shut out of the store market in Great Britain they had learned to fatten their animals,which, as now imported, fetched as good prices as home-fed cattle; as Canadian farmers now needed manure it paid them better to consume their own corn with their own cattle, and then sell them as beef, not stores, 20775.—With capital, buildings, and skill, the Irish farmer of thirty acres could grow roots and crops as good as those of Great Britain and fatten his animals, the bulk of Irish land was suitable for this, 20780-2.—It was desirable that the many new holdings to be created should be large enough and sufficiently well-equipped to enable farmers to fatten cattle, 20783-7.—The outlook for store and half-fat cattle trade being extremely gloomy the only hope lay in breeding animals of finest quality, fattening them at home right from birth, and disposing of them prime fat at two years or under, slight rises in price would however probably occur to encourage those who preferred grazing and store-raising, 20788.

Dairy-Farming and Production of Eggs, Pigs, and Fowl better suited to Small Holdings than Feeding Prime Bullocks.

In recent years dairy farmers had held their own better than graziers and beef-producers, and butter, pigs, eggs, and fowl were commodities well suited to a country of small farmers, and responded more quickly to the industry of the farmer and his family besides needing less technical skill than feeding prime bullocks; these commodities also yielded a sure income and quick return important to new occupiers, and needed less expensive buildings than fattening cattle; cattle-feeding in Great Britain was mainly in eastern counties, western counties whose climate resembled that of Ireland were the seat of the dairy industry, which was there gradually replacing mixed farming and cattle-feeding, and in many counties the produce was entirely devoted to rearing milch cows, calves were killed or disposed of soon after birth so that more milch cows might be kept, on similar system the number of milch cows in Ireland might be almost doubled, cheese-making though very profitable needed too much technical skill to be quickly introduced into Ireland, Ireland's soil and climate were especially adapted to butter production and the separated milk could be given to pigs, eggs and poultry exported to Great Gritain from Ireland in 1904 were worth over two and three-quarter millions, sterling, and the trade might be greatly extended, in this industry Irish farmers had advantage of proximity to market, the price of eggs was not falling, 20788.—No record of egg exports had been kept between 1825 and 1904, increase in production of butter, bacon, eggs, and poultry could accompany an extension of tillage, decline in number of pigs in Ireland was due to want of tillage and of cheap byproducts to feed pigs, to meet competition the best of evrything should be produced, namely of stores, beef, mutton, butter, pigs, eggs, poultry, under a system of mixed farming; new occupiers should be given means to produce, especially butter, pig and poultry products in great quantity; it was an advantage that this was

the traditional form of agriculture in Ireland though the art had been lost in some grazing districts, 20789-91.—Department had a scheme for evolving a breed of cattle more adapted to production of milk, but it was desirable to have cattle good both for beef and milk, and these existed in the cross-bred shorthorn of Ireland, 20792-3.

Effect of Premium Bull System on Milking Properties of Irish Cattle.

The assertion that the bull premium system was destroying the milking properties of Irish cattle was made before any of the produce could have been in milk, but there was a risk that the premium bulls would have that effect; the decendants of Scotch cattle transferred to Ireland would probably be improved in milking quality while the reverse would be true of Irish cattle transferred to Great Britain, the soil probably had much to do with it, 20794.

Size of an Economic Holding.

If new occupiers remained graziers a larger area would be needed to provide for them and their families than if they tilled their land; Congested Districts Board regarded any holding whose valuation was over £10 as economic, £10 holdings would be under twenty acres of second-class land; if standard of comfort were to be raised as it should be, and occupiers to be placed beyond danger of distress in bad years, more would be required; an article in Department's *Journal* for December, 1903, stated that a holding to be economic should enable a farmer to bring up his family in an independent way with enough food and clothing and a fair general education and to apprentice one or more children to a business or trade, find employment for himself and the son who was to succeed him, profitably employ other members of his family and save for his old age, the area under tillage should vary according to size and age of family, minimum size of farm depending on the use of spade and plough, the spade could be used economically only under a system of intensive cultivation for market gardening which was impossible for Ireland generally. Irish farmers generally must follow a system aiming at production of roots, potatoes, corn, hay, and grass which required the plough, and as the plough needed two horses a holding to be economic should be large enough to keep them at work, viz., about fifty statute acres of average quality, but if two farmers co-operated thirty statute acres each or where land was very fertile twenty-five might do, 20795.—An economic holding was thus, roughly speaking, one that could not be worked by the spade unless under intense cultivation, this was practically the German standard according to which the possession of one horse qualified for Government assistance in settling a tenant on land, 20795a, 20797.—Two-horse farms would be better than one-horse, if farmers employed labour, thirty-acre holdings with buildings and capital might be cultivated with success, 20798. —On a £10 holding the standard of comfort would be very limited, 20801-2.—Land for creating holdings was limited, but the population was small, 20803.—Under a tillage system population would increase, 20804.—Tillage would give occupation to a farmer's sons and others; it was desirable to have a backbone of two-horse farms, a sprinkling of smaller ones for labourers and people with small capital and some still larger farms whose holders had capital and enterprise and might set an example in improved methods, 20805, 20810.—The principal large holders in Ireland at present laid out land in grass which needed little science, but there were farmers who with land and capital would act as leaders to the smaller ones, 20806-9, 20814.—The statement that the larger the farm the less science was used in working it was of large but not universal application in Ireland, 20811-4.—The holdings contemplated would employ a man and his family all the year, the majority of present holdings did not, 20841-2.—The change to improved conditions would be slow but effective if started on the right lines, 20843-4.—An economic standard having some relation to the standard of comfort could be adopted, that standard and the standard of cultivation would gradually rise, 20847-9, 20854.—A thirty-acre holding could support a family in greater comfort than at present prevailed in the west, holdings half that size and less could afford no standard of comfort; it was regrettable that Congested Districts Board had created so many uneconomic holdings on which many holders were in danger of inability to meet obligations or to remain on the land and not become migratory labourers, in non-congested parts of Ireland proportionately fewer uneconomic holdings had been sold under Purchase Acts, 20854-7.

Migratory Labour.

A migratory labourer should not receive an economic holding as he could not cultivate it and work part of the year in Great Britain, his presence was a source of weakness to Ireland, employers in Great Britain had no responsibility for these migratory labourers, and the burden of them in illness, etc., fell on Irish ratepayers, 20814-5, 20835.—The problem would become more serious if the demand for migratory labourers in Great Britain declined, 20816.—Canada did not, and was not likely to require migratory labourers though she might want permanent ones, 20818-23.—Tillage in Great Britain involving the demand for migratory labourers was likely to be as permanent as in Ireland, 20824-6.—There was danger that dairying would oust other agricultural business in England, 20830.—Tillage might remain on small Irish holdings after disappearing from Great Britain, but though on thirty-acre holdings a farmer might employ one labourer employment for all these migratory labourers would not be found in Ireland except under a general system of improved tillage; the migratory labourer if left on his uneconomic holding must always be in danger of famine, 20831-7.—The problem might be partly met by giving these labourers thirty-acre holdings on which they could live even if agriculture became worse, 20827-9.—Migratory labourers gained no agricultural knowledge from their travels, though they improved in intelligence, 20838-40, 20850-3.

Glasnevin Model Tillage Farm Changed into Fruit Farm.

The Glasnevin model tillage farm had been changed into a fruit farm four years ago by witness's advice, 20716-21, 20724-5.—The farm was a four-acre farm with first-class buildings, and supplied milk to Dublin at a high price, it was therefore no guide to the small farmer, 20722-3, 20725-34, 20738-40.—Department did not require this farm as the system was shown on a larger scale, it was therefore converted into a fruit farm where horticultural instructors were trained, 20736-8.—In South and North of Ireland fruit-growing was carried on as on this model farm, western farmers could do the same if they went in for fruit, and some did though witness did not expect large orchards in the west such as were being planted in other parts of Ireland, 20739-41.

Requirements of Migrants; Capital, etc.

Agriculturists throughout United Kingdom had to face foreign competition, and the new occupiers had to compete with improved methods elsewhere in the Kingdom and needed for this buildings, capital, and education including organisation, 20857.—If Land Department created holdings and provided buildings Department of Agriculture could if supplied with sufficient funds provide for working capital, education, organisation, and improvement of stock; many new occupiers would need instruction in use of implements and rotations of crops; fences, implements, seeds, and manures would be required; a well-equiped farm would need £8 working capital per acre in addition to cost of buildings, 20858-66, 20873-9.—A man might start with £5 working capital per acre, 20867-9.—Capital must somehow be provided and holders' ability to farm should be ascertained, 20870-2.—Cost of land and buildings should be included in holder's annuity, working capital as a reproductive loan should not, 20872, 20879.—A man with £200 capital was likely to make good use of his holding and might fairly be migrated to a new holding at the public expense as he would pay through his annuity for help received, 20879-84.—Advances to migrants were repayable within a term of years; Department's experience was that farmers were eager to repay loans quickly and always did pay them, 20885-6.—On Ffrench estate loans for live stock were given and the loans were repaid and the people become rich, 20676-7.—As the Ffrench estate holdings were cleared and drained and wages paid for the work by Board to tenants witness could not accept the arrangement as an agricultural improvement, 20690-3.—Without money holdings could not be successful, witness knew of a man who was given land but having no money must remain a labourer, 20678-9.

Extension of Loan System Proposed.

Most new ocupiers required at least £50 beyond their own capital, Department lent money for purchase of sires and for fencing and to agricultural banks, this loan system could be extended to purchase of stock and implements, etc., otherwise occupiers must stock farms gradually while meantime meeting annuities and facing competition; Department now proposed to Commission that a substantial sum should be provided for loans for stock and implements under supervision of Department's overseers or instructors, 20887-90, 20891.—Loans for buildings should be put into holder's annuity or could be obtained from Board of Works, but as the holder had to pay it all it would be better to consolidate the loan into one, small occupiers were unwilling to approach Board of Works, 20889-91.—A good central agricultural bank was needed in Ireland through which part of Department's endowment that had been saved could be given in loans, 20892.

Agricultural Instruction for New Holders.

Department could also supply new holders with practical instruction in agriculture, in other counties such education had been given by philanthropic landlords setting an example on their home farms and introducing high-class sires, by the example of successful farmers who introduced improved principles of agriculture, by agricultural press and by systematic agricultural education, 20892-5.—In West of Ireland the home farm, the large enterprising agriculturist and the agricultural Press counted for little, live stock improvement was attended to by Department and County Committees, itinerant instructors could do important work, but organisation was the first essential; twenty occupiers combined together could obtain materials and skilled labour for erecting buildings more cheaply than one man, implements and machinery could be shared, and time and money saved, in purchasing manures, seeds, etc., 20897.

Department should have Additional Funds for Agricultural Development of Backward Districts.

Congested districts were too closely conected with non-congested areas to be treated separately and the County Committees having taken them in hand should continue to work in them and should receive great increase of funds; the work of Congested Districts Board should cease entirely so far as concerned agricultural improvement as distinguished from land purchase and industries; artificial boundaries between congested and non-congested districts should cease for agricultural improvement purposes, 20897-901, 20905.—At present Parish Committees were engaged on same work as Department, 20902-3.—£30,000 per annum should be earmarked for backward districts and administered under Department through men with special knowledge of these districts, 20903, 20906, 20913.—Who with Department's aid would determine which districts were backward, 20904, 20907.—The £30,000 should be applied to agricultural stations, itinerant instruction, demonstration plots, change of seed, spraying, etc., agricultural education of girls, improvement of live stock, loans for purchase of stock and other farm requisites, and organisation, these schemes differing from those of County Committees only in the provision of more detailed and liberal treatment, 20907-9.—Some special work, *e.g.*, regarding change of seed was required for backward districts and not elsewhere and more itinerant instructors were needed for them than other places 20909-11.—One central agricultural station each for Donegal, Kerry, and North Connaught was desirable, 20913.—Thirty or more local instructors were required for backward districts in addition to county instructors

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and probably under the latter's supervision, each should have a local agricultural station in centre of his district with a few acres worked as demonstration farm, and buildings for temporary housing of sires under live stock schemes from which farmers should be encouraged to select their own bulls, etc., sires disabled through accident, etc., could be housed at the local station, instructors would systematically visit holdings and give advice, would attend to periodic introduction of fresh seed and supervise spraying of potatoes, 20913-6.—Want of funds had prevented much spraying in congested districts during last two years, 20917-8.—Spraying machines and other farm requisites should be kept at local agricultural stations to be lent out, where there were small allotment holders, but this system should be encouraged no more than necessary, instructors would supervise expenditure of money received by holders on loan, time would be needed to establish a service of instructors, a commencement should be made where new holdings were already established; the first years would produce an unexpended balance of the annual grant which could be spent on buildings, etc., for stations, 20917-8.—Many schools like Loughglynn should be established, 20919.—Larger funds were needed for live stock improvement, 20919.—If a public Department other than that of Agriculture undertook the work there must be overlapping, duplication, competition in purchase of sires, and confusion; if Department did the work one set of inspectors would suffice for county and supplementary schemes and the difficulties regarding raising a rate would disappear as well as the difficulty which would arise if County Councillors from excluded districts could vote against schemes confined to non-congested districts, County Committees might eventually administer the supplementary schemes; experience had shown that farmers were liable to abandon new methods when the instructor was withdrawn and instruction must therefore be continued for a long period till modern methods had become a matter of course; in consequence of the withdrawal of funds by Congested Districts Board after the arrangement with Department much machinery for agricultural development had been put out of action and would need large funds to restart, if County Committees' operations were restricted money expended on their plans would be similarly wasted; the western districts' greatest need was a consistent policy, 20919.

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FLETCHER, Mr. G.

Difficulties attending Department's work in congested areas.

Restriction under Section 18 of Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act brought many difficulties. When Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction first began work, County Committees were anxious to extend their schemes to congested areas, but had to be put off on account of this restriction, which led to a good deal of friction; short amending Act in 1902 by which congested county might be excluded from rating gave little relief; real ease came with Act of 1903 removing restriction, but no extension of funds given with extension of power; £55,000 available for technical instruction already allocated; permission to County Committees to extend schemes to congested areas involved expenditure in congested districts of money allotted to non-congested areas, 20923, 20924-7, 20949.

Expenditure by Department in Congested Districts—Funds available, etc.

Only money Department had was a special grant of a lump sum of £3,000 made by Congested Districts Board for live stock, technical instruction, and agricultural instruction in respect of congested areas, being a grant of 25*s*. for every £1 raised by rate

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from congested counties; technical instruction schemes received less than £800 of that, 20923, 20929.—£3,150 spent on county schemes in congested areas; difference made up by monies that had been allocated to non-congested areas; schemes had to be restricted for want of funds, 20923, 20948.—Money allocated had been expended everywhere except in Leitrim, after the first year, 20930-1.—Roughly speaking, £1,000 had to be taken from fund for non-congested areas; position was that of spending money in congested districts originally intended for non-congested only, and starving both, 20931.

Work of Department in Congested Districts.

Ninety-one short courses in domestic economy, 31 in manual work, 27 in crochet, knitting, etc., already held by teachers under county schemes in congested areas, 20931, 21181.—Dissatisfaction that schemes were not more fully developed; they extended automatically to rural districts without increase of staff; might be considerably developed if funds were available, 20931-2.—Schemes for congested and non-congested districts identical in almost all cases; relations between officers of Board and Department always harmonious, 20932.

Overlapping between Board and Department.

Prevention of overlapping in congested areas not always successful; Board and Department both worked at Presentation Convent at Cahirciveen; Board paid salary of teacher of crochet work, and Department gave capitation grants; Board had now withdrawn; in Kiltimagh Board paid salary of teacher of one class, other classes got capitation grants under Co. Mayo scheme; another case in Co. Leitrim, 20933-5, 21076.—Quite possible and easy for both classes to work under one scheme and teachers to be inter-transferable, 20936-7.—Undesirable for two authorities to do same work in one area, both had to inspect their classes; overlapping still existed, 20938-41.—Enormous amount to be done in congested areas, work injured by want of funds, 20942.—Board did some work such as loans at Ballaghadereen and Foxford that Department did not do; Department had opportunities with regard to other things that Board had not, 20943.—Board's inspector anxious to avoid overlapping; witness had often consulted Mr. Walker, 20944.—No real difference of opinion between the two bodies as far as witness knew, 20945.—In a case in Leitrim Board paid salary and travelling expenses of a teacher in domestic economy, while Department bought apparatus, 20947a.—There should be one body responsible, not two; Board had handed over £2,000 to Department for agricultural schemes, but nothing for technical instruction, 20948.—Board paid wages for work done; their workshop was their school, but so was Department's, 20946-7a.—Department's schemes for technical instruction operative all over the country; large amount of work administered directly, 20950.

Sources of income of Department.

Department had two sources of income, £55,000 endowment and the Science and Art grant; Act of 1899 transferred to Department the administration of Science and Art grant of Ireland, which was formerly administered by Department of Science and Art at South Kensington on a general scheme for Great Britain and Ireland; when Department first began work, under £5,000 a year came to Ireland, and scheme not suitable for Ireland; as soon as Department inherited duties of Science and Art Department they reformed teaching of experimental science in secondary schools; grant was put up this year by over £20,000; it was felt that real improvement in technical education must be founded on work in primary and secondary schools, and Department had no powers to deal with primary schools, 20950-2, 20955.

Instruction in Secondary Schools.

Intermediate Education Board worked with Department to extent of adopting its scheme in place of their syllabus of natural philosophy; half-a-dozen laboratories in secondary schools when work began, now over 250; practically every secondary school followed

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programme and received grant; Department helped to equip laboratories and their grants were supplemented by County Committees, 20952.—Three secondary schools in congested districts, at Kiltimagh, Ballaghadereen, and Dingle, 20952, 20953-4.—They were there before Department started, 20965.—Department had not taken them over, it only gave grants to secondary schools, 20966.—275 to 300 schools in Ireland now working in connection with Department; few schools came up to ideal standard, but almost all up to standard accepted by Department, 20968-71.—These secondary schools the same that worked under Intermediate Board; a very few worked under Department only; almost every school under Intermediate Board worked under Department's scheme; Intermediate Board had replaced their syllabus by Department's programme for science, drawing, and domestic economy, and accepted their inspection and examination for those subjects, 20972.—If Irish system of secondary education were efficient it should comprehend operations now conducted by Department; system of experimental science and drawing as good in Ireland as anywhere in Great Britain or on the Continent, 20975.—Deficiency formerly existing supplied by Department, 20976-7.—No laboratory work before Department came in; candidates reduced to 600 in 1899, 20978, 20982-3.—14,000 now following Department's programme, 20984.—Natural philosophy excluded now, 20979, 20998.—Before Department was established there were no funds for laboratories, 20980.—Grants could be had from South Kensington for apparatus, no grants for teaching or direction in schools; one inspector for science and art in all Ireland; regulations and syllabus unsuitable for the country; one or two schools did good work; generally speaking, teaching of science and art non-existent in 1900; Department laid down hard conditions when they began, which were met; equipment promised to schools that built laboratories; teachers of science had to be properly qualified; summer courses started for them; system at work for five years with excellent results, 20981.

Scholarship System.

Department and various county authorities had scholarship schemes; scholarships tenable at any approved secondary school, *i.e.*, one which took up Department's programme in experimental science and drawing; scholarships varied in value from £5 to £20 per annum, £5 for boy within radius of three miles, £10 for within seven miles, £15 if scholar were outside seven miles radius; a novel method of award, but one that would probably be largely copied, 20952, 20962-3, 20966.—Scholars selected for scholarships in secondary schools by examination, 20956-7.—They must be up to Standard VI.; care taken not to overlap National Board's work; boy taken for secondary school at conclusion of primary course, 20958.—There was competition for the scholarships, 20961.—Witness would like to confine scholarships more and more to schools in which practical industrial work was taken; they were confined in some cases to a type established by Department known as Trades' Preparatory Schools, of which there were only seven or eight in Ireland, 20963.—Examinations for scholarships held all over Ireland, 20964.—Aim of scholarship to give boy a further training to fit him for an industrial career; it was a link between primary and approved secondary schools, 20966, 20970.—Scheme in operation now for some years, 180 scholarships, 20967.

Two classes of Primary Schools.

No connection between educational efficiency and number of schools; two classes of schools in Ireland, primary and secondary; two classes of primary, those under National Board and those not, 20973.—When Board's rules were formed Christian Brothers' Schools refused to come under them; Department now responsible for drawing in the Brothers' Primary Schools, 20974.

Co-ordination between Primary and Secondary Education Question.

Primary schools under National Board, secondary schools under different body, 20986.—Difficult to draw hard and fast line between primary and secondary schools; upper classes of primary did work of lower

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classes of secondary; to take students from upper classes of primary schools would be to remove them from school altogether; too near the end of school life to begin going to a new school, 20987.—Few went to secondary from primary schools, except in case of Christian Brothers' Schools, where primary and secondary branches were in one building; they were not under National Board, 20988.—All our primary schools were, with few exceptions, private ones, 20989.—National Board had nothing to do with secondary education, 20990.—Christian Brothers had solved problem of co-ordination between primary and secondary education; originally established as primary schools for poor boys, they started a secondary branch to give those boys a chance, 20991-2.—Social position of children not the distinction between primary and secondary schools in Ireland, 20993.—Christian Brothers got no State grant except a small one for drawing, 20994-6.—They were under the Intermediate Board, and presented their pupils for individual examination, 20997.

Inspection v. Examination as method of distributing public funds.

Real reform in teaching of science by introduction of practical instead of theoretical work, experiments performed by students themselves, personal inspection the test of efficiency, 20998, 21008.—Visits paid by inspectors and one special inspection made, 20999.—System did not work too well with Intermediate Board's system of examination, 21000.—When science was handed over Department was invited to conduct examinations for honours candidates, 21001.—Examination system as method of distributing public funds for education most vicious, 21002-3, 21010.—Damaging to education; no objection to examinations whose aims were educational, they were necessary and a means of picking best students, 21003-5, 21007.—Intermediate Board's scheme was to distribute funds on basis of written examinations, commonly adopted in Ireland, done away with in England, 21005-7, 21012, 21014.—Remuneration of school should depend on inspection, 21009.—Department adopted that system, 21013.—So did National Board, 21014.—System of temporary inspectors never justified inspection, 21016.

Scope of Department's Schemes, General Principle of Elasticity and Adaptability.

Department's schemes provided for equipment in secondary schools for instruction in experimental science, drawing, manual work, in girls' schools domestic economy, defrayed charges by grants out of savings accumulated during first years of Department's existence, provision also made for teaching home industries for girls, £2 per student per session for every girl over fourteen attending 240 hours of instruction in some approved home industry, teacher must be recognised by Department as qualified, and equipment and instruction be satisfactory, forty out of the 240 hours of school work must be instruction in domestic economy, grant increased this year to £3 in respect of first ten students to secure more adequate assistance for small meritorious classes, 21016, 21038-9, 21041.—Every hour in a drawing class up to thirty counted as three; itinerant instructors for domestic economy appointed by Committee, salaries of local teachers of home industries paid through schemes in some instances, selected instructors appointed by Committee in others, schemes elastic and adaptable to needs of counties; itinerant teaching in Donegal, 8 teachers, 2 for sprigging, 4 for crochet, 1 for dress-making and needlework, 1 for domestic economy; 8 teachers in Galway, 4 domestic economy, 1 hygiene and sick nursing, 1 manual instruction, 2 crochet; grant of £400 for Ballinasloe, an urban centre with technical school, and grant of £510 for scholarships to boys; in Kerry 2 manual instructors, 3 for domestic economy, £90 for boys' scholarships, £100 for technical classes for girls; numbers of industrial classes in existence when Department began, object was to bring these into the work and assist them; schemes were drawn up in consultation with County Committees which at that time were Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 21016.

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES: JOINT COUNTY COMMITTEE, ETC.

Since 1900 Committees were separate in some cases, in others, where county comprised urban districts, there was a Joint Committee, 21016.—As in Donegal, 21017.—Urban districts represented on County Council, 21018-9.—But an urban district might not pay over its rate to County Committee for any scheme of technical education, and another Committee representing both County and Urban Councils was necessary to ensure joint work, 21019-20.—Rate raised separately on urban district; Joint Committees worked well, number of representatives for each county laid down in schemes, Mayo had twenty-six, of which nine were members of County Council, Kerry forty-nine, of which thirty were councillors; co-opted members were a valuable element, they were wholly outside members, mostly clergymen; Committees were very representative, 21021-2.—Up to creation of Department there was no such experience of education in Ireland as in England, and scarcely material to form Committees of, but efficiency of Committees steadily growing; difficulty in getting schemes formed at first, impossible to get assistance required without co-operation of clergymen, 21023-4.—Absence of University education amongst laity made it difficult to get anyone as useful, 21026.—Clergy excluded from ordinary representation by law, 21027, 21031.—Situation had to be dealt with as it was, co-option meant getting counsel not otherwise obtainable, 21031-5.—The people who co-opted them were representatives, it was representation removed two degrees, 21037.—Differences between schemes due to local needs, schemes subject to yearly revision, but no great changes were made; much good work done, more money wanted, 21038.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN METHODS OF DEPARTMENT AND THOSE OF CONGESTED DISRICTS BOARD.

Department took no responsibility for rural industries, Congested Districts Board did, they employed teachers, Department allowed teachers to be employed, Board paid wages, Department allowed and required wages to be paid, Department encouraged establishment of industries, allowing joint fund to be used for salaries of teachers, under County Committee schemes Department supplemented contributions from rates, a scheme covered case of industrial classes already in existence, as it paid for instruction if it was efficient, 21038.—Scheme had been criticised, 21039.

IMPORTANCE OF DRAWING.

Supplementary grant given for drawing if taken outside time for industry, 21042.—Drawing the foundation of technical instruction, 21043.—Special grant only claimable where time given to drawing was in excess of minimum 240 hours, 21040, 21043.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY TEACHING.

Domestic economy compulsory because it taught girls to be useful at home, and most girls married eventually, 21042.—Depreciation of home work due to want of instruction in domestic economy, great progress made under Department's scheme, 21043.

INITIATIVE ON PART OF CLASSES.

Class of sprigging started at Malin Head two years ago, workers now earned £1,000 a year, 21045.—Department's attitude to County Committee was that if they started such schemes Department would approve and give contribution, 21046.—Contributions not altered on account of slight difference of opinion as to way of working scheme, 21047.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DOMESTIC ECONOMY IN DUBLIN.

Training of teachers always considered important by Department, it was chief part of their direct operations, summer courses held annually in Dublin, Cork, and Belfast, training for domestic economy mostly carried on in Irish Training School of Domestic Economy in Dublin, quite sufficient for all Ireland, 21048.—School established by a society years ago and taken over by Department, 21049.—Entirely for training in domestic economy, 21050.—Probation period six weeks, course two and a half years, Department not responsible for pupil getting employment, 21051, 21058, 21062.—There was a demand for the students, 21051.—There was an examination with standard about the same as middle grade Intermediate, students passing that and a personal examination allowed to proceed, 21052.—Lower limit of age nineteen, 21053.—Controversy about Gaelic had not entered in, Irish, French, or German had to be taken up, 21054.—Gaelic very useful in western districts, 21055.—French most commonly chosen, sometimes Irish, rarely German; improvement in work of school attempted last three or four years, enormous progress made, end not yet concluded, 21056.—Between forty and fifty girls could be accomodated, 21057.

EMPLOYMENT FOR TRAINED STUDENTS.

Students so trained worked in the country and were brought in from time to time for summer courses, 21058.—Number of open Scholarships obtainable, and number of limited ones covering only tuition fees, 21059.—College non-residential would be better if it were residential, training would be more thorough, 21060.—Girls having qualified were eligible for employment as teachers in the country, and got salaries from £80 a year upwards and travelling expenses, 21063.—County authorities not bound to take them, they had no assurance of getting employment, 21064-5.—Department used its influence to prevent teachers being taken from outside Ireland, local authorities also keen in this direction, outside teachers had had to be employed sometimes when supply from schools was not equal to demand, 21066.—Supply sufficient now, 21067.—If development of school and teaching were to stop now opportunities of employment of successful pupils would be diminished, 21068.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS RESTRICTED BY LIMITATION OF FUNDS

Sixty teachers employed by Department for whole of Ireland, 21069-72.—Not enough, courses were too short, 21073.—Cost of additional instructors would fall on County, Department would also increase its grant, 21074-5.—Limitation of funds restricted number of teachers, no additional ones could be appointed without more funds from central source, 21076.—Widening basis of taxation had been considered, county would not be disposed to pay more than the penny, 21077.—No hesitation in paying that, felt to be money well spent, 21078.

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS OF MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

Periodical courses in training teachers in manual instruction for men held by Department, fifty such teachers employed in Ireland engaged and paid by local authorities, 21078.—Young skilled workmen secured by competitive examination and given an eight months' training as teachers, 21079.—Training carried on in Kevin-street Technical Schools, maintenance allowance given during training, men sent back to their work in the end if not qualified, 21080.—Scarcity of manual instructors at first, number increasing, 21081-2.—Some teachers imported from Scotland and England to make up number, so a number now training in Dublin these would go into the country and take work for local authorities, returning periodically for summer courses, 21084.—Teachers were servants of County Technical Committee under scheme of itinerant instruction, circular sent to centres asking if they wanted teachers, services of teachers allocated at beginning of session, courses covered six weeks, might be extended to twelve months, classes held in all sorts of places mostly unsuitable, two sessions daily, 4 to 6, and 7 to 9, earlier course attended by senior pupils from schools, evening one by adults, teachers in lace and crochet mainly taken from best workers in classes, summer courses provided in Cork and Dublin for further instruction, training greatly in design, scholarships given for training; scholars sent to London

School of Economics and Leeds University, this did not meet all needs, Department anxious to start courses similar to Austrian Meisterkursen, 21085.—Problem of primary and technical instruction in congested districts very pressing, primary instruction should be amended to suit needs of rural districts, manual instruction for boys and domestic economy for girls should be taught, not only reading and writing, manual instruction of great educational value, could not be given with existing buildings and teachers, 21085-6, 21096-9.—Aim in evening classes more utilitarian, 21087.—This led in some cases to establishment of an industry, its aim was to make people able themselves to execute small repairs to fences, etc., which was at present left undone, Kilkenny Guild of Workers originated in special courses given to certain more skilled carpenters in Kilkenny, they produced art furniture, 21089-90.—They were commercially successful, 21091-2.—They were helped locally, but not by Department, 21093-5.

Specially Qualified Teachers and Specially Equipped Places needed for Instruction in Domestic Economy and Manual Instruction, Cost of Proposed Rural Training Centres, &c.

For instruction in domestic economy and manual instruction, specially qualified teachers needed, not possible for teacher in other subjects to do that as well, 21100, 21166.—Witness proposed giving of necessary instruction up to standard 5 by National teacher, in higher standards it must be given in a specially equipped place by duly qualified teachers, 21101-3, 21124, 21133.—Rural schools could not afford this equipment, 21101, 21111.—Much was done by itinerant courses, pupils had to be over fourteen, as law prevented Department from giving technical instruction in elementary schools, good accommodation needed for courses, rural training centre suggested for group of National schools, with domestic economy room, manual instruction room, and class room, cost of building about £300, 21103, 21153, 21182.—Equipment £100, 21184-5. Annual expenditure £130 a year each for fifteen additional manual instructors, £90 each for fifteen domestic economy teachers, maintenance of each centre £100, 21186.—Students would come from radius of three miles, 21104, 21108.—One session a week attended by each National school, 21106.—Courses by itinerant teachers too short, accommodation and teachers needed for longer courses, funds the only difficulty, 21109.—Buildings should be brick or stone, with slated roof, 21110.—Work would fall to Department of Education if there could be a reorganisation of primary education in Ireland, proposed accommodation could not be added to every schoolhouse, it could be used by adult classes as well as upper standards of primary schools, 21112.—If National school had such accommodation its teaching could be supplemented by Department's, 21113-4.—Gain from centre was that one special teacher could be sent for several schools, 21114.—Rural centre for four schools proposed, 21115.—Teacher would live at a distance, 21116.—If each school had facilities one teacher could deal with the separate schools, Department would still require its own centre, 21117-8.—National school buildings sometimes used now, but adults were disinclined to go back to primary school, 21118.—Witness's proposal was to extend present technical schemes, hence itinerant teachers now employed would be available, and only want supplementing, central schools should be maintained by County Technical Committee, who would allocate teachers to centres for six months in the year, centres to be attended by higher standard National school pupils in day time, and be available for adults, etc., in the evening, 21152, 21181. Witness only offered evidence with regard to congested districts, the statements applied to all Ireland, 21154. About 30 centres required in congested districts for a beginning, 21155, 21183.—Hardly one manual workshop in the whole area now, 21156.—National school chers would not generally be able to teach the ual instruction and domestic economy up to ard 7, 21157-8, 21166.—They were special sub- nd required special qualifications, could not be rdinary teachers, 21159-60.—Work had been by National Board, they had decided to leave it to Department, 21161.—Movement on foot to introduce domestic economy in primary schools, work only touched lower standards, valuable work done in the way of teaching thrift, cleanliness, &c., 21162.—Impossible for National Board to teach the higher standards, as they had not the teachers which Department had, 21163.—Premises would have to be built whichever undertook work, 21164.—No disruption of National Board's work, only co-operation intended, 21165.—If National teacher had premises and were qualified he could carry on the instruction, it was a big "if," 21166.

Instruction should be given in Primary Schools.

Instruction should be part of school work, it was not technical instruction but an element of primary education, 21119-21, 21123.—Technical instruction should be given in secondary schools, 21122.—If domestic economy and manual instruction were not given in primary schools majority did not get it at all, 21123.—Manual instruction could be carried on at centres after leaving school, 21125.—Aim in primary schools more educational than utilitarian, 21126.—Simple exercises and use of tools as applied to wood could be taught in 5th standard, 21127-8.—Writing would be part of manual instruction, 21129.—Drawing in connection with manual work taught in all schools, 21130-1.—Seven standards in Irish National schools, 21132.—Pupils of upper standards not to be transferred to centres, but to attend for a couple of hours once a week, it would be supplementary to National school instruction, 21134-5.—A room if built at rural schoolhouse would be only used for a few hours a week, economy to have a centre, 21136-7.—Technical instruction attractive in nature to young children, too much book-work wearisome and unproductive, parents anxious to get such education for children, 21138.—Effect would be to make children anxious to pass into fifth standard, 21139-40.—Average attendance at National schools in Ireland low, in England 85 per cent., 21140.—This addition to primary education might tend to prolong school life, 21141.

Tendency of Instruction at present was away from the Land.

Tendency of instruction at present was away from land, 21142-3, 21146.—Marked tendency in Ireland to abandon agriculture and take to other pursuits, 21144-5.—Same everywhere, town populations swelling, few towns in Ireland, so people emigrated, 21147-8.—Education in England and Scotland as well as Ireland had same defects, workers in education fighting against it, witness's criticism no reflection on authorities, education originally was meant for the few, and was synonymous with scholarship, with extension due to passing of Elementary Education Act, direction had not been changed, tendency of education not to make a useful farmer, but a clerk, 21149.—Problem largely universal, best educational thought in America turned towards it, 21150-1.

Authorities Controlling Education in Ireland.

National Education Board the general authority for primary education in Ireland, 21167, 21170.—It was created by charter, and members were nominated by Lord Lieutenant, 21168.—Secondary education under control of Intermediate Board of Education, they had twelve members similarly divided into half Protestant, half Catholic, and were constituted in the same way by charter, 21170-2.—Department the authority for technical education and Congested Districts Board in congested districts, 21173.

Object of Manual Instruction in Primary Schools.

Object of manual instruction in primary schools not technical, but educational, it served purpose of stimulating pupil's interest and pride in his work, in other branches there was small scope for pupil's individuality, in wood or metal work dexterity was cultivated and accuracy in working from dimensioned drawings demanded, imagination called into play, same claimed for experimental science, 21174-5.—Executive powers were trained which were commonly neglected, 21178.—Artists might be found without education, but that was no argument against education, 21179.—Department was bound to solve problem of providing rooms for classes in rural districts, witness's programme went far to do so, 21181-2.

Proposals for "Rural Economy," Teaching in Primary Schools, Training of Teachers, &c.

"Rural economy" could be taught in primary schools under head of experimental science and geography, part of course would be common to boys and girls, part special work for each, it should be taught by National teacher, and brought into healthy relationship with other subjects taught, training for teachers could be provided by summer courses, which could be given in technical schools to teachers who would in turn conduct classes for National teachers in provincial technical schools, National Board ready to assist by giving facilities for teachers to attend, classes could be obtained out of Science and Art grant, evening classes now held by Department for National school teachers, and three-fourths of cost borne by Department, extension of present work of summer courses would meet difficulty, 21182.

Cost of proposed centres, Factors determining choice of Locality, &c.

Cost of centres, with summer courses for teachers including additional grant for rural (non-agricultural) industries of £2,000, would be a total annual expenditure of £8,550 and capital expenditure of £12,000, 21187, 21210.—No itinerant instructors exclusively employed by Department in rural districts, 21188.—Beginning should be made with two or three centres, best to introduce scheme gradually, 21189-90.—Position of centres would be determined by geographical conditions, grouping of schools, and by experience gained from reports of itinerant instructors as to where most pupils attended, 21191-2, 21195.—Schemes generally went well, and were popular in Donegal, 21193.—Needs of other counties equally great, 21194.

Department had no fund to bear required outlay, 21196.—They were excluded by statute from spending endowment on primary schools, money derived from Science and Art grant could, however, be spent in that way, Department would have power to spend more if they got it, 21197.—Science and Art grant increased from £5,800 to nearly £30,000 since 1899, 21198-201.—Prior to establishment of Department grants were paid on results of teaching prescribed subjects, at first on results of examination, afterwards on attendance and inspection, amount then earned only £5,000, subjects often unsuited to students or districts, regulations now made suitable to Ireland, no technical subject worth teaching for which a grant could not be got, subjects for instruction in secondary and evening schools were commercial subjects, languages, mathematics, science, handicrafts, domestic economy, art subjects; present system of grants good, based partly on attendance, partly on efficiency of instruction as determined by inspection, 21203.—Grant could be got for higher mathematics, 21204.—Increase of grant meant programme was now more rational, and one that could be put in practice, 21205.—South Kensington system unsuitable for Scotland and Ireland, 21206-8.

Encouragement of Industries.

Technical Committees in Ireland had strong desire to encourage industrial enterprise, Department had wide powers to assist them in regard to rural industries, technical training the only aid they could give to non-rural ones, all help possible had been given to rural industries and training for non-rural ones, aid for training could be given out of endowment and also out of Parliamentary grant, schools and classes for apprentices could be provided, etc., three-fourths expenditure borne by Department, no such school existed in Ireland at present, Department encouraged rural industries by appointing county teachers of industries, of which there were a large number under Committees, eight or nine county teachers of sprigging in Fermanagh, income derived from classes £4,000 to £5,000 a year, 21211-2.

Industrial Revival.

Desire existed on part of public for technical instruction, 21212.—Industrial revival real in Ireland, many industrial associations established, one in Cork, one in Dublin, interest increasing, 21213-4.—And would be permanent if responded to, 21215.—Such movements greatly influenced by County Committees, 21216.—Committee influenced by its chairman, who was chosen by the Committee irrespective of sectarian party, or political feeling, 21217-9.—No members of Committee influenced by such feeling, 21220.—Combination of different sections of community to do public work such as Committee's had healthy influence in removing political and religious animosity, 21221.—Success of industrial movement must be tested after a certain point, not by number of associations, but by their results, 21222.—Associations wholly voluntary, no public money spent on them, fruits of what public money had been spent on industrial development already perceptible, though it was too soon to expect much, 21223, 21241-3.—Much educational work done before people understood drift of Department's work, 21224.—Nobody could doubt permanent character of work, 21225.—Witness could produce figures to show improvement, 21226-8.

Vote for Technical Instruction in Ireland.

House of Common's vote for technical instruction a large sum, amounts voted to Ireland not in excess of those voted to sister countries, 21229-38.—Large portion of expenditure came from endowment, and was purely Irish money, 21236.—A Parliamentary Paper gave expenditure on education in the three countries, 21239-40.

Increase in number of Students attending Technical Classes.

Department's annual Report for 1904-5 showed number of students attending technical classes in Ireland, development was most marked, nothing like the same rate of advance in England, 21244.

Dangers of so-called Home Industries—Tendency to Train Girls away from Home.

Encouragement of rural industries assisted by inspectors, special experts reported on any industrial proposal, home industries and those which should be carried out under factory conditions to be carefully distinguished, home industry should be one calculated to decrease expenditure rather than increase income, 21245-6.—If a girl making lace and crochet was buying her clothes instead of making them there was little or no gain, 21247.—There was a point at which industries became stationary, large orders could not be complied with, because goods were not of uniform standard, if machinery were provided industry became a small factory, and a continuous output was necessary to meet fixed charges, question of maintaining small factories in Ireland turned on price of labour, cost of power and organisation, labour in rural districts was cheap, question of power was a difficulty, 21247-8.—Factory girls in Lancashire trained wholly away from home life and duties, there was a real danger in Ireland, too, 21249.—Great decline in housewifery, Board and Department encouraged industries to aid rural districts, sharp line between that and housewifery, 21251-2.—Witness would prepare paper dealing with question, 21250.—Introduction of small factory industries the most important, agricultural development alone would not check emigration, 21254.

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DIFFERENT METHODS OF DEPARTMENT AND CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN REGARD TO ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

Department fitted to deal with practical problem, such as Foxford, but their method was rather to assist individual effort, woollen mill in Kilkenny assisted by granting scholarships, 21256.—Congested Districts Board did more than that at Foxford, they gave a loan of £7,000 to start it, and then a capitation grant, 21257-8.—Department could only deal in that manner with a rural industry, 21259.—Board's method not the one Department had adopted or would adopt, Department's principle was to supplement individual effort, but take no responsibility, not to interfere in industrial competition, but aid a genuine attempt, 21260.

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A.—List of Industrial and Domestic Economy Classes in Congested Districts prior to 1st August, 1903,	224
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OBJECTS OF SOCIETY.

Objects of Irish Agricultural Organisation Society were to organise agriculture and other industries in Ireland on co-operative lines, 21262.

CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERIES—SIR H. PLUNKETT'S SCHEME.

Most creameries in 1899 were owned by proprietors, remainder in hands of joint stock companies, co-operative system of creameries owned, financed, and worked by farmers themselves, proposed by Sir H. Plunkett, farmers to pay limited dividend on capital and distribute surplus profit between milk suppliers and workers as dividend on trade or bonus on wages, workers of both sexes, 21268, 21266-8.—Present co-operative creameries formed on those lines, Sir H. Plunkett at that time provided the funds, Lord Monteagle associated with him and started organising Irish farmers on lines followed by their foreign rivals, 21262, 21271, 21273.—Attention of leaders of English co-operative movement attracted, subsidy granted by Co-operative Unions, which, together with private contributions, was administered by committee of union called the "Irish Section," Union only concerned with stores in England, not with co-operative methods among farmers, 21262.

CONSTITUTION OF CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

Co-operative Union was an association of affiliated Co-operative Societies, work carried on under elected board, which looked after interests of co-operative movement, promoted legislation, &c., Union maintained entirely by subscriptions from societies, 21274-6.

DISADVANTAGES OF TURNING DAIRYING INTO A FACTORY INDUSTRY.

Disadvantage of turning dairying into factory industry was that machinery was too costly for individual farmer to buy, necessary to have a capitalist or number of associated farmers, 21264-5.—Creamery a factory industry, 21269, 21277.—Domestic dairying had given place to factory creameries in Denmark and elsewhere, price of home-made butter declining, necessary to produce article more uniform in quality and more economically produced, 21270.

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ORIGIN OF IRISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

After four years' work funds found inadequate, it was decided to start propagandist body to which sympathisers could contribute money, farmers were continually applying for organisations to be started offering to find the capital themselves, 21277, 21279-80.—Irish Agricultural Organisation Society created in 1894, 21277.

INCREASE IN NUMBER, MEMBERSHIP, &C. OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

In 1889 there was one Co-operative Society with membership of 50, in 1894, thirty-four societies with 1,650 members, in 1900, when Department of Agriculture was started, there were 477 societies, 46,206 members, in 1906 approximately 891 societies with membership of 90,000, 21277.—In congested districts eighty-four co-operative banks or credit societies with membership of 5,000, turnover of £14,331, thirty-five creameries, nine in Donegal, one in Fermanagh, eight in Kerry, eight in Leitrim, one in Mayo, three in Roscommon, five in Sligo, total members 7,260, trade turnover £95,270 according to last returns, thirty-five agricultural societies, two in Donegal, nine in Galway, twenty-two in Mayo, two in Sligo, 4,002 members, turnover £10,071, six miscellaneous societies with 455 members, turnover £3,469, exclusive of credit societies in congested districts, seventy-six other societies with 11,717 members, turnover £107,810, 21278, 21432.

WORK OF SOCIETY IN CONGESTED AND VERY POOR DISTRICTS.

Latterly major portion of society's income came from subsidy from Department of Agriculture, 21280, 21296-7, 21351.—No restriction imposed as to expenditure, but money was mostly spent in non-congested areas, as Congested Districts Board worked in congested areas, and paid for organisation of Raiffeisen Credit Societies, more co-operative organisation needed in those districts, would be successful if society had more funds, 21280.—People in congested areas demoralised, self-reliance sapped by doles from Government, self-respect destroyed by credit system amounting in some cases to servitude, mental and physical capabilities destroyed by exodus of most capable to America, 21280-1.

EXPENDITURE OF SOCIETY'S FUNDS.

Only expenditure of Society's funds was on salaries and expenses of organisers, large expenditure involved in giving advice in remote districts and to unbusinesslike people, expenditure might be said to be greatly on instruction in the congested and some other very poor districts, 21282-4.—Growth of society's income had been in inverse ratio to increase of movement, since Department of Agriculture was started many people thought Society unnecessary and did not give contributions, more desirable for work to be done by Society than by Department, Society had had experience of work, if Department took it over no voluntary contributions would be received at all, Society got many contributions and a good many voluntary helpers, 21286-7.—Societies now in existence wanted no further help except advice, no capital nor much instruction in business methods required, 21288.—No charge made for advice, expenses of adviser sometimes paid by societies if they could afford it, 21289.

NEED FOR CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATION IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

If co-operative system were extended people would quickly realise how much more they could do for themselves than the Government could do for them, useless to enlarge farms if system of co-operation were not introduced, land of no use without capital to work it, form of co-operative society best suited to congested community was credit society to finance farmer and "General Purpose Society" to supply

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good and cheap manures and seed, inhabitants of congested districts peculiarly suited to co-operative organisation, they had been forced by distress to adopt primitive methods of co-operation, Raiffeisen banks more successful in congested districts than anywhere in Ireland, benefit of creameries and agricultural societies much greater in those areas, difficulties of co-operative organisation in those districts great, possibilities greater, witness had studied Mr. Russel's evidence, and fully agreed with it, 21291.

Relations between Society and Traders.

Society never attacked trade interests except to protect farming interests, 21291-4.—Co-operation a benefit to farmers, and indirectly to traders, 21295, 21353.—Income of Society derived partly from State money, 21297.—Society only concerned with improvement of methods and volume of production, not with traders' interests, traders able to protect themselves, they flourished while the people decayed, opposition to Society mistaken from trader's point of view, creameries established had been recognised as most valuable institutions, improving trade of the towns in which they were established, dairymen did not come into competition, there were none in those districts in the ordinary sense, 21298-300.—Seed and manure merchant would oppose any society; Irish Agricultural Organisation Society only concerned itself with co-operative sale of produce and supply of raw materials and implements of agricultural industry, barter system replaced by system of collecting produce and putting it on market so as to realise highest price, 21301.

Barter System in Congested Districts.

Barter system still prevalent, increasing in congested districts, trader sent carts to collect eggs and butter and gave groceries in exchange, 21303-9.—Bartering only in eggs, butter and poultry, 21310.—System being pushed more energetically now, 21311, 21312.—Competition greater, shopkeepers more enterprising, 21313.—Competition induced traders to give more goods, but never cash, 21314-5.

Society's methods in regard to purchase of Agricultural Requisites.

Society endeavoured to classify member's requirements for agricultural requisites through local societies and to federate these societies for bulking orders, and procuring goods at bed-rock prices, business transactions undertaken by specially organised trade federations controlled by the societies, 21311, 21316.

Position of "Congest" in debt to Shopkeeper.

As matters stood, "congest" sold his scanty produce in worst market and bought agricultural requisites and necessaries of life in market where goods were so bad that no cash purchaser would buy them, Co-operative Society changed that, 21317-8.—Large farmers and resident gentry did not deal in this small market, only people taking goods on credit, 21319-20.—Witness compared prices in country towns with those in big centres, country prices 20 or 40 per cent. above those in large places after allowing for carriage, 21321-2.—Shopkeepers' policy to keep people in debt to them, it secured their custom, and they could not criticise their goods, 21323, 21325.—Practice existed all along western seaboard, 21324.—Rare for small holder in Western Ireland not to be in debt to shopkeeper, 21325-6.—If people had no goods to barter they ran up bills, migratory labourers ran up bills till labourer returned with money, 21327.

No escape provided by Bankruptcy Court.

Last shift of Irish peasant to go into Bankruptcy Court, 21328-9.—Loss of freedom of man in debt complete, because there was no escape by simple or cheap process of law, 21331.

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"General Purposes Society" needed as well as system of Co-operative Credit.

Co-operative organisation would succeed best if founded on sound system of co-operative credit. Raiffeisen Bank admirably suited, machinery to sell and buy all that related to farm needed as well, witness suggested first the formation of a Raiffeisen bank in every parish, then a "General Purposes Society" which would bulk, grade, and sell produce, 21331.

Raiffeisen Banks.

Raiffeisen banks practically identical with those in Germany, they had money lent but no subsidy for working purposes, paid full interest on money borrowed, 21332-5.—Rules the same as German ones, source of money not the same, they would enable members to purchase artificial manures, seeds, fishing gear, &c., more expensive farm machines could be used co-operatively by the members, such a society could also introduce improved breeds of live stock, 21336.

Co-operative Insurance Company for Live Stock proposed.

General co-operative insurance company for live stock would also be a benefit, provision of re-insuring body must form part of such a scheme, 21336.—Supposing society were formed for insuring live stock with mortality rate calculated at 3 per cent., if rate rose to 5 per cent. society would be bankrupt, if societies were associated and pooled their premiums, they would equalise each other, 21337-8.—One insurance society registered in Ireland so far, could do nothing without another to back it, 21339.—Irish Agricultural Organisation Society had rules and forms for such societies, but no funds, 21340.—Insurance company would not do it, Lloyd's might, but there was no branch of Lloyd's in Ireland, Council of Agriculture in Ireland had passed a resolution asking the Department to take steps to underwrite risks of live stock insurance societies, 21341-2.—Ordinary insurance company would charge too high interest, mutual societies need only charge 2 per cent., if that were exceeded one year premiums the next could be raised to make loss good, re-insuring company helping meantime, 21343-5.—If death-rate were below estimate, money would be carried forward, 21345.

Qualified Organisers maintained by Society—Duties, &c.

Society maintained staff of qualified organisers, district allotted to each, duties to explain and demonstrate principles of co-operative organisation, he kept in touch with societies, and kept them in touch with each other, and with Dublin, no financial responsibility accepted for societies, each separately controlled and financed by its members, 21346, 21360.—Application for new societies dealt with at central office in consultation with local organiser when application was approved, organiser attended preliminary meeting, he was usually "heckled," but generally succeeded in convincing people, 21346.

Distinction between work of Department's and Society's Organisers.

Functions of Department's and Society's organisers so different that people never confused them now. 21347-8.—Advice did not clash, it was on different subjects, 21349.—Each organiser had a district and was pretty well known, 21350.—Since Department's subsidy was granted work was not changed, only extended, Department now gave technical instruction formerly given by Society, 21352-3.

Opposition by Traders, etc.

Attack on principle of co-operation rare, opposition due to distrust of Society's methods fostered by the press and traders, opposition increased cost of organisation, if members of Parliament lent aid in their constituencies progress would have been rapid, opposition unwarranted by facts, ordinary trader could not reach best market and was not qualified to deal in manures and seeds, provisions of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act dead letter, unsuitable manures sold at prices beyond their value, difficult to understand opposition, society never encouraged supply of household goods by co-operative societies, 21353.—Ordinary shopkeeper hated to see his customers go past his door so stocked things that did not pay him, 21354.—He thought it would pay indirectly, 21355.

Procedure for establishment of a Society—Constitution of Committee of Management, etc.

After preliminary meeting next step for establishing society would be provisional committee to canvas for shares, nominal value of share £1, usually 5*s.*, sometimes 2*s.* 6*d.* a share paid on application, further calls as required, number of shares regulated by poor law valuation of members' holding, in case of creameries by number of cows holding would carry, member's liability limited to amount of his shares, to supplement capital committee gave a joint and several guarantee to nearest joint stock bank where they provisionally opened account, 21355.—Bank permitted account to be overdrawn to extent of guarantee at fixed rate of 4 per cent., 21356-8.—Weak point was committee's liability which deterred men of substance from becoming guarantors, however the responsibility ensured careful management. interest paid on shares at 5 per cent., 21358.—Guarantors all members of committee, persons could not be removed from committee so long as they were guarantors without some one to take their places, 21359-60.—Committee selected by members, manager and secretary by committee, in creameries manager got salary of £1 to £3 a week, 21360.—Society described was kind of society already existing, general purposes society the one recommended for congested districts, 21361, 21364.—None specially formed at present, 21362.—Manager of poultry and egg marketing society got salary of £1 to £2 a week, 21363-4.—Managers of societies for purchasing manures and seeds got percentage on sales and sometimes bonus on profits, members shared profits, no cash payment till shares were paid up either in cash or calls or allocation of dividends from profits, organising society also provided account books and instructed managers and committees how to use them, 21364.

General Purposes Society recommended for Congested Districts.

Difficult to amalgamate large and small farmers in most places, no distinctions in congested districts, except where fishermen were farmers, "General Purposes Society" the best, provided businesses were departmentalised and separate accounts kept, such a society could have a creamery, also sell poultry, etc., one managers could superintend several branches, if there were no credit society the committee might give credit and make a profit out of it, 21364.—5 per cent. charged, taking credit not encouraged, but necessary sometimes if people would go to shopkeepers, 21365-6.

Attitude of Joint Stock Banks.

Joint stock bank in most towns and villages, sometimes two, 21367.—Banks willing to help industries that were practicable, 21368-9, 21371.—Tendency was to expect more from them than they had a right to give, 21370.—Irish banker safeguarded shareholders well, 21372.—Banks did not lend recklessly, they had not many losses, 21373.—Common case for a man having money on deposit at 1 per cent. to borrow small sum at 6 per cent. to pay rent, he did not trust himself to replace deposit if disturbed, 21374-6.

Work of Egg and Poultry Societies in Congested Districts.

Egg and poultry societies very useful, little benefit to improve breed of fowl without market facilities, England the great market, competition very great,

individually "congest" could not compete, collectively he would be powerful, society bought eggs by weight, so that good eggs got full value, it tested eggs and packed them to attract, selling under distinctive National Trade Mark, which was appreciated on markets, profits divided among members, reputation of Irish eggs thus revived, number and weight of eggs improved, 21377.—Same trade mark for all Ireland, registered to prevent sale of Russian eggs as Irish, 21378-80.—Ireland near to great centres of distribution or consumpion, 21381.—Remote districts handicapped by want of transit, but not so much as was supposed, organised producers easily reached railways, value of eggs exported in 1904 was £2,800,000, could be doubled in a few years by organisation, congested districts as suited to egg production as anywhere, produce of twenty hens equal to that of one cow, 21382.—Weight of egg depended on breed of hen and feeding, 21383-4.—Difficult to produce table fowl, all districts not suitable, best layers not best table fowl, no good "general purposes" breed, geese, ducks, turkeys raised everywhere, fair market if they were properly fed, killed, plucked, trussed and packed, "cramming" done at three societies, hoped that table fowl fattened in Ireland would soon command as good prices in British market as Surrey or Sussex, which now held the market, large quantities of Irish chickens bought by Surrey and Sussex fatteners and sold as Surrey or Sussex fowls, 21384-5.—London market difficult to get into, beginning made by capturing markets in smaller towns, 21386.—First rate fowl turned out by societies, expert fattener employed, 21386-7.—Margin of profit on cramming less than was supposed, 21388.—Smaller bird preferred in Ireland, more attention paid to hatching in right season instead of only when market was glutted would bring uniform supply and amply repay trouble, society purchased fowl as far as possible by weight, quality also taken into account, 21389.—Dampness of climate unfavourable to production of chickens, 21390.

Creamery System for Congested Districts.

Modification of creamery system carried on in other parts of Ireland would prove a great boon to people of congested districts, home-made butter industry doomed, quality too uncertain, consumers preferred creamery butter that could be depended on, small farmers might join together to buy hand separator or one driven by pony, a daughter of one of the families could be trained to act as dairymaid, milk would be brought, people bringing eggs, honey and poultry at same time, separated milk carried home again, united products would be sent to "General Purposes Society" for market, and cash returns be made through each townland collector, 21390.—Would entail expense, but also profit, 21391.—Small farmer would gain more from such a system than large one, market problem already solved by trade federations in Dublin and Limerick, depots also on British side, 21392-3.—They sold in English and Irish town markets, 21394-5.—Business of federations increasing, not so fast as societies, societies found more outlets now than formerly, 21396-9.—Creamery could sell all the butter it turned out, 21400.

Suggestions for additional Employment in Congested Districts.

"Congest could not live by land alone, difficult to suggest industry apart from land, best of the population emigrated or migrated, there were possibilities in land itself, *e.g.*, flax grown in Ballina and Killala, early potatoes successful in Aran and West Cork, early spring flowers would grow in Aran, bee-keeping could be developed, lace and crochet though overdone could be counted on as a good source of income, 21400.—Slump in crochet at present, inferior work turned out, machine made article dangerous competitor, only high-class work to be encouraged, 21401-3.

Co-operative Grazing Scheme.

Witness suggested that when a grazing farm was within reach a co-operative society should buy it to hold

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in common as had been done successfully by societies at Killaroran and Tissara, members' cattle were admitted at a rate per head and common herd employed, cattle throve better with a wide range than in confined area, 21403-5.—Farms had been rented, profit out of the two farms £100 in one year, 21406-9.—People kept accounts, 21408.—Co-operative grazing had also been carried on successfully in County Meath, where richest grazing in Ireland was, under Colonel Everard, 21410.—It had now been stopped at Tissara as land had been sold; difficult for co-operative societies to get farms on account of people's clamour for land, society thought it wrong to divide land, better to keep it as common grazing, 21411.

Importance of Co-operation for a Peasant Proprietary.

Report of Small Holdings Committee declared agricultural co-operation essential to peasant proprietary, he would adopt it spontaneously if educated, society's duty was to educate him, country recognised necessity and decreed society should do it, aided by funds from Department, witness hoped this Commission would frame report to enable society to extend work in congested districts, 21413-4.—Small Holdings Committee had reference to Act of 1892, 21415.—Similarity between holdings under that Act and Irish ones, English holdings more productive, 21416.—Scope of Act very limited, Commission, arguing from different circumstances, drew same conclusions as were drawn in Ireland, 21417-8.—In Ireland people who got large holdings had no capital or market for goods or business knowledge, these could be given through co-operative societies, 21421.—Co-operation as much needed on Dillon Estate as anywhere, 21422-3.—Easy to introduce in Ireland, was a revival of old clan system, 21424.—Mistrust of neighbours was a serious barrier, but it was disappearing, meeting of people to do business in common broke down suspicion, 21425.—Absence of belief in public spirit another characteristic, 21426-7.—Would disappear, even now local landlord was chosen to preside over society if he were a good business man, religious or political difference did not prevent members electing best men on committees, 21428.

Grants made by Department to Society.

First subsidy made by Department to Organisation Society was grant of £2,000 a year for banks, home industries and live stock insurance societies, that was made by Agricultural Board, which was two-thirds elected, one-third nominated, next grant also by Agricultural Board, of £3,700, in May, 1906, matter of co-operative organisation come before Council of Agriculture, who unanimously declared in favour of it and decided to employ State funds in promoting it, six months later they recommended that I.A.O.S. should be aided in carrying out an approved scheme subject to supervision of expenditure by Department, subsidy to be *pro rata* in order to stimulate contributions from subscribers, Board was to meet next week to consider a scheme, 21429.—Resolutions were passed by clear majority of elected element of Board, 21430.

Explanation of Failure of Dairy Society in Donegal.

Complaints had been made by Mr. Pearson about a dairy society started in Donegal, at time of starting it in 1902 people in that part of South Donegal were clamouring for societies everywhere, society started in hopes of embracing creameries at Inver and Killtee-vogue, both places started separate creameries, an adjoining creamery meanwhile equipped itself as churning creamery and became competitor, society not responsible, they tried to lay line of demarcation to secure enough milk, competitors would not agree, Donegal Society starved almost to death, witness trying to think out scheme to save it, relations between Donegal Society and I.A.O.S. perfectly friendly, 21431.—Too much jealousy to amalgamate Donegal Company with others, 21432.

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Carndonagh Society—Profits as compared with what could be made by unassociated Congests.

Carndonagh Society typical example of co-operative society, Chairman, Rev. J. Doherty, priest of parish, turnover last year £1,866 by creamery, auxiliary creamery worked at the Lagan, 3·84 pence per gallon received for milk by farmers, 39,359 lbs. butter got from 87,606 gallons milk, average 1 lb. butter to 2·22 gallons milk, under old plan, 1 lb. butter produced from 3 gallons milk, which would have reduced butter output from 39,000 lbs. to 29,000 lbs., 11·25 pence a pound paid for butter, "congested" butter at 8*d.* a pound would realise 2·66*d.* a gallon for milk, reducing total received for produce from £1,866 to £973, or loss of £1 19*s.* 4*d.* per cow, taking cow's produce at 400 gallons per annum, and £893 on full turnover of society, 21433.—Witness allowed nothing for working expenses, creamery's working expenses allowed in paying 3·84*d.* per gallon, loans and old debts also paid off and interest of 5 per cent. on shares besides amount allowed for depreciation of buildings, and £58 19*s.* 9*d.* carried forward, 21434-5.—Price of butter alone in Carndonagh exceeded value of land, buildings and everything, 21443.—Objects of creamery not confined to that electoral division, 21444.—Figure might have been doubled by sale of eggs as well, egg production ran butter very close, value of total export of poultry and eggs from Ireland in 1904, £2,800,000, of butter £3,200,000, difference of only £400,000, value of eggs consumed in Ireland greater than butter, 21445.—Value of butter, eggs and poultry together in Carndonagh exceeded total valuation of district, 21446.—Butter produced by co-operative creameries more than half total export value of butter from Ireland, 21447-9.—Butter from creameries mainly exported, 21450.

Difficulties in the way of starting Creameries in worst Congested Districts.

Creameries could be extended under a scheme like "General Purposes Society," difficult in district where people were scattered, those with one or two cows would not bring milk to distant centre, 21436-7.—Practically impossible in West unless under a scheme of hand separators for small area, 21438.—Worst congested districts could not possibly support creameries, 21437-41.—There were no cows, 21442.

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D.—Case for Counsel's advice re Acquisition of Grazing Farms,	234
E.—Draft of Bill supported by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and submitted to the Right Hon. Gerald Balfour, then Chief Secretary,	235

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See also p. 155.

Witness's official evidence dealt with relations between Congested Districts Board and Department, was given at length, because Commission had no clear idea of Department's constitution and policy, was agreed to by chief officers of Department and by Agricultural Board, following unofficial evidence given as member of Congested Districts Board and as person in touch with actual conditions in Ireland, official in sense that practical suggestions were agreed to by Department, 21454-5.

Character of the People.

Problem of congestion looked at by witness from human, not material side, education and economic development more dealt with than land question, PLUNKETT, The Right Hon. Sir HORACE—*continued.*

views formed from study of character of people, 21461.—Their moral qualities of high order, physical condition good considering their history, industry combined with lack of capability to secure its fruits, resourcefulness and shrewdness in bargaining combined with backwardness in commercial education and business character, 21462.—These qualities and defects were illustrated by their relations with shopkeepers, credit and barter system, borrowing at high rate of interest when they had money in savings bank at low rate, neglect to spray potatoes, 21463.—Distinction between Congested Districts policy of 1891 and later policy, latter due to labours of Recess Committee though much done by private individuals, 21463.

Too Much Importance attached to Land Factor, Not Enough to Education and Agricultural Development.

Tendency to attach too much importance to land factor, too little to labour and capital, 21463, 21465.—Insufficient attention given to education and agricultural development, 21465-6.

Commission would be able to determine amount of land available for solution of problem, unwise to distribute it with people in backward condition, they would have to be helped, 21467.—Land purchase had not gone too fast, but there were many questions to be threshed out before best method of re-distribution could be determined, 21468, 21470.—On Dillon estate there had been more improvement of holdings than enlargement, average holding twenty acres, 21469.

Pace of Re-Distribution of Land.

Acceleration of pace of re-distribution dangerous, obstacles to rapid settlement might possibly be found removable by Commission, 21471.—But at present authorities had insufficient knowledge of class of holding required, and people's technical knowledge was insufficient to work an economic holding, 21472.—Enlargement of holdings not to be entirely postponed till people were more educated, cases must be judged on their own merits, might be best to give a little more land where possible until people were enabled to go higher, probable that result of Commission's inquiry would be to modify idea of what was an economic holding and how far people in congested districts were fit to be put on to one, 21473, 21475-6.—Witness not anxious to delay re-settlement, he wished to avoid hasty settlement that would have to be undone, 21474.—Providing opportunities stimulated people's anxiety to be taught, a re-distribution of land to be aimed at that had strict regard to extent people were taking advantage of educational and other means provided, amount of land to be got should depend on ability to cultivate, caution to be observed in sanctioning re-distribution that would be popular but would not work out, system wanted that would get maximum amount of land and provide maximum of comfort to largest number of people, 21477.—Acquisition and re-distribution of land two separate questions, there should be power to obtain land that was not inconsistent with delaying re-distribution until best system was known, 21478.—State could acquire land and merely hold it till they got information, or could distribute it if they were ready; least controversy would be about lands grazed on eleven months' system, witness argued not so much against actual re-distribution as against stereotyping any principle of re-distribution, 21479.—Government would pay interest on the money it gave for the land; a principle of re-distribution should be decided upon, and, if sound, public opinion would support the policy, 21480.—Witness had experienced demand for more rapid re-sale to tenants of estates held by Board while they improved them, Government must make up their mind not what would best please those who wanted land, but what was best settlement for people as a whole, 21481.—A chief consideration in building up tenant proprietary was fitting holder to holding and holding to holder, 21482.—Difficult problem, fact not ignored that future generations might not be so suitable as the individual placed on the holding, 21483.—Congested Districts Act passed in [illegible], [illegible]1484.—There had been cases of new tenancies under Board since then, 21485-6.—People's condition improved by getting better holdings, with technical education they would have done better, 21487.—There had been no time for failure, 21488.—Not proposed that system should stop, question was how much land to give in each case, and some guiding principle should be agreed on, 21489.—Everyone wanted the low standard of comfort in congested areas to be raised, larger holding required for high standard than for low, but what constituted an economic holding, standard of comfort of holder, system of agriculture pursued, general economic position of district all so indeterminate at present that best system of re-distribution was almost impossible to decide on; many holdings created by Board would probably prove uneconomic when standard of comfort rose, though they did best that could be done; new factors such as Act of 1903 had come in since Board was founded, and there was a probability of fresh funds being available for economic development of congested districts, all of which things had to be taken into account, 21490.

Authority to Decide on Fitness of Migrants.

Authority charged with re-distribution of land would decide on fitness of tenants, that body must act in close consultation with body attending to agricultural development, 21491.

Fitness of Migrants; Individual Test Required.

State authority must examine into personal fitness of holders, 21492.—Test of fitness of migrants to be individual, 21493.

Migrants from very backward districts such as Connemara would not succeed on good land such as in Roscommon, they should be put on to farms at an intermediate stage or else on enlarged holdings in their own district, others might possibly be moved to good holding to make room for others, plan adopted to certain extent by Board, 21494-6.—The O'Conor Don thought a man would be less well off with two uneconomic holdings that he could not work himself than as a migratory labourer with one uneconomic holding, point worth considering, 21497-8.

Improvements on Estates Purchased should be carried out before Re-Sale to Tenants.

Good plan for improvements necessary on an estate being purchased by tenants to be carried out by public authority, cost of improvements being added to instalments, 21499.—It was easier for terms of repayment to be altered before than after tenants became owners, also tenants could be dealt with collectively, 21500, 21512.—Land Act of 1903 should be modified to render operation more free, 21502.—If Government adopted a policy of improving estates as result of Report of Commission it should be done in intermediate stage, 21503-4, 21508.—Owner's only interest was the difference between interest he would get on completion of sale and interest when he was paid, 21506.—Government, once they had a definite policy, must have compulsory powers not only on owners but on purchasers, it would be necessary to see that new owners could do their duty by the land and justify State assistance, principle that property had its duties as well as its rights should be applied to peasant proprietary as well as large landholders, 21508.—Landlord and tenant could be allowed to make the bargain with each other, that need not prevent postponement of completion until improvements were carried out by the authority, 21509.—Landlord's power of selling direct to tenants within the zones consistent with power of improving, 21510.—At present landlords of worst estates could sell direct to tenants, 21511.—Result was that estates needing improvements were in hands of tenants who had no money, and improvements would thus have to be done by authority after sale, apparently the only way to put such estates in good condition was to insist on abolition of freedom of sale for that class of property and compel landlord to sell through an improving authority, 21512, 21517.—Public authority should be able to effect improvements before handing estate to tenants, unfair for landlord to get increased price in respect of improvements carried out by State money, 21514.—Witness had not fully considered machinery for sale and purchase, 21514-6.—If Government were to improve estates they ought to hold them during improvement before distributing to tenants, 21519.—Voluntary agreement between landlord and tenant need not be interfered with, the vesting order could be suspended till estates had been dealt with, 21520.

REPORT OF SMALL HOLDINGS COMMITTEE.

Report of Small Holdings Committee showed extreme difficulty of placing small holdings on sound and permanent basis under existing economic conditions, 21524, 21582.—No land hunger or agrarian agitation existed in England, so that committee was able to take a broad view, chief value of report was treatment of land factor in relation to all other factors of problem of rural life, significant that in Great Britain while Small Holdings Act was inoperative, Allotments Act quite successful, and in the few cases where small holdings succeeded it was due to those who initiated them, landlords being the prime movers, especially in Scottish crofter districts, fitness of holder chiefly insisted on, probationary period suggested where this was not assured, promotion of agricultural co-operation by State laid down as essential for rural communities, agricultural education to be assisted by Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, subjects based on rural needs to be compulsory in rural schools, school gardens to be provided, until these things were done, committee held that land distribution should be regarded as in experimental stage, 21524.

UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS TO BE ALLOWED FOR IN IRELAND.

Conditions in Ireland less favourable than in England, people neither technically nor commercially prepared to meet altered conditions of agricultural production and distribution, folly to ignore fact of aversion of Irish in America to agricultural pursuits, rural exodus and urban concentration were sociological as much as economic tendencies, temperament of Irish people such as to put them in van of movement, social and intellectual organisations must join with Government agencies if people were to be kept on land, evicted tenants were to be placed on farms, but years of exile did not increase their qualifications for husbandry, landholders in certain areas were in chronic state of destitution and unfitted to succeed on economic holding, they could, and must, be made self-supporting, but not simply by placing them on land, provision of farms could not be postponed till people were sufficiently educated and organised, but defective conditions must be allowed for, and unless great care were taken parcelling of land into so-called economic holdings would make less prosperous tenants than it might be possible to create, 21524.

"ECONOMIC" AND "HYPER-ECONOMIC" HOLDINGS AND ALLOTMENTS.

Term "economic holding" used for one that could support a family with fair standard of comfort, "hyper-economic holding" one that could do more, "allotment" for one that could not support family without external resources, exact relation these should bear to each other could not be fixed by Parliament, economic law would dispose of that, strong family would always get more land, aim must be settlement of as many people on land as could be expected to maintain themselves on it in comfort, proposed chess-board division of land impossible, economic holding relative term depending on standard of comfort, holder, environment, &c., standard of comfort was rising, and would do so increasingly, and the holding must expand with it, when certain contemplated developments were carried out economic holding might not have to be so large as now, necessary revolutionising of technical and commercial methods in Ireland was beginning, Irish peasant at present required more land in proportion to his standard of living than French, Belgian, or Dutch, if their methods were introduced Irish peasant might before long prosper on smaller holding, impossible to tell where balance of greater needs and more efficiency would be struck, 21524.—Board's experience in migration and enlargement of holdings more negative than positive in earlier years, negative results showed what to avoid and helped to determine conditions for permanent settlement, 21524, 21534-6. Minimum valuation of economic holding first taken as £6 in emergency case, people with valuation of £6 and upwards did not come on rates in time of chronic famine, 21524-6.—Chronic famine existed in West Connemara and portions of Erris, 21527-8.—There were relief works, 21529.—Impossible to administer them without abuse, they were sometimes necessary, rarely now, 21530-1.—Witness spoke of times now past, starvation as a result of distress had disappeared, 21532-3.—Holdings created up to 1906 successful so far, but people might not be able to maintain themselves on them with higher standard of comfort, 21537-8.

STANDARD OF COMFORT IN RELATION TO ECONOMIC HOLDINGS AND SUB-DIVISION.

Improvement in standard of living, 21539-40.—Did not mean improvement in people's condition, if standard increased so that people could not maintain it they emigrated, there was an improvement in ambitions and outlook of people as well as in physical comfort, 21541.—Maintenance of standard must depend primarily on economic conditions, twenty-five years ago in France laws were passed admitting infinite sub-division, but effective standard of comfort had been established, and peasants sub-divided until they got to the minimum, but not below that, 21542-4.—Board's later operations more positive in value, holdings could not yet be standardised, account must be taken of fact that migrants and purchasing tenants were paid wages for improvements, re-action when this assistance was withdrawn must be reckoned with, 21544-6.—If improvements were economic when tenants came into possession, the expenditure would be reproductive, 21547-8.—If holding were not economic, even after improvement, migrant or purchaser would complain of Board having put them on uneconomic holdings, many holdings on Dillon Estate could not be economic, this Commission must deal with those, 21548.—Drainage of Dillon Estate a splendid operation, and added considerable acreage to economic land, 21549-50.—Question of standard of comfort in relation to re-settlement not merely academic, necessary to settle as many families as possible, the more really economic holdings in the re-settlement the better for the nation, settlement, if it were to be permanent, must be natural social evolution, could not take place till standard of comfort was a reality, passing of sub-division would be a test of this, situation analogous to that in France required, sub-division could only be reached by improving standard of comfort through education, 21550.

NEED FOR A CERTAIN NUMBER OF HYPER-ECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Economic holdings should be supplemented by hyper-economic ones and allotments, Act of 1903 might conceivably abolish system of dual ownership in half a generation, but the benefits to agricultural classes of such an upheaval were exaggerated, and its risks and responsibilities little considered, abolition of landlords with their social and economic leadership would leave void which must be filled by Government, Irish peasantry would be the least organised in the world, witness hoped a number of landlords would remain in country and help to build up its none too prosperous state, important to encourage men who would bring capital, education, and opportunities of travel to bear practically on problem of agricultural development; importance of large farmer would employ labour and provide capital for buildings, 21550.

PLUNKETT, The Right Hon. Sir HORACE—*continued.*

Allotments for Labourers.

Migratory labourers should be given employment at home, people on seaboard would have better chance if placed on allotments where hyper-economic holdings would provide labour for them if extension of tillage were adopted, breakdown of wasteful grazing system would come from ranchmen of Argentine, who would soon take back one hundredfold the prices now given for good breeds, the Irish farmer would be forced into fattening cattle and developing poultry, dairying, &c., this meant capital and also employment of labour, so that the strong farmer would want allotments adjoining his holding, while economic holders would supply and employ labour according to size of their families, 21550.

Need for Mobility in People—Elasticity in Land System—Agricultural Ladder advocated.

Fallacy to think man was made a farmer by giving him a farm, evolution of such a policy would be sub-division; to avoid producing congestion, care must be taken to encourage ambition of farmers who were compelled to be labourers, 21550.—Agricultural ladder advocated to enable allotment holders to rise through economic holding to hyper-economic, and those unable to work large holding to fall back on smaller, mobility and elasticity vitally important, 21550, 21561-3.—This scheme could not be carried out rapidly, present land system had effect of making people extraordinarily immobile, when farming became a progressive business they would be content to move up and down the ladder, if land system were made elastic with cheap and easy form of land transfer, people would be induced and enabled to become mobile, undesirable at present stage to determine proportion three divisions of land should bear to each other, it should change with changes in agricultural production and distribution, brought about by scientific discovery and foreign supply in British markets, mobility should be secured by education and organisation, 21550.—Difficulties of migration most easily surmounted by moving communities, experiments should be tried, Department being allowed to give special attention to education and organisation of communities before moving them, closest co-operation essential between authority dealing with land and that preparing the people, desirable early to decide what estates were available for migration and enlargement, not incompatible with cautious resettlement, impossible to tell what holdings would be suitable for the people until further experiments were made, families could not now be selected without prejudicing each other, by premature settlement, holdings would be given to families who would fall back on grazing, or who would not purchase enough land, 21550.—As many holdings as necessary should be established, hyper-economic and allotments as well as economic, 21551-3.—Community of purely economic holdings not on sound basis, 21553.—Estate as a division would disappear, witness's scheme involved organisation of people, 21554.—If principles were not laid down authority would find on purchasing estates they must yield to popular demand for economic holdings for everyone, 21557, 21564.—If Estates Commissioners bought estate with large amount of grazing they could divide it all into economic holdings provided surrounding land had larger and smaller holdings, 21555.—Allotments not economic without auxiliary resources, 21558.—Class of labourer contemplated who would cultivate their own plots as well as let out their labour, witness would like to see migratory labourers getting permanent employment in Ireland, 21560.—It was done in other countries, 21561.

People's attitude towards Migration.

People's attitude towards migration improving, and would be more favourable in near future, future of peasantry should not be mortgaged by forcing them to decide important issues before they were in a position to act wisely in their own interests, land acquired could be utilised for benefit of community, but not redistributed, 21550.

PLUNKETT, The Right Hon. Sir HORACE—*continued.*

Precautions needed against undue accumulation of Holdings by the more Successful Holders.

For a period Government must exercise restraint upon transfer of land; later, when people's condition was raised, economic law should be allowed to operate, 21565.—For a time purchasers should not be allowed to add to holdings by taking from others, until economic and allotment holders knew how to protect themselves restrictions should be made to prevent them being brought up by shrewd business men, 21566.—A number of people unfit to succeed must be placed on holdings, healthy condition never attained till successful could buy out unsuccessful, but at first people must be safe-guarded by being under supervision and control, 21567.—In any experiment proportion of people must go to the wall, percentage would decrease as business advanced, 21568, 21578-9. —One man would not be prohibited from buying another's holding, but amalgamation would be restricted for a while, 21569-70.—At present there was no restriction so long as purchaser took up obligations to Government, 21571.—In case where holding was created by State, if purchaser could not discharge his obligations he must be able to sell his interests to someone who could, State could for a period exercise discretion as to who that someone was, 21572-3. —Holder should not have right to sell part of his holding, 21574.—In case of money borrowed on holding question of sale could be left to lender, State would have first security, 21575-21577.—Lender would have ordinary remedy at law, 21576-7.

Prospects of a Permanent Settlement.

Settlement of to-day could not be permanent, but principle of giving land largely affected prospect of permanency, 21580.

Discretionary Powers for a Public Authority needed at present stage.

Conditions in Ireland made difficulties of dealing with small holding problem worse than in Great Britain, there ought therefore to be a public authority allowed for some time to exercise guardianship over peasant proprietary to prevent its becoming a wreck before the devised redistribution had had time to be tested, 21582.—Better to give discretionary power to public body than prescribe by law what was to be done at this stage, 21583.

State of Public Opinion—Possibilities of Educating Public Opinion up to required point.

Public opinion necessary to support that body must be created, 21584.—With time to work out result of exhaustive inquiries now being made, a comprehensive and philosophic scheme could be carried into effect in spite of present differences of opinion, economic thought in the country was growing in surprising way, 21585-9.—Existing public opinion might not support such a scheme, but in a few years it would probably be very different, problems had never before been so much discussed and thought over as now, 21591.—Commission ought to lay before those working on problem what they believed to be the ideal settlement, to start with that assumption that sound system could not be recommended because public opinion was not educated up to it would be lamentable and retard progress, 21592.—If land were to be distributed in accordance with existing public opinion, there would be a demoralising scramble for it amongst agricultural population, all that would be changed when it was shown in businesslike manner how people planted on economic holdings were going to prosper, 21593.

MacGREGOR, Mr. R. R.

Definition of Congestion in Scotland, Terms of Act of 60 & 61 Victoria.

The Act of 60 & 61 Victoria, Chapter 53, was the only Act under which the Congested Districts Board of Scotland operated, under it Board had power to determine which were congested districts, 21598-9.—Section 10 of the Act said, "The expression 'congested district' means any crofting parish or crofting parishes or any area in a crofting parish or crofting parishes defined by the Commissioners under this Act which they shall, having regard to the population and value thereof, determine to be a congested district," 21600.—A crofting parish was defined in Crofters' Holdings Act of 1886, it must be in one of the crofting counties, namely Argyll, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, or Shetland, and must have been determined by the Crofters' Commission under the Act of 1886 as fulfilling the conditions of that Act as regards their definition of a crofting parish; witness believed only twelve parishes in those seven counties were not crofting parishes, 21601, 21605.—The Crofters' Commission was instituted by the Act of 1886, and was not a special commission, it was still in existence, it was just now the Land Court for Scotland, 21603-4.

AREA, POPULATION, ETC., OF SCOTCH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Area of the seven counties was 8,722,563 acres, population, 324,207, the crofting population could not be given exactly, the Census gave 224,186 as the rural population of the seven counties, 21605-9, 21629.—Within the seven counties Congested Districts Board dealt only with those areas especially declared within its jurisdiction which areas must have been crofting parishes or parts of crofting parishes within the seven counties, 21610-6, 21622-3.—In Scotland there was no such unit as an electoral division, the parish was the unit for rating, 21617-8.—In general the Scotch divisions were the county and the parish, for the County Council purposes the county was divided into districts, some counties had no districts, 21619-22.—The Congested Districts Board was not a rating authority, 21624.—The seven counties contained 163 parishes, of which 151 had been declared crofting parishes by Crofters' Commission, 21626-7.—Sixty-three of these 151 parishes or areas within them had been declared by Congested Districts Board to be congested Districts, in most cases it was the whole parish that was declared congested; the congested districts comprised 3,885,794 acres, over which Board at present operated, 21629-33.—Population of congested districts was about 135,000 persons, or 29,833 families, 21634-6.

ADVANTAGE OF ELASTICITY OF SCOTCH DEFINITION OF CONGESTION.

The Scotch definition of a congested district had been found to cover the whole of the case, its elasticity was an advantage and enabled Board to pick out congested areas however small and even when scattered through an area containing large holdings, 21637-9.

VALUATION AS AN ELEMENT IN DETERMINING CONGESTION IN SCOTLAND.

In determining that a district was congested Board decided to satisfy themselves that the industrial resources of the locality were insufficient for the needs of the population, and that the valuation (exclusive of rental obtained from shootings and holdings rated at £30 per annum and exclusive also of the population of these holdings) did not exceed £1 per head of the population, 21641.—By the Act valuation was an element in determining the decision of Congested Districts Board, in Scotland valuation and rental were synonymous terms, 21642-6, 21842-54.—County assessors in Scotland annually made up the Valuation Roll in which were entered all the subjects in the parishes and counties and the yearly rental of those subjects, the total of entries in the Valuation for the parish made up the valuation of the parish, the total of the parishes was that of the county; from the valuation of the parish were struck off sporting rents, rents of large farms and all subjects rented over £30 which was the statutory limit of a crofter, and the Board in determining whether the parish was congested took the valuation per head of the rest of the parish, 21646-7.—At a certain time of year the county assessor issued to every landowner a paper to fill up accurately under a penalty of £50 for any error in Valuation Roll; the valuation, with certain exceptions, was the actual rent or letting value of whatever the landowner possessed as stated in the paper, 21648-53, 21842-54.—As circumstances had changed a valuation fixed nearly sixty years ago and never altered would not afford reasonable basis for Board's work, 21654.

FUNDS OF THE SCOTTISH BOARD.

Total funds for the Scottish Board under their Act were £35,000 a year of which £15,000 came from the Local Taxation Fund, a Parliamentary grant at disposal of the Secretary for Scotland and annually available for improvement of congested districts under the Agricultural Rates, etc., Act of 1896, the remaining £20,000 were annually voted by Parliament and might be reduced by the House of Commons, 21656-65, 21670, 21673.—The sum had always been £35,000 and no grants had been received, Board had no borrowing powers, 21666-9, 21672.—The £20,000 was an administrative fund administered by the office of the Secretary for Scotland, 21671.—Total receipts of Board from 1st of October in 1897 to 31st of March in 1906 were £342,972, of which Board spent, including administrative expenditure, £323,000, 21674-9.—During the currency of the financial year 1897-8, the Scottish Office paid Board £15,000, but the Treasury did not pay the £20,000 because there was then current a vote of Parliament called the Highlands and Islands grant; Board came into existence in the middle of a financial year and were not on the estimates for that year, and the Treasury could not pay the £20,000, 21679-80.

EXPENDITURE BY SCOTCH BOARD ON SALARIES, ETC., OF STAFF.

In 1905-6 salaries for Board's headquarters staff, namely, secretary, four clerks, and engineering staff were £1,028, some branches of the office were shared with other departments, Fishery Board, Scottish Office and Local Government Board contributed towards engineering, 21683.—Witness had at first £150 salary, now, as Secretary, he had £250, 21685.—The Engineer with surveyor and two clerks were paid from the £1,028 but for local supervision of works they were paid from the works for which the grants were made, 21686-7.—For 1906-7 expenditure for Board and headquarters staff in salaries, travelling expenses, stationery, postage and railways was only £1,708, 21688-90.—Board had four temporary clerks who were not pensionable, they might be retained by new Land Commission if Board were abolished, two of them had been in the Civil Service as boy clerks, 21692-700.—In Board's offices salaries were lower than in other Edinburgh offices, clerks began at £60 a year, rising to £200, clerks in second division of General Civil Service began at £70 a year, 21702-6.

SCOTCH BOARD'S POWER OF CLAIMING ASSISTANCE FROM OFFICERS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

Under the Act the Secretary for Scotland could direct any officers in any Government Department in Scotland to discharge in relation to the Commissioners such duties not inconsistent with those of their permanent offices as he thought proper, full advantage had been taken of this power, and the Crofters' Commission and Fishery and other Boards had rendered Congested Districts Board valuable aid, 21707-10, 21712-4.—Board's work had not been hampered by insufficiency of funds or staff although with much more money much more could be done, 21715-6.

SALARIES FOR INSPECTORS OF LAND OPERATIONS.

Salaries for inspectors of land operations, etc., were not included in the £1,028, the land manager in charge of Kilmuir Estate in Skye and other land schemes of Board had a salary of £360 charged under land migration and other expenditure, which amounted to

£18,000, 21717-24.—He supervised, if desired, all estate operations of Board, 21725-6.—His business was chiefly confined to land operations, on Board's own estate he was a land agent, but was always available for advice, and attended to Board's migration operations, 21730-1. 21735-5.—The engineer looked after adaptation works, buildings, etc., in connection with land purchase, 21730.

Extent and Nature of Scotch Board's Land Operations.

Up to March 31st of 1906 Board's purchases of land amounted to £113,646 10*s*., for about 80,000 acres, comprising the four estates of Syre in Sutherland, Barra, Glendale, and Kilmuir, 21727-9.—Board's land operations were of two classes, one the buying and selling of estates by Board to re-sell as small holdings, the other co-operation with landlords which had rendered it possible for Board to relieve congestion without embarking on any great purchase scheme, 21736, 22074-7.

Co-operation with Landlords.

In this co-operation landlords provided land to be divided into small farms or crofts for which the landlord would receive rent, Board making a grant for roads or fences or lending crofters money to build houses, 21736-42.

Considerations determining Size of Farms.

Size of these farms varied, in some places men who were fishermen or yachtsmen merely needed a home, the size of farms intended to support the farmers depended on quality of the land, there was no standard of size, 21743-8.—In the Sutherland Estate the land was divided with the object of making holdings capable of supporting their occupiers, in other cases local requirements had to be suited, 21749.—The reclamation scheme of the late Duke of Sutherland near Loch Shin was not successful, it was very costly, 21756-7.

Sutherland Estate purchased by Board.

The Sutherland Estate purchased by Board was a large sheep farm called Syre, from which crofters had been evicted in the great evictions of the thirties and forties, since when it had been a sheep farm, 21752, 21779-81.—The ground covered 12,000 acres along River Naver in Sutherland and Board arranged with the Duke of Sutherland for its purchase about six years ago, 21755, 21759, 21772, 21778-9.—This ground had been so long under grass that crops did not rise and it took three or four years to bring it into good heart for cultivation, 21751-5.—Some of the people placed on it by Board were now hopeful of success, but others were not, twenty-three holders had been originally placed there, of whom two had left, but there was no difficulty in replacing them, 21760-3, 21767.—By the terms of the sale the new holders had to be people giving up holdings in congested districts elsewhere in Sutherlandshire, 21764-6.—The most critical period of this experiment was now over, and the migrants had built houses worth two or three hundred pounds and stocked the land with many sheep and cattle, 21768-72.—Each migrant held individually a part of the land and an outrun or private grazing run and also a share of the great hill pasture for live stock, which was managed as a club stock, 21773-7.—The people placed on these lands were a good class, 21792-3.—Witness did not think there had been any special change in valuation of land since Board began to buy, the Local Government Board might give information on that head, 21784-90.

Restrictions on Action of Scotch Boards.

There was nothing to prevent Board from dealing as they thought best with land they had purchased, 21791.—Board could only migrate people from congested districts, migrants could be settled on land in any part of Scotland, but if that land were outside Congested Districts Board could not help small tenants resident on it at time of purchase, this limitation hampered Board, 21796-9.

Local Opposition to Migration in Scotland.

Opposition to migration in Ireland made by people near districts to which migrants were transferred had its counterpart in Scotland, but it had not been manifested in any case where Board had actually distributed land to migrants, 22041-8.—People migrated from various parts of Sutherland had been placed on land where there was no one to object, 22042.—It was only in Strathnaver district that they had been brought from a distance, 22049.—On Syre Estate there were few people to object, they did not do so, 22050.—At present Board were conducting negotiations to transfer people from Erisky to South Uist, no objections had been made, 22051-2.

Migratory Labour not considered an Evil.

Migratory labourers, yachtsmen, navvies or workers in Glasgow gas works were found in congested districts of Scotland and were not considered a social evil, 22053-6.

Scotch Board had no Power to assist Emigration.

In 1906 there had been a general tendency to emigrate from the North of Scotland, many had gone from the islands, 22057-9.—Board had no power to assist emigration, their operations being confined to Scotland, applications from individuals and families desiring to emigrate had been received by Board, 22060-4.—The more power given to Board to exercise at discretion the better, 22065.—The general idea was that Scotland itself in which much land that had been turned into deer forest and sheep farms was available should first be re-peopled and recourse had to emigration only as a last resource, 22067-9, 22072-3.—But in particular cases of persons who wished to emigrate and whose departure would relieve local difficulties Board's assistance might be given with advantage, 22070-1.—Cottars would probably avail themselves of the opportunity, 22066.

Cottars the main cause of Congestion in Scotland.—Most of the Board's Migrants Cottars.

Most of the Board's migrants had been cottars whose existence was the main cause of congestion, 21803, 21804.—The crofter was the tenant of the croft, but many crofts had a second house inhabited by a cottar or a cottar and sometimes his family might live in the crofter's house as well as the crofter's family, cottars lived on the croft and sometimes had separate stock, 21804, 21810.—A cottar was generally a relative of the crofter, the arrangement was the same as the Irish sub-division, but in Scotland was never ostensibly with the landlord's consent, 21810-2.—Board in removing a cottar made agreement with the landlord that the cottar should not be replaced, landlords were generally anxious to remove cottars, 21805-9.—Under the Crofters' Holdings Acts of 1886 it was a penal condition of the tenure that there should be no sub-division, men who were cottars previous to 1886 could get compensation for their removal, otherwise the landlord was at liberty to remove a cottar and to proceed against the crofter who insisted on sub-division, 21813-5.—Public opinion was said to be against the creation of cottars, but individuals who had to provide for their sons would disregard public opinion, the cottar question was confined chiefly to Lewis, where it was a very serious one, 21817-8.—There had been only one case of an attempt to replace a migrated cottar with another man and in this case the landlord evicted the new cottar, 21822-9.—In general, landlords appeared to have adhered to their agreements concerning abolition of cottars, 21829.—Board were continuing migration operations, but hampered by lack of funds, 21830-1.—Sub-division of farms under such landlords as Sir Arthur Orde had been very successful, 21832.

Purchase at a Standstill pending Legislation.

The question of purchase by the Board introduced another one as to whether public opinion in Scotland was ripe for it, at present such purchase was at a standstill because a new Bill covering it was to be introduced into Parliament, 21833-4.

MACGREGOR, MR. R. R.—*continued.*

OPERATIONS AT KILMUIR.

The success of operations at Kilmuir could not yet be determined, the valuation of holdings there had only just been settled by Crofters' Commission, witness did not agree with the complaint that the high price made it impossible to re-dispose of broken up farms at reasonable price, the existing tenants at Kilmuir applied to Crofters' Commission to have their land re-valued and Board were waiting till this was done to distribute farms, 21835-40, 21843-4.

VALUATION AND FAIR RENTS.

Crofters' Commission was the Land Court of Scotland, which fixed fair rents for these holdings, the rents so fixed were not subject to revision for seven years and might stand longer if the Commission did not alter them, 21841-2, 21846.—The rent once fixed became the Poor Law valuation for seven years, 21845.—The valuation on revision could be fixed for crofters only on a fair rent, not on the letting value, as crofters had fixity of tenure so long as they remained on their crofts and fulfilled their obligations, 21847-50, 21852.—In the case of any other tenant or owner of property the valuation was the letting value, 21851.—There were exceptions, a farm let on long lease might vary in value, but during the currency of the lease the rent named in it was the valuation, 21853.

OPERATIONS IN SCOTLAND OF THE ENGLISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Congested Districts Board was the only public body that superintended agriculture in Scotland, 21855.—But the Board of Agriculture for England operated in Scotland as well, 21856-7, 21865-6.—They sent down inspectors to investigate such matters as illnesses of sheep and issued various orders in execution of which they expected assistance from Congested Districts Board, but they did nothing for individuals, 21858-61.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED IN 1906 AND 1907.

By the Bill now before Parliament the powers of Congested Districts Act and Crofters' Holdings Acts were to be transferred to the new Land Commission, by the Bill of last year power was to be given to Secretary of Scotland to create two additional Commissioners to form a Board of Agriculture for Scotland, 21862-4.—The Bill did not pass last year, 21867.—Farmers in Scotland generally would prefer the retention by the English Agricultural Board of jurisdiction in Scotland, 21868.

IMPROVEMENT IN STOCK BY PROVISION OF SIRES.

Crofters were generally pastoral farmers and Board helped in improvement of stock by provision of sires, which were let out through a local statutory committee called the Grazing Committee, 21855, 21859-60, 21878-81.—Congested Districts Board did not continue the provision of sires for a long time in one district, the object being to place the district in a position to carry on the improvement itself, 21872-7.—If Board were abolished the Land Commission would carry on provision of sires, 21869-71.

WORK OF SCOTCH BOARD IN APPRENTICING BOYS AND TRAINING GIRLS FOR DOMESTIC SERVICE.

Congested Districts Board considered their powers permitted them to apprentice boys from congested areas, and train young women for domestic service; the Auditor-General had reported to Public Accounts Committee that this apprenticing and training were a straining of Board's powers, but as the Committee said nothing Board continued the work, 21882-6.—Board found lads situations as apprentices in big shipbuilding yards, and supplemented their wages to enable them to pay their board and lodging, no fees were required for apprenticeship, except in one trade, where a couple of pounds was needed for what was called the footing, 21887-90.—Board rented a house in Aberdeen for a home to train domestic servants, twelve girls were received, all expenses being borne by Board, the total expense, including furnishing for twenty months, was £943, 21891-4.—No difficulty was found in getting boys, but young women were less ready to go out, 21895-6.—Girls could not get good situations till they were at least sixteen years old, and by then most had obtained some occupation locally, such as fishing, 21897.—Board had no power to give in congested districts such instruction as that at the Aberdeen home; a Bill to give them that power was vehemently opposed in Parliament, 21898-900.—Home industries might be taught, but not cooking, 21901-2.—The prohibition was on the grounds that this instruction was part of local education curriculum throughout Scotland; the educational authorities would give grants for technical instruction, but the congested districts could not provide the funds and equipment necessary to earn the grants, 21903-11.—An attempt to train lads for seamanship by arrangement with Liscard training Institution near Liverpool had failed for lack of applicants for training, 21912-7.—Lads were to be between ages of 14½ and 17, 15 to 17 was the age for sending them to shipbuilding yards; the difficulty was not the age for applicants nor the fact that Liscard Institution was not in Scotland, 21918-21.

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES, WORK OF SCOTCH BOARD, &C.

Congested Districts Board of Scotland did not provide fishermen with boats, as was done in Ireland; in Scotland the power to make loans to fishermen belonged to Fishery Board, which worked in harmony with Congested Districts Board, 21922-4.—Fishery Board was for all Scotland, the chairman was an *ex officio* member of Congested Districts Board, 21925.—Congested Districts Board had spent about £8,000 in fisheries, including grants for piers, fishing village at Battery Park, near Stornoway, motor transport and steamers, 21926.—Congested Districts Board had only given one loan for development of fisheries during nine years; the fisheries even in congested districts were on a commercial basis, and did not need Board, 21929-31.—The Committee presided over by Lord Mansfield having expressed the view that a ready means of access to markets from certain districts on the North coast of Scotland would be of benefit to fishermen, Board in 1906 arranged for four motor routes in County of Sutherland; this was with special reference to lobster fishing, but not confined to it; no advantage was apparent from this scheme 21935-8.—In the idea that a motor engine fitted in existing fishing boats would be useful to enable them to get to and from fishing grounds in calms, Board provided funds for an experiment in a boat called the *Pioneer*; the success had been less than was expected, as men wished to fish from steam boats, not from old boats with auxiliary power, 21939-42.—An increasing number of the Celtic population of Scotland were embarking in fishing; they carried on an immense fishing off the West of Scotland, beginning early in May in Castle Bay in Barra, 22078.—Boats from the islands were engaged in this fishing as well as boats from East of Scotland, 22079.—The operation of fishing had developed naturally among the population of West Scotland, who seemed as capable of carrying it on as other people, 22080-1.

LOANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERMEN'S HOLDINGS, BUILDING OF FISHING VILLAGE, ETC.

Board having power under the Act to establish fishermen's holdings agreed to lend fishermen sums not exceeding £120 each to build houses on a piece of ground near Stornoway, each house to have a quarter-acre plot, 21943-5.—The rents charged were ground-rents called feus, the tenure was perpetual, 21946-7.—The houses were built on a general plan and were eventually erected by contract at a cost of £108 to £114 per cottage, each cottage contained four rooms, 21948-50.—The men could not have built more cheaply even had they utilised their own labour, and in the latter case the demand on the local carpenter, etc., would have been great; when the £120 was first offered only one man accepted it, 21951-4.—The fishermen were dealing not with the Board but with the proprietor of the land, who was willing to give feus if the Board were willing to do certain things, as the offer was not welcomed by fishermen it was dropped for some years, 21955-7.—The local people afterwards asked for renewal of the offer which was granted, and houses built, 21958.—Board eventually built the houses themselves instead of lending money because they thought they could build better and cheaper than the men, not because it was feared the men would not build at all, 21959-63.—Witness would advise allowing men to build their own houses as otherwise they would complain of details, 21964-9.—On estates purchased by Board men erected their own house with money lent by Board, 21970.—The men at Stornoway Village had been cottars, sons of crofters, and natives of Lewis; Lewis men were good fishermen, 21971.—Those established in this village might otherwise have emigrated, there was much emigration from Lewis to Canada in 1906, 21972-3.—The village being near Stornoway Harbour was more convenient for fishing than the men's former homes, which in some cases were miles away; men living at a distance could only have small boats which could be hauled up on the beach, while those living near could have larger boats, 21974-9.—Board desired that men in this village should be hands on, or part owners of, as large boats as possible, object in establishing the village was to place the men near a good harbour, 21980-1.—Only a quarter-acre plot was given each man, as he was to be a fisherman, not divide his time between fishing and farming, 21982.—This was Board's only experiment of the kind, 21983-4.—There were twenty-nine families in the village, 21986.—Minimum feu duty or ground rent to a proprietor was £4 an acre, or about £1 for each plot, for this the crofter was responsible to the landlord, 21987-91.—Board lent crofters money for houses at 2¾ per cent. interest, the annuity was £3 14*s.* 1*d.* to repay £100 in fifty years and worked out at about £4 for each loan, annuity and feu together were about £5 per crofter, 21992-6.—If crofters failed to pay interest Board entered into possession, by feu law in Scotland if a man failed to pay for two years the owner could enter into possession of the ground, 21996-22000.

Landward and Seaward Committees of Parish Councils.

In some parishes Parish Councils were divided into Landward and Seaward Committees, as the interests of the rural population were not always identical with those of a town like Stornoway, 22001-2.

Dislike to Migration in Lewis.

Board had offered to help Landward Committee of Lewis to migrate fifty families to mainland, but as there was at that time a dislike to migration nothing was done; the local attitude had since changed, but Board could not effect migrations at present, as legislation was pending, 22003-7.

Tenancy preferred to purchase by Crofters.

Crofters preferred remaining tenants to purchasing their holdings, partly on account of the common grazing rights, 22008-10. Board to make purchase more attractive tried to obtain from Treasury the extension to Scotland of the system of repayment prevailing in Ireland, but this was refused, 22011-3.

Powers of Scotch Board in regard to construction of Piers, Roads, &c.

Marine works constructed before and after passing of Works Act in 1891 were of little use, many had become ruinous, and were a danger, 22014-5.—Board could assist in construction of piers, roads, etc., only by way of grants to statutory bodies applying for them; grants were usually 75 per cent. of the cost, and in case of a pier, were made on condition the pier was erected and well kept up, 22016-9.—Grants were given where only lack of funds prevented the local people from constructing the work themselves, 22019.—The County Council had to be satisfied regarding schemes for works, 22020.

Improvement in condition of People since Establishment of Scotch Board.

Witness had never been able to authenticate a case of fishermen or crofters getting into the hands of money-lenders, 22021-4.—Fishermen and crofters earned a good deal of money, but occasionally shopkeepers were paid in kind, 22025-7.—Great improvement in condition of the people had taken place since the operations of Crofters' Act and Congested Districts Board began in Scotland; this was specially the case in Skye, 22027-30.—Witness knew of no case in Skye where cattle inhabited the same room as the people, 22031.—Many houses in Skye cost £200, £300, and £400; Board would not lend more than £120, 22031A-5.—In North Uist good houses were built, Board advancing £30, and the men providing the rest in money or labour, 22036-7.—Housing conditions still needed much improvement in South Uist, Barra, etc., 22038.

Congestion in Lewis—Question of Recent Raid.

Lewis was the only place where there was less land than could be divisible among the population, 22039.—The question of the recent raid was a very vexed one, but the Board were settling people on four farms, which it was hoped would be sufficient remedy for congestion in South Uist, 22040.

Documents put in by Mr. R. R. MacGregor.

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DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. V.

BALFOUR, Rt. Hon. A. J.

Emigration *v.* Migration—Cost of Migration.

Emigration included in Act of 1891 establishing Congested Districts Board in order that Board might not be hampered in carrying out any policy found to be desirable; natural feeling in Ireland against emigration, but it might turn out to be best way of dealing with part of population, 22083.—Witness had in mind recent assisted emigration to Canada and the States, 22084.—Difficulty in connection with migration was cost; very little hope of settling families in new farms at capital expenditure of less than £500 per family, which seemed prohibitive, 22083.—Witness had looked back to statements in House of Commons at time when he was in charge of Land Purchase Board, 22090.—Satisfactory results from smaller expenditure on Ffrench Estate partly due to use of British credit, 22122-3.—Tenant going on to land bought from someone else must be paying down his part of the cost, 22147.—Witness opposed to migration merely on account of cost, 22142-5.

Elasticity in Act of 1891.

Elasticity desired in framing Act not merely on account of want of experience, but because Congested Districts Board was to be machinery for giving paternal assistance to congested districts too poor to help themselves, and therefore needed freedom from limitations which were quite proper to action of a Government Department, 22085.—Witness had seen no reason to change that view, but his official connection with Ireland was severed almost immediately after creation of Board, and he had not been able to follow development as closely as he would desire, 22086-8.

Definition of Congestion under Act of 1891.

Definition of Congested Districts under Act of 1891, (*a*) poverty extending over such an area as to make district in which it existed quite incapable of helping itself; (*b*) congested area of considerable surface in proportion to valuation, 22091.—Two conditions required; valuation divided by population giving something less than 30*s.* per head; twenty per cent. of population of county should live in such electoral division, 22099.—Conditions sufficient on the whole for rough grouping of bulk of cases where distress existed in bad years; individual poverty not what the Board had to deal with, 22100.—Intention of Government was that migration and emigration should be aided by Congested Districts Board, only from congested districts as defined, 22107-9.—Limit of congestion was electoral division based on valuation, 22093.—It showed roughly, where employment was to be had from the land, 22095-6.—Object was to get a practical definition to meet a public difficulty, 22096-7.—Witness thought the definition justifiable, 22129.

Guarantee Fund.

Reasons necessitating policy in 1891; House of Commons had to be satisfied that no burden would be thrown on British taxpayer in consequence of default; elaborate system of guarantee funds devised; danger of system that it might threaten vital interests of localities in regard to education, etc., specially great in connection with congested district; all guarantee funds were county guarantee funds; danger of funds being come on in case of county containing large congested area met by special provision turning all congested districts in those counties into a special county for purposes of the Act, and making contingent guarantee fund, the fund belonging to Congested Districts Board, 22091-2.—Witness himself never anticipated that default would be a serious matter, 22091-2.

Revision of Definition of Congestion not Desirable.

Revision of definition of congested districts with object of allowing Board a good deal of latitude in dealing with smaller area than electoral division, and in dealing with poor area outside scheduled districts question; witness feared that if Act had been made very wide, Board would have been overwhelmed with applications, and its utility seriously impaired by administrative difficulties, 22102.—Witness not prepared to suggest any alteration of definition, 22140-1. Benevolent despot could doubtless make a better arrangement of district, but if the Board had power of defining its own area it would spend most of its time arranging areas, 22161, 22170.—Clause originally put in giving Lord Lieutenant power for a year to include or exclude any electoral division he thought should be dealt with; clause had to do with census, 22162-3.—Witness had no objection in principle to extending that if it was practicable; when Congested Districts Board had done its work in any area, that area should be excluded from sphere of its operations, 22163-6, 22200.—No delimitation fitted to last for ever without modification question whether it was worth while to bring in legislation with the desired elasticity was a question for the Irish Administration. 22200-1.—Case of poor areas where valuation was sent up by presence of a demesne; such areas had advantage of probable market for labour, and lessened weight of local taxation, 22168-9.—Objections to temporarily scheduling such areas were that increase in area of Board's jurisdiction necessitated increase in its funds, and that it would be open to every district that was, or considered itself to be, poor to claim the eleemosynary assistance of the Board, 22171.—Witness thought poor districts in the West should be grouped together, and one special authority constituted to help them; said authority to have general control of all such districts, 22103-5.

Land Purchase always intended to be Part of Board's Functions.

Migration taking form of buying land from landowners, improving estates and selling holdings to occupiers or migrants who had relinquished original holdings for benefit of congested districts they were leaving was an integral part of original plan, 22111, 22189, 22191, 22227.—And was engaged in with witness's knowledge and full concurrence, 22112.—Necessity of acquiring estates early recognised, 22113-4.—Witness believed question of enlargement of holdings and migration had been treated as part of question of purchase, improvement, and re-sale from the start, 22115.—Inability of Board to hold land was a discovery of the lawyers; possibility never occurred to witness in framing Act; he was much annoyed at view taken by law officers, 22214-6.

Board's Resources.

Board's resources small at first, but witness thought they had power to capitalise income for certain purpose, 22218.—Resources were increased when Board was found to carry out what witness had expected of it, 22219-20.—It was not provided in Act that Board should begin to purchase early, but witness wished it to supply necessary part of guarantee fund, 22221.—Power for Board to come to assistance of purchase operations of Land Commission was given by original Act, and indicated general policy on which Act was founded; power afterwards extended and made more workable, 22222.—Resources at first, capital sum of £1,500,000, 22225-6.—Witness would like Board to be adequately equipped with funds to perform work thrown on it; undoubtedly purchase and settlement of estates was one of its most important functions, and was always understood to be so, 22227.—Amalgamation of holdings a main object in starting Board; cheaper to increase holding than to make a new one; always contemplated that Board should bear loss entailed by destruction of residential value, 22112, 22224.—Loss might be borne out of income, 22225.—Uncontroversial Bills brought in in 1892 and 1894 to facilitate work of Board, 22125-7.—Amount of funds required could not be wholly foreseen at start, 22128.

Paternal Administration Should be Continued in Congested Districts, but not Extended to Rest of Ireland.

Continuance of some paternal administration such as Congested Districts Board could give very desirable for congested districts; witness would view with misgiving any policy placing all Ireland under a paternal administration with regard to agriculture and industries, and therefore considered that caution was needed in substituting Agricultural Department for Board, a Government Department for the very special machinery devised under Act of 1891 for a very special and difficult case, 22132-4, 22158, 22172.—Witness would be sorry to see principle of paternal assistance carried further than was absolutely necessary, 22179.—These were general observations perhaps requiring to be qualified in practice, 22158.

Board a Better Authority to Deal with Congestion than Estates Commissioners.

No question of two authorities while witness was Chief Secretary; Department of Agriculture not constituted, 22106.—In regard to alternative policies, whether it was better to continue Board as benevolent institution, acting as a benevolent landlord might, or to transfer its work in acquisition of land and re-sale to tenants to Estates Commissioners, who could proceed much faster; witness was of opinion that expeditious machinery was better than slow machinery, but that existence of Congested Districts Board was no bar to rapid operations; it was the Treasury refusal to supply funds that interfered with action of the Board, 22149.—He was not sufficiently acquainted with relations of the two Departments to make his opinion worth having, 22154.—If they overlapped that was an evil, 22155-8.

Light Railways and the Development of the Fishing Industry.

Light railways part of general scheme for ameliorating condition of the West; want of transport a very serious evil, rendering fish industry almost impracticable, 22135.—Construction of harbours or shelters for fishermen in connection with light railways an essential part of witness's scheme for developing fisheries; but directly public funds were available custodians needed protection against pressure sure to be exercised by localities which thought they could get the money, 22137-9.

Constitution of Board.

Constitution of the Board, presence of local representatives inconsistent with paternal character of Board; they would have what they called a duty to their constituents, that duty being to see that they got their share of Board's income, and would always be striving for the kind of arithmetical equality of treatment which witness regarded as absolutely inconsistent with proper administration of Board's business, 22172, 22175.—Such addition of members as would give Board really minute local knowledge of congested areas would make it abnormally large; much better to get local knowledge from proper officials under the Board, 22174.—Congested Districts Board unique in legislation of this or any other country, 22132, 22177.—Had since been imitated in Scotland, 22177.—Temporary members of Board were contrasted with official members, 22206.—And represented fisheries, agriculture and other special matters, 22208-9.—In regard to ordinary members, a limit of tenure would be a good thing as introducing fresh blood, 22210-3.—Foreknowledge of amount of land purchase work and increase in income of Board would have made no difference to witness's decision in regard to its constitution, 22178.—Purchase of £1,000,00 worth of land in two years would have been difficult at first owing to limited funds at disposal of Board, but kind of use to which land purchase of that sort had been put was precisely the kind of use to which witness had hoped it would be put, 22183, 22188.—No reason for change in constitution had been brought to witness's notice, 22184.—No objection to allowing Board to deal with large sums, 22186.—Parliament would not object provided the congested districts area was greatly extended, 22185.—Magnitude of operations made little difference; it was a matter of experiment, 22188.

Development of Industries.

Land the main source of employment in Ireland, 22094, 22191.—Witness hoped that something might be done for relief of congestion by development of industries; fishing industry more valuable than what were called cottage industries; very difficult to start ordinary manufactures or industries in West of Ireland without enormous subsidies or protection during infant stages, 22193-5.—Board called into existence to help the very poor, 22197.—Far better that a man should have his holding unencumbered with debt, 22198.

BALFOUR, Rt. Hon. GERALD.

Position of Chairman of Congested Districts Board.

Practice of Congested Districts Board was to choose Chief Secretary as Chairman; that had been done in witness's case, 22228.—Legal position co-equal with other members of Board, 22229.—Chief Secretary not responsible for Congested Districts Board, except so far as he had supported his action, 22230.

Request of Board for Compulsory Powers to Purchase Land.

Resolution passed by Congested Districts Board to effect that they could not give due effect to that part of their work connected with migration, enlarging small holdings, unless they had more funds and compulsory powers of acquiring lands at their just value, 22232.—Witness had not assented to that resolution; he thought there was strong case for more funds but not for compulsory powers; Board at that time had very little experience in purchase and re-settlement of estates; at actual date they had only purchased Ffrench Estate, and the real difficulty was want of money, 22231.—Witness's opinion was that Board desired to acquire land at cheap rate, below market value; if they offered more generous terms they could get as much land as they could deal with, 22232, 22254.—Price asked by landlords too high, and Board wished to get land too cheap, 22255.—Gap could usually be bridged by resorting to bonus; witness considered policy of bonus adopted in Land Act, 1903, quite sound, 22258.—Operations of Board were in an experimental stage, and during time witness was Chief Secretary he was never convinced that enough land could not be obtained by voluntary purchase, if sufficient price was given; matters were not ripe for treatment of problem on comprehensive scale, 22233.—More serious objections to compulsory purchase of tenanted land than untenanted, 22305.—Limit of price of untenanted lands in general was amount Board could hope to recover from tenant; but if public money was used witness did not see why part should not go in price given for land, 22306-7.—Inclined to pay even somewhat higher price than fair value of land, rather than adopt compulsion, unless required for comprehensive scheme, 22308.—Board should abandon a particular estate too highly priced and try to purchase land elsewhere; witness understood Board had 50,000 acres of untenanted land undistributed, worth 1½ millions of money, 22309-13A, 22322.

Price under and Necessity for Compulsory Purchase.

Estimate of price under compulsory purchase should not depend on amount incoming tenants were prepared to pay, landlord's income, etc., would have to be considered, irrespective of what Board considered it could afford to pay, 22323, 22325.—If landlord were brought before tribunal of arbitration because he would not agree to terms proposed he should not have to pay costs, 22326.—State was purchaser, therefore could not be tribunal to settle price, 22327.—Principle on which Estates Commissioners bid for land in Land Judge's Court, forbidden by law to lose, so they could only bid as much for an estate as they hoped to get, 22324. —That worked out at 23 to 25 years' purchase, price unknown in Ireland until recent years, 22325.—Witness was thinking of principle and not actual price given, 22325.—Some difficulties had been removed by legislation, and position might have changed since 1900, making it possible to deal with question on comprehensive scale, then compulsory powers might be desirable, 22235, 22240, 22241-2, 22259, 22270.—Considerable time must elapse before solution would be complete, 22236.—Board should feel its way cautiously; if matters were not ripe for comprehensive scheme witness thought compulsory powers not necessary, 22234, 22237, 22259.—By comprehensive scheme witness meant a scheme to give all landholders in congested districts an economic holding; this would not be possible without granting compulsory powers, 22260.—Witness could only express himself in general terms, but if there was reasonable hope that comprehensive scheme would settle question, and scheme could not be carried out without compulsion, then he thought it was a case for compulsion; but much depended on the scheme, 22314-7.—Compulsory purchase largely a question of price, but witness had not considered question sufficiently to say what would be fair price for untenanted land; price would probably be different on different estates, 22317-18.—Fixed income a desirable thing; compulsion prevented a man enjoying a certain income which he might prefer to a fixed income, 22319.—Relief from uncertainty not compensation for compulsion; but if certain estate was to be sold, and arbitrator appointed, in fixing price he would have to take into consideration that payment would be in cash, while income derived from estate was in rent, and rents were uncertain in West of Ireland, 22320-1.—Witness's opinion was based on his experience of land purchase operations of Congested Districts Board prior to 1903, 22238.—Since that time operations had enlarged, 22239.—If compulsory powers were granted to purchasing authority in Ireland precautions should be taken to see that a fair price was given to landlords for land purchased, 22242.—Recognised in England that compulsory powers might be exercised for public purposes, but circumstances of each case should be considered, 22243, 22251.—Land could be compulsorily obtained for making railways, but there were no general powers. Act of Parliament had to be passed for each case, 22246-9.

Dangers of Granting Compulsory Powers to Board.

No precedent in England for granting general compulsory powers to a body such as Congested Districts Board, 22250-1.—In Ireland witness thought District Council had general powers of compulsion to acquire land under Labourers Act with an appeal to Privy Council, 22252.—That would be to some extent a precedent, 22253.—Dangers of compulsory powers, doubtful whether, on an average land would be acquired more cheaply when price was fixed probably in every case by an arbitrator, 22261.—Possession of compulsory powers might affect the confidence now felt by all classes in the Board, 22261, 22271-3.—Boards would be overwhelmed from all sides with demands to purchase and might be driven to attempt a solution of the general problem before the conditions had been worked out, such a solution as dividing up all land it held into holdings that were just economic. Claim for compulsory powers would at once raise the question whether Congested Districts Board was a proper body to possess such powers, 22261, 22274.—Witness considered Congested Districts Board practically an irresponsible body, 22275.—Reports of Congested Districts Board submitted to Parliament, 22277.—Chief Secretary reported to Parliament what he approved or disapproved of at Board; Parliament had power to set aside acts of Board, but witness thought Parliament find it better to abolish Board altogether, 22279.—Legislature did not fear improper use of powers of Congested Districts Board which had been marvellously successful, 22280.

Land Purchase Operations of Board—Migration, etc.

Congested Districts Board established 1891; operations in connection with land purchase did not begin

to large extent till 1897 or 1898.—Migration had advanced slowly; only 289 families migrated since 1891, 22262.—When witness was Chief Secretary and member of Congested Districts Board difficulties of migration were enormous; impossible for Board to act quickly with advantage, 22262a.—Witness's practical experience did not go beyond 1900; up to that time there were difficulties, not only with landholders, but also with tenants whom it was proposed to migrate, 22262a, 22264.—Difficulties also with tenants in districts to which migration was to take place, 22263.

Comprehensive Scheme of Land Purchase and Migration.

Peasant proprietary having uniform £10 holdings would not be satisfactory solution of land question in Ireland, 22261, 22265.—If comprehensive scheme was undertaken matter of fixing minimum valuation ought to be carefully considered, 22289-90.—There might be numbers of claimants with valuation under £10 who could find occupation on large farms, and it might be desirable to bring in class with holdings which would be rather allotments than economic holdings; at present labourers in that position went to England and Scotland; better if they could find similar employment on Irish holdings, 22291.—All untenanted lands would be required for migration; scheme could not be confined to scheduled districts in West, 22266.—Comprehensive scheme of migration would amount to re-arrangement of possession of land over greater part of Ireland, 22267, 22310.—Distribution of grass lands among small holders who did not possess economic holdings might be desirable, but witness was not prepared to say all grass lands should be broken up, 22268.—Foundation of large scheme should be sound, 22269.—Compulsory powers granted to anybody not responsible to Parliament must be carefully hedged round by Legislature, 22274.

Estates Commissioners *v.* Congested Districts Board as authority to exercise Compulsion.

Witness had had no experience of working of Estates Commissioners, but so far as they were a body more amenable to Parliament than Congested Districts Board he thought Parliament would be more inclined to give them compulsory powers, 22281, 22330.—But if Congested Districts Board could show that it had dealt with purchase and re-settlement of estates more satisfactorily than Estates Commissioners that would be an argument for giving additional powers to Congested Districts Board, 22282.

Advances to Board by Land Commission for Purchase of Estates.

Commission familiar with legislation facilitating Congested Districts Board in Acts of 1896, 1899. Effects of Acts were correctly given in memorandum submitted to Committee by Mr. O'Brien, 22283, 22285.—Two Acts passed in 1901 after witness had ceased to be Chief Secretary, 22284.—By Act of 1896 Land Commission was authorised to give funds to Congested Districts Board for purchase of estates, resolution asking for more funds was passed, 22232.—To give effect to that resolution witness introduced a provision enabling Commission to advance to Board for purposes of purchase a sum equal to twenty-five times annual income of Church Surplus Grant, 22286. —Dillon property purchased between Acts of 1896 and 1899, 22286a.—Before settlement of estate could be carried out it was important public advances should be made by Land Commission to tenants to buy even small holdings, 22287.—Impossible to bring all holdings on Dillon estate up to £10 poor law valuation, limit fixed in Act of 1896—limit was well intentioned, but witness came to conclusion it would hamper work of Board too much, therefore clause was introduced in 1899 repealing that provision, 22288.

Additional Grant to Board in 1899.

When Act of 1899 was introduced for additional grant of £20,000 to Congested Districts Board for improvements Treasury stopped aid from Stationery Office, Board of Works, and General Post Office, and

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threw expenses of printing, stationery, etc., on Board itself, so that actual addition to funds was only £16,500, 22291A-95.—Grant was made by Act of Parliament, consent of Treasury having been first obtained by witness, 22296-8.

Question of Transfer of Powers from Board to Department of Agriculture.

Powers given to Department of Agriculture by Act of 1899 practically identical with powers of Congested Districts Board as regards agricultural and rural industries in congested areas, 22299.—Powers of Department more limited in regard to urban industries, 22300.—When witness introduced Act of 1899 he foresaw difficulties of constitution would arise between Congested Districts Board and Agricultural Department; matters were not ripe for transference of agricultural work, etc., of Congested Districts Board to Department, but he introduced provision by which Board could hand over part of its work and funds to Department of Agriculture when necessary, 22328.—Work of Congested Districts Board not relating to purchase and re-settlement of estates would have to be transferred sooner or later to Department of Agriculture, 22329.—Witness not prepared to mention any fixed time, 22331.—Question not practical when Act was passed, 1899, 22331.—But at that time work of Board in connection with purchase and re-settlement of estates was increasing every year, and for that reason witness contemplated transference of agricultural work to Department, 22333.—Might be necessary to give Department of Agriculture such special powers as Congested Districts Board possessed in congested districts; witness would not be afraid to transfer those powers now, 22334.—Congested Districts Board left perfectly free, 22300.—Could start factory and hand it over when it reached an industrial level to private enterprise; distinction not really so great as imagined; Congested Districts Board knew it was undesirable to use State money to encourage private enterprise, 22301-2.—Character of congested districts prevented introduction of industries outside agriculture, 22303.—Congested Districts Board had powers in non-agricultural industries which were withheld from Department, 22304.—Power was useful as shown by Foxford enterprises, carpet factory in Donegal, 22303.—And barrel-making industry, 22304.

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Definition of Congestion—Amendment Needed.

Congestion as defined by statute covered much larger area than the real poverty, which was the acute problem, and real poverty existed outside scheduled areas, and much inside scheduled areas did not need exceptional treatment, 22935, 23084-5, 23095, 23178.—Artificial standard adopted as measure of congestion in the Act not a true standard, 23088, 23175.—Griffith's valuation only a relative test for purpose of fixing rates, 23091-2.—Natural forces, if left alone, operated in direction of survival of the fittest, whereas new doctrinaire suggestions aimed at survival of unfit, penalising the thrifty and provident, 23056.—Witness did not mean to argue against such assistance as could be given on an economic basis, 23199-201.—By exceptional treatment witness meant migration chiefly, 23059-62.—No reason for retention in schedule of areas not really congested, 23086.—Area of the Board should be more limited than at present, 23094.—It was within the discretion of the Board to decide what areas within scheduled districts should be dealt with, 23778-9.—But a district was demoralised by being scheduled if it did not require it, 23779.—Determination of degree of poverty justifying declaration of area as congested should be left to an expert such as a Local Government Board Inspector, 23140, 23775.—Important that determining authority should not be open to popular pressure, 23777.—Much wider discretion than was given by Act desirable; even a townland was too large a unit, 23212-3.—Witness would approve of such discretion as was enjoyed by Scotch Board, 23176, 23746-9.—Some definition needed, 23214-6.—Should lean rather towards townland than electoral district, 23217.—There should be power to exclude

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and include areas of any size, but susceptible of clear delineation, 23218-9, 23738.—Works like drainage or road work were of great advantage to poor districts, 23124-3.—And could be carried on as well under proposed new principle, 23144.—Local knowledge the best guide to such areas, but should be kept in check by official inspection; fatal to permit allocation of districts by local bodies; Congested Districts Board must be independent of popular pressure and Treasury red tape, 23738.—Treasury had facilities for putting difficulties in the way of working schemes long before it came to point of refusing money, 23820-2.—Witness had formed his opinion from his experience in railway matters, 23823-4.—Unit should be defined by some natural boundary such as a river, 23739-40.—Unit would often work out to townland and electoral divisions, but not always, 2375-6.—Definition in witness's mind was a geographical definition, 23741-4.—And must be arrived at by competent authority in close touch with local people, 23745.—As things now were it was often impossible to include spots on the fringe of districts scheduled, 23746.

There would be no great increase in the number of scheduled areas, 23764.—A few poor families would hardly constitute congestion, 23741, 23750.—By which witness meant acute poverty due to unemployment, 23751-2.—Witness's proposals would make no radical difference except along boundary lines of scheduled districts, 23790.—In case of very small community in great want Board could set a Parish Committee to work, 23753-4, 23759.—Very small areas would not admit of migration or enlargement of holdings, 23782-5.—There were other remedies, 23786-7, 23792-4.—Witness saw no reason to apprehend difficulty in the matter of technical and agricultural education, 23759.—Poverty defined as great struggle for existence due to want of employment, 23766-7.—Board should still have a free hand, 23788.—Wherever acute poverty occurred it should be scheduled, 23791, 23854.—Witness meant that, subject to acceptance of revised schedule, Congested Districts Board should be machinery for re-settlement and re-arrangement of estates all over Ireland, 23855-8.—Law should be changed so as to base definition of congestion on want of employment. Local Government Inspector to be authority to decide, subject to review, 23825.—Schedule should include all districts or areas requiring relief, estates purchased by Congested Districts Board, and estates transferred to Board after being purchased by Estates Commissioners under Act of 1903.—Congested Districts Board to have full powers to carry out its work and expend its funds on any lands included in schedule, 23825.—Fallacy to assume that enlargement of holdings generally to £10 valuation would be any cure for much of poverty existing within scheduled areas, 22935, 23768.

Migration—Land Available.

Thousands of acres available for migration; care needed that land should not be tilled if it could be grazed to greater advantage, nor to transfer migrants ignorant of agricultural methods to lands requiring good farming, 22935.—Migration might be of great advantage if land were suitable and people knew how to treat it, 23093, 22297, 23326.

Education should be given before Migrating Tenants.

Congested Districts Board and Agricultural Department were both doing educative work, and could usefully extend and improve it, 23299.—Education should be given in part at least before transfer, 23300.—Because with a larger holding there was more chance of making profit with less work, 23301.—The man who had been cultivating five acres would still cultivate same amount and let rest go to grass, 23303-4.—He would doubt possibility of more profit, 23305-6.—Bad farming on small holding due to ignorance, not poverty of land, 23310.—There were some cases where it was impossible to make a good thing of a holding, 23311-3.—And there addition to farm would improve tenant's position, 23314-5.—Witness in favour of migration so long as reasonable care was exercised in selecting best men to move, 23317-8.—Best man would be most intelligent farmer, not the man with biggest holding unless it was fairly tilled, 23320-2.—Witness not prepared to accept Mr. Doran's table showing success of migration, 23323-6.

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EMIGRATION OF WHOLE FAMILIES THE ONLY REMEDY FOR CERTAIN PLACES.

Emigration of whole families advocated from thickly populated parts, where rundale and mixed plots abounded; emigration far less costly than migration, 22935.—Only remedy for certain areas, 23056, 23123-4, 23132.—Areas referred to were places like South Galway, especially islands of Gorumna, Lettermullen, and Lettermore, 23124.—Condition of district from Clifden through Spiddal to Galway a standing reproach to Congested Districts Board and Agricultural Department, 23204-7.—Good deal might be done to aid fishing and turf industry, 23207.—Congested Districts Board ought to have money for that class of work, 23209.—They had made a pier at Costello, but another was wanted; construction of causeway connecting islands with mainland had been of great assistance, 23210.—Emigration to Canada advocated by Sir H. Plunkett. Witness did not mean to go beyond Sir H. Plunkett's report, 23285.—Amount expended of grants under Tramway and other Acts more than witness had thought, 23285-8.—Irish emigrants did not go on the land, 23290-1.—Witness denied and protested against proposition that those who persisted in remaining where they could not live had a right to set up claim injurious to rest of community, 23306.—Compulsion not advocated, 23125.—Whole family should be transplanted, 23126.—Facilities should be given for voluntary emigration, 23825.—Training necessary to work good land, 23156.—They knew nothing of tillage, 23158.—They would have to go as labourers before they could till land for themselves, 23151, 23157, 23159, 23202, 23293-5.—Difference between trained labourer and novice was an admitted difficulty, 23160-1.—Older and weaker members of the family could not be worse off than they were in Ireland, 23203-4.—Emigration should be a last resource, 23162, 23186-7.—But it was more likely to succeed than migration, 23162, 23292.—Development of fisheries would be best remedy of all, 23163.

EXTENT AND NATURE OF EMIGRATION GOING ON.

Emigration falling off; only districts where it exceeded one per cent. of population were in congested areas, 23056-7.—Return for 1906 showed an increase, 23078.—Returns for last February showed, witness believed for the first time, a majority of emigrants from Ulster, 23079.—Witness deplored nature of present emigration, departure of the young and strong, 23105-7, 23148.—Preponderating reason for emigration was desire to make a better living, 23108-13.—They probably would do better out of Ireland, 23112.—Unsettled state of Ireland helped to drive them out, 23115.

EMIGRATION OF 1883-4.

Emigration of 1883 and 1884 carried out as a policy by Government; £150,000 voted to assist emigration of whole families, 23116-7.—Applications numerous, but only for very limited time, 23118-9.

IMPROVEMENT IN IRELAND.

Rapid improvement in Ireland evidenced by capacity for accumulating capital, increase of trade and shipping tonnage, rise in price of agricultural produce, increase in number and value of stock, increased producing power of soil, great increase in all means of communication, comparison of Census returns and education statistics, 22935.—Increased capacity for accumulating capital shown by increased deposits in joint stock banks and in Post Office Savings Banks; Post Office deposits, £2,592,000 in 1886; £45,843,000 in 1906, 22939-40, 22942.—Witness did not mean to say that it was all result of profits derived from land, but improvement had been steady, 22941, 23021. Farmers often did not put their money beyond deposit account; they did not know how to invest it, 23022.—No means of getting statistics allocated so as to know what was in congested areas, or how much was agricultural, except for last year, 22942, 23018, 23028.

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RELUCTANCE OF OCCUPIERS TO PUT CAPITAL INTO THE LAND.

Occupiers of land in Ireland did not like putting capital into the land, and they did it to a limited extent, 22970.—If they could be induced by education, etc., to put capital into the land it would immensely conduce to prosperity, 22971, 22978.—Increase productivity of soil, 22981.—Their reluctance to do so and the dislike of young men to farming contributed greatly to the difficulty of the Irish problem, 22972-5.—Reluctance to put capital into land, due to ignorance, 22982, 23045.—Witness did not mean to say they put no money into the land, but they did not put in what was required for intensive farming, 23045.—Best hope for improvement lay in spread of appropriate knowledge and education, 22983-4.

EFFECT OF SECURITY OF TENURE.

Witness did not think that security of tenure given by purchase affected readiness to put labour and capital into holdings as a general thing, 22986-90, 23001, 23007, 23014.—It might affect smaller estates, but on the large properties tenant was as safe before as after purchase, and he knew it, 23002, 23053-5.—Mr. Gladstone, in introducing Act of 1881, had exonerated Irish landlords as a class from imputations cast on them, 23004.—For twenty-six years there had been absolute security for occupier and his improvements, and yet capital was accumulating and not going into the land, 23008-5.—Derry settlers complete failures, younger men would not work, mock auctions constant, 22992, 23005.—Three of four men needing money called in an auctioneer and bought each other's land and passed notes on which a certain amount of money could be obtained through the auctioneer, 22998.—Whole thing a fraud, 22999. Lands let for the crop, 22999.—On Lord Bath's estate in Monaghan owner had spent large sums on improvements, land had now been bought by tenants, who were patterns of industry, though Barony of Farney had always given trouble, and on the face of things the Derry men were much more likely to do well, 22999.—Cases quoted not to be applied generally, 23006.—In certain cases small holders had shown a new spirit of industry and development after purchase, but witness thought not in the larger number of cases, 23014-7.—Legal insecurity before 1870 might have had deciding influence on disinclination to put capital into land, 23019-20.—Witness did not say that increase in deposits was evidence that capital was not being put into the land, but that the increase showed an advance in career of improvement, 23023-7.—Increase general, 23029, 23037.—And if farmers were putting money on deposit agriculture must be doing well, 23030-1.—Prices had risen, not fallen, during last twenty years, 23032-5.—Increase in deposits as far as derived from agricultural produce was an instance of the remarkable fertility of the soil, 23036, 23041.—Witness spoke from his own experience in regard to non-investment of money by farmers, etc., 23039.—Large price paid for tenancy interest by one occupier to another proved that occupier must have capital or credit, 23047-50.—Rise in cost of labour nothing in comparison with rise in price of agricultural produce, cost of labour largely counteracted by use of machinery, etc., 22945, 23042-3.

INCREASE IN PRODUCING POWER OF SOIL, ETC.

Producing power of soil increased partly by labour put into it, 22947.—Partly from works carried out by landowners, arterial drainage, etc., 22948, 23042.—Increase was general, 22949.—Census returns since middle of last century showed reduction in number of miserable houses without windows, etc., percentage of people unable to read or write reduced from 45 to 14, etc., 22950.—Only fifty members of Co-operative Organisations in whole of Ireland in 1889; 51,000 in 1901, 22968.—Returns also showed that population was less physically sound, but that was not confined to Ireland, 22952.—And was to a certain extent due to emigration, 22953-4.—Labourers of a country only one item in its prosperity, 22957-8.—Witness did not maintain that the country was prosperous, but that it was improving, advancing towards the goal of prosperity, 22959-67.

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Benefits of Industrial or Technical Education.

Industrial or technical education of a practical kind gave immediate alleviation in struggle for existence, 23056, 23067, 23259, 23284, 23192-4.—Should be extended in all branches of useful industry, 23825.—Receipts of Congested Districts Board's lace and crochet classes, £21,573 during last year, though turnover of many classes was unsatisfactory owing to irregular attendances, etc., money earned in eight classes held in seven electoral divisions exceeding total poor law valuation of land in those divisions, 23063.—£42,000 brought into County Donegal from fishing alone, 23065.—Shirt-making and sprigging in Donegal, 23260.—Congested Districts Board more successful that Agricultural Department though the latter was doing good work, 23066.—Success in industry depended more on industry and character of people engaged than on demand, 23069-71.—Difficult to say whether development of technical education would result in sufficient work for agricultural population, but it would give very large assistance, 23196.—Carpet factories not the outcome of technical instruction, 23255-6.—Witness did not know how far Foxford Woollen Factory was result of technical instruction, 23256-8, 23282-3.

Emigration.

Instruction not likely to lead to emigration because the industries were mostly among women, who did not usually want to leave home; but if it did it would not be an unmixed evil; emigrants from Ireland had sent back £17,000,000 in last twenty years, and it would relieve people of support of some members of the family, 23261-2.

Agricultural Instructors.

Local agricultural experts should be appointed to reside in districts and instruct and advise peasantry 23825.

Migratory Labourers.

Parts of maritime seaboard very poor, and densely populated, some of the men migrated for labour, idling on return, but able to live in decent residences and pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a pound for tea, others could earn wages at industrial employments or in fishing, 23056.—Where there were no such resources, and people would sooner leave the country than migrate, the only remedy was organised emigration, 23056.—Migration improved a man's character and abilities, migratory labourers acted as leaven in their districts, 23132A-5.—Continuation of migratory labour did not necessarily mean that district supplying labour must remain in its existing condition, 23136-8.—Witness would be very sorry to see it stopped till other ameliorative influences were in operation, 23139.—Very few migratory labourers did any work on their holdings, 23180-2.—They were away just when work was needed on farms, 23183.—They worked under compulsion abroad, 23184.

Consolidation of Holdings.

Re-arrangements between landlord and tenant had been made for mutual benefit on large properties, a few landlords had given a bad name to the whole body, 23072.—Grazing tracts in many cases resulting from emigration, not clearances, 23074.—Witness had heard of clearances to create grass land, but never had any proof, 23075-7, 23164.—Breaking up villages and consolidating holdings quite a different thing from clearances, 23096.—Villages had been broken up and farms consolidated, each tenant being placed on his own holding in Loughnagin and Ballymacrew, on witness's own estate, 23097-101.—No odium attaching to landlord, 23098.—Great advantage to tenants, 23099.—Premiums, etc., offered for agricultural societies had great effect in increasing knowledge of agriculture among tenants and stimulating competition, 23101-2.—Glenveigh evictions very unfortunate, 23167.—Late Mr. J. G. Adair had turned out tenants who refused to give up murderer, 23168.—Evictions generally deplored, etc., 23169-71.

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Standard of Comfort.

Standard of comfort had been rising steadily on the whole, 23103-4.—Cost of living had gone up, 23172.—Pity that so much tea and white bread were used, 23173.

Laziness Characteristic of the Western Peasants.

Irish people in the West were lazy and disliked work, not the land; they looked on land as the easiest way of making a living without work, 23188-91, 23239-40, 23243, 23263.—Present agricultural condition due to neglect of farmers, 23241.—Idleness a natural characteristic, 23370, 23444, 23817.—Migratory labourers migrated because it was their only chance of supplementing their living, 23197.—They were very small holders or relatives of small proprietors, 23220-1.—Agriculture done on holdings would amount to very little, a few beds of potatoes, 23222-6.—They were mostly only at home in winter months, 23227-9A.—They could do draining, repairing of fences, etc., in winter; most of the holdings required drainage, 23230-5.—Replies to questions circulated by Irish Landowners' Convention to effect that if new holdings were given to tenants they would till as small a portion as possible, that much land was wasted, etc., 23237.—Drainage only possible where there was an outfall, in some cases it might be impossible to make a main drain or get it made, 23269-78.—Construction of main drains should be placed in hands of a proper public department, 23279.—The higher the rent, within fair limits, the greater the stimulus to industry, 23352-8, 23366-8.—Witness did not agree with the old idea of the more you salt your land, the more you stimulate the industry of the tenant, 23359-62.—But the Irish tenant needed a stimulus to enable him to make a right use of his great intellectual powers, 23363-5, 23445-6.—Witness would have said same thing before 1881, 23372-3.—Fact that improvements had been made the occasion of raising rents might account for tenant's attitude, 23397.—Also idea that ownership of the land had been acquired by confiscation in the past, 23398-9.—Dillon property was better land than that in Connemara, 23242.—Much more energy in Ulster than in any other part of Ireland, 23244-5.—Climate had something to do with it, 23264, 23266.—Holdings reclaimed from bog tended to revert unless considerable labour was expended on them, 23247, 23253.—But with more labour and knowledge they might be greatly improved, 23254.—Mayo holdings not bog originally, 23248.—Potatoes could be grown in peat treated with lime, 23250-2.—Waste in Ireland of food such as tripe, which would be used in England, 23266.—Apathetic people capable of transient bursts of energy, 23267-8.

Change of Potato Seed.

Certain districts needed supply of new seed as preventive against potato famine; supply should be exchanged for equal quantity of their own growing, 23285, 23825.—Because free grant was never so much valued, 23289.

Conditions in Ireland Compared with Those in France and Belgium.

Belgian and French conditions could not be usefully compared with Irish; M. de Molinard pointed out that rents in Flanders were higher than in Ireland, that sub-division of property in France and Belgium had been work of centuries, and that peasantry had acquired the order and economy necessary to success before becoming proprietors, and concluded that Ireland suffered not only from her disorders, but also from her doctors, 23306.—No country in Europe where conditions of mutual ownership were same as in Ireland, no country where condition of pasants was better, 23329.—M. de Molinard's letters were written in 1880, before fair rents were fixed, 23330, 23337-9.—Even then the Ulster custom existed, 23331.—And there was not same freedom with regard to rent as in England, 23333.—There was a great arrear of co-partnership, 23335.—But witness did not think the Ulster tenant-right made any difference with regard to rent, 23336.—Act of 1870 gave fixity of tenure and legalised custom where right existed; tenant did not own a spoonful of soil up to present date, 23342.—He owned the goodwill, and witness did not deny that landlord's interest being less, his rent must be less in Ireland than in England, 23343-5.

Small Holdings as Security for Advances.

Holdings of three to five acres (15*s.* to 20*s.* valuation) better security for advance than larger ones, income of tenants less precarious, being half in wages, values readily realised in case of default, 23345, 23370, 23428-30.—Observations only applied where there was a demand for labour, 23350-1.—And tenants were hard-working men, 23371.—Addition to holding would make such tenants very safe for instalments, 23401.—Whether they worked hard or not was a question of individual character, 23402.—Lagan farmers energetic, but they were large farmers, 23403.—Hired hands they employed were also energetic, 23404.

Price of Land and State Action.

Security might be partly personal, but State had admitted a loss on certain classes of holdings, 23431-6.—Congestion admittedly due to past action of British Government, therefore Government should compensate tenants at their own, not at landlords', expense, 23436-8, 23447.—Witness denied that landlords were getting fair or high price, 23439.—Landlords purchasing under conditions created by Cromwell's action would have no moral claim to compensation, but men who bought under Landed Estates Court bought under recognised conditions since upset by Acts of Parliament, 23440-1.—They often bought on a false rental, 23442-3.—Low rents were not easier to collect than moderate ones, 23345.—Colonel Humphrey's estate at Glendoan prosperous, rents regularly paid, whereas Mrs. Hewitson's tenants at Gurteen were deep in arrears, 23405.—Humphreys had been very good landlords, 23406-8.—But Mrs. Hewitson was also very generous, 23409.—Arrears should not be allowed to accumulate, 23411-4.—Only two years' arrears could be taken under the Act, 23415.

Estates Commissioners Desire to Abolish Zones.

Estates Commissioners anxious to abolish zones, 23345.—Impression gathered from evidence, 23348.—Commissioner Bailey had said that conclusion that case was made for abolition of zones might be drawn from case of estate at Westmeath, 23452.—That inspection in every case was the only remedy, that under zone system State took all responsibility for advances made, but it was another matter whether the State was justified, 23458.—That Commissioners were able to set aside zone system to a certain extent, and it was important they should be able to do so more widely, but he preferred not to give an opinion as to whether he claimed right to set aside zones throughout Ireland, 23459.—Mr. Bailey's evidence did not constitute an attack on system, but it showed his attitude of mind, 23466-9, 23473-4, 23476-8.—If Commissioners were opposed to zones only in case of congested areas, it would be a relief to minds of landlords, but it had never yet been determined by a competent legal tribunal whether zone system applied to sections 6 and 7 as well as to section 1, 23481-3, 23491-4.—Mr. Bailey's statement as to danger of calling very poor properties estates, and so bringing them within zones meant that it was not desirable for very poor estates to come under the zones, and that Commissioners were obliged to refuse to call such properties estates so as to force owner to sell direct to Commissioners, 23484-7.—Mr. Finucane argued that it was undesirable that a landlord should be able to sell direct to tenants in case of a congested estate where it would be practically stereotyping existing conditions, which could be done under zone system; he advocated a gigantic compulsory benevolent experiment, and witness inferred that he aimed to do away with zones, 23496-513.—Landlords not impeachable, but in the Land Courts the landlord's case was usually allowed to go by the board, 23385-92.—He did not often defend, partly perhaps because costs were heavy, 23392-4.—And he found that giving evidence had little effect, 23395.

Amalgamation of Uneconomic Holdings.

Witness approved of amalgamation of two uneconomic holdings, 23416, 23419-20.—Perusal of the O'Conor Don's paper against amalgamation might modify his views, 23417-8, 23421.—Holder would not break more than an acre, 23425.—And could not have outside labour for farm of that size, 23422-7.

Work of Parish Committees.

Parish Committees the most successful organisations hitherto employed, 23514, 23617.—Their operations hampered by want of funds, restrictions imposed by Treasury and Estates Commissioners, and certain local doubts and difficulties, 23514.—Nature of work done a great deal more than sanitary work, 23760.—Appropriateness of methods, skill displayed by Congested Districts Board in choice of men in charge of Committees, 23768.—Any district could set up a Committee with consent of Board, 23770.—But it rested with the Board to say whether or not they would operate, 23771.

Agricultural Banks.

Loan bank at Geesala had lent out £1,100 in one year in sums not exceeding £5, paid back in lump sum at end of period never exceeding eleven months, enabling people to buy young stock, bring them up, and sell them at a profit, no case of loss, 23768-9.—Witness thought highly of system of agricultural banks if managed on sound business basis, not on popular lines, 23773-4.—Raffeisen banks worked well under popular management, but Germany was not Ireland, 23795-804.—Popular management was a vague phrase, what witness objected to was management by an elected body where election was not confined to members, 23806-12.

Transfer of Agricultural Operations of Board to Department.

Agricultural operations transferred to Agricultural Department had been better and more efficiently performed by Congested Districts Board in congested districts, industrial and technical instruction in congested districts should be carried out through Congested Districts Board, success of Board due to skill with which it had selected men to work its schemes, it would be criminal to discontinue or hamper such works as was being done, Agricultural Department acted on different principles from Board, they required a rate in aid from a county before formulating a scheme, and when formulated, the scheme was quite inelastic, extending over whole county, on same basis, consequently amounts voted were not used, 23514, 23519, 23537-8, 23628.—Witness spoke only of Donegal, 23517-8, 23633-5.—And to schemes for improving breed of cattle, 23520, 23629, 23630-2.—County rate 1*d.*, Department's contribution 1½*d.*, in the £, Congested Districts Board existed to bring low standard in congested districts up to normal level, and their work should be carried on till this was done; lectures, classes, etc., very useful for intelligent farmers, but Greek to a Claddagh fisherman, 23514.—There had been some trouble about instructors, 23526.—Cattle scheme in Donegal inelastic; local needs disregarded, 23528-30.—This work and spraying of potatoes much better done by Congested Districts Board, 23531-3.—Though principle of helping those who helped themselves was sound enough, 23534-6.—Any scheme should be applied by a local body and worked from an accessible centre, 23607-10.—County Committee could formulate scheme, but its acceptance rested with Department, 23623, 23627.—Scheme of Donegal County Council overruled, 23624-6.—In criticising methods of Agricultural Department witness did not wish to undervalue their work, but he considered Congested Districts Board certainly more suited to congested districts, 25355.

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COMPULSION.

Objection to Mr. Doran's views on compulsion, 23514.—Civil war would be a mild term to apply to result of such compulsion as Mr. Doran proposed, 23568.—Compulsion unnecessary; large areas of untenanted land could be obtained voluntarily if fair price were offered, and uncertainties, etc., attaching to sales removed, 23825, 23911, 23919.

BREAKING UP GRASS LANDS—EFFECT ON CATTLE INDUSTRY.

Objection to Mr. Doran's statement that breaking up grass farms into small mixed farms would rather increase than diminish number of cattle that could be reared, 23541-2, 23584-5, 23602-3, 23710.—Not clear whether Mr. Doran meant store or stall-fed cattle, 23712-4.—Twenty-five-acre mixed farm would not carry more than fourteen head of cattle, whereas 100-acre grass farm would carry 100 or 200, if owners ran it twice in the year, 23564.—Stall-feeding might be carried on on twenty-five-acre farm, 23601.—And might improve land by a good manure, etc., though less cattle were carried, 23604.—Difference of conditions in Belgium, Flanders, and Switzerland made comparison useless; Irish climate would not permit the growth of stole ncrops, 23566, 23586, 23588-9, 23692-3.—Stolen crops sometimes heavy, but that required intensive farming, 23715-9.—And there was also the difference in the habit of the people, 23566, 23586, 23589, 23597-600.—Some grass land would be better in tillage if migrants were capable of tillage, 23570, 23574, 23576, 23595-6, 23607, 23726, 23729.—And only that land should be taken, 23578.—Personal inspection the only means of discovering whereabouts and extent of such land, 23581-2.—Breaking up of fattening land undesirable in an economic sense, 23571-3, 23575, 23594, 23699-700, 23720-1, 23727-8.—Mr. M'Cann's experiments not on fattening land, and had the incentive of unusually high rent, 23723-5.—Mr. Finucane's evidence as to stall-fed cattle in Switzerland and Belgium had convinced witness that he was absolutely ignorant of all practical matters of agriculture, 23588.—Stall-fed cattle could never be turned out to graze in Meath, 12588, 23697, 23709.—Small holders could stall-feed beasts long enough to prepare them finally for the English market if they were competent, 23704, 23706-8.—But they would not be able to keep so many cattle as on grazing farms, 23705, 23709.—General tendency all over the Kingdom for land to go from tillage to grass, 23549.—Did not apply in very small holdings, 23550.—If four holders of twenty-five acres held permanent pasture in common it would be an improvement, 23619-20.—Cattle must have a run, 23565, 23688.—And since seventy-two per cent. of holdings in Ireland were under thirty acres, seventy-two per cent. of occupiers had to part with their stock before it was matured, 23551.—Remaining twenty-seven per cent. of large holdings provided market for that stock, 23552.—And if grazing lands were cut up there would be a considerable dislocation in the cattle trade at first, 23553-60, 23583.—Very careful inquiry needed, 23561.—Market would be affected because Meath men would only buy forward stores, 23636, 23642.—And if best class of store land were broken up there would be a gap between the man who reared and the finisher, 23636-7, 23730-2.—Scotchmen and Englishmen would come in and buy, but not at same prices, as they would have to pay same freight on less valuable animals, 23638-44.—Young cattle from Donegal did not go to Meath, 23645.—Some went to England from Roscommon, 23647.—Cattle raised on small holdings and sold before winter were bought locally, 23650, 23662.—Very few under 1½ years went to England, 23651-4, 23664-5.—Some went to Scotland, 23665.—Witness believed the Scotchman would pay a little less than the Irishman, 23659.—Local dealers bought them at fairs and took them to Scotland, 23663.—Price paid for 62,000 calves exported from Ireland probably less than that paid in Ireland, 23669, 23764.—They might have been exported for want of a market in Ireland, 23670-3.—Exports probably consisted largely of calves reared near the ports; cheaper to ship them than to carry them by rail to grazing grounds, 23734-4.—Not advantageous that cattle trade should be regarded as the only agricultural industry of Ireland, 23675.—Proper system of mixed tillage would increase wealth of the country, 23685-6.

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INDUSTRIES.

Industries had been of great benefit in congested districts, 23611.—Any new industries had been introduced by Congested Districts Board, 23613.—As had been also the Parish Committees, 23617.

TITLES OF LANDS, BOARD SHOULD HAVE POWER TO CLEAR EQUITIES.

Law should be altered to enable Congested Districts Board to clear equities in cases of titles of lands, 23825, 23911.

RELIEF OF CONGESTION.

Estates Commissioners should convey to Congested Districts Board any congested portion of estates they purchased, or any portion which was to be used for relief of congestion, 23825, 23826-7, 23831-3, 23878, 23880-1, 23911.—Change of law involved, 23828-9.—Witness did not suggest that their power to purchase should be withdrawn, 23830, 23838.—Congested Districts Board might not have sufficient funds to make purchase, 23836-7.

QUESTION OF CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF TWO PURCHASING BODIES.

Comparing the two authorities the Congested Districts Board was better suited to deal with all questions relating to congestion, but there was no reason why Commissioners should not continue to buy land, 23841-2.—Witness would leave to each body its existing power to purchase, 23844-53, 23859-61, 23882, 23888.—It was important that the improving body should have a determining voice in fixing price, 23867, 23885.—But Congested Districts Board could not lose money to same extent as Commissioners, 23868-73.—There might be no limit to amount Congested Districts Board might lose, but they had not the money to lose, 23875, 23898.—Existence of two purchasing bodies had no effect on price of land, 23879.

TRANSFER TO BOARD OF ESTATES COMMISSIONERS' POWERS.

Witness was not satisfied with operations and method of procedure of Estates Commission, 23883-4.—And if transfer of purchase of all congested property to Congested Districts Board were coupled with grant of sufficient funds and same powers as were given to Estates Commissioners he would be inclined to approve, 23886, 23889-95.—Although purchase by Congested Districts Board was outside zones whereas purchase by Estates Commissioners in congested districts was governed by zones as far as need be, 23887-8.—Loss realised by Estates Commissioners was borne by the State, whereas Congested Districts Board had to pay out of their own income, 23899.—Fair compromise if the State were to bear loss incurred by Congested Districts Board up to ten per cent., 23901-2.—Witness agreed that purchases should be made outside the zones, 23903.

LANDOWNERS' DISTRUST OF ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Landowners objected strongly to the manner in which Land Acts were administered, and as a body profoundly distrusted Estates Commissioners, 23912.—Convention represented a large number of landlords, but of course many small holders did not belong, 24814.—Whose report and evidence before present Commission showed partizanship, partiality, deficient knowledge, etc., 23912.—Witness willing to adopt Mr. Kavanagh's suggestion and alter expression "landowners" to landowners represented by Landowners' Convention, 24813.—Witness desired to comment on matter he had become acquainted with since drawing up his memorandum, he had had proofs of evidence of third volume but not documents in appendix, 24274-80.—He would make a statement as desired, 24281.—Report announced that Commissioners were at variance among themselves as to primary scope of their functions, 23912, 23925.—

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Things were more satisfactory when different rules and regulations were in force, 23927.—Proper rules and regulations would enable Commissioners to arrive at better knowledge and decisions, 23929-31, 23935.—Former rules required inspectors to undergo a preliminary examination, 23931-2A.—That did not exist now, 23933.—With result that men sent out to report on prices were not proved competent, 23934.—If Commissioners were guided by men of competent knowledge they would be less likely to differ, 23936-40.—Prior to 1903 Sub-Commissioners were used to make fair values, 24381-2.—Witness had confused inspectors and temporary Assistant Commissioners, 24409.—Assistant Commissioners were borrowed by land purchasing authority prior to 1903, 24413-5.—Landowners Convention objected to action of Government in reducing tenure of temporary Assistant Commissioners from three years to one, and in dispensing with Civil Service Examination of candidates, action was uncalled for and unjustifiable, 24410, 24417-8.—If reduction was made on recommendation of Land Commission it was an argument in support of witness's objection to actions of Land Commission, 24423-4.—Government was under no obligation to retain examination, 24432.—Temporary Assistant Commissioners first appointed on 13th March, 1899, 24426—Witness gathered that Sir Antony MacDonnell had said he thought it very important to have a permanency of tenure to cope with the difficult duties of the Land Purchase Department, 24430.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness thought differences among Commissioners were on questions of fact and questions of policy, largely on fact, 23491-3.—Commissioners differed as to instructions to inspectors and principle for estimating security, 23912.—That was a question of policy, as was also principle for estimating security, 23949, 23950.—But Inspector's Report to Commissioners was a fact, 23946, 23950.—Rules and regulations limited discretion of Commissioners, 23951.—While he considered that Commissioners should exercise some discretion, 23952-5.—He thought that regulations of March, 1906, conferred greater discretion on Commissioners than previous ones, 23956-7.—And that the wider the discretion the more likelihood of differences of opinion, 23958-9.—Variance was a serious matter for landlords, 24050, 24053.—Of course where there was a difference of opinion the majority must carry the day, 24051-2.

PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED BY COMMISSIONERS IN ESTIMATING SECURITY.

In regard to principles for estimating security witness's objections were best embodied by reading Mr. Wrench's minority Report, 24061.—Possibly principle of fixing fair rents did not come in in principles laid down on page 5, 24062.—Statement of principles sounded all right, but the working of them was a different matter, 24066-8.—Witness could not give a single concrete case where operation of principles had worked injustice to landlord or tenant, 24068.—Remarks of Commissioners with regard to future free importation of Canadian cattle, etc., seemed to witness quite wrong, 24069.—Landowners objected to results, but had no means of knowing how Commissioners arrived at these results, 24070-1.—All estates sold through Estates Commissioners were (*a*) sold in the zones, (*b*) outside the zone, (*c*) purchased in Land Judge's Court, (*d*) sold direct under Section 6 to Commissioners, 24072-3.—Estates sold within zones formed the largest category, 24074.

POWER OF COMMISSIONERS TO REFUSE TO DECLARE A PROPERTY AN ESTATE.

In regard to estates within the zones the function of Commissioners in regard to fixing price ought to be purely ministerial, 24075-6.—They had no means of directly defeating operation of zones except by refusing to declare property an estate, but they could practically affect it by delaying to declare it an estate, 24077-8, 24970.—Object of power was to prevent any undue intimidation or duress, 24972.—Witness would not impute malfeasance to Commissioners in regard to refusing to declare property an estate, but he thought there were cases in which they seemed to have refused unjustifiably, 24974-7.—Witness objected to Commissioners' action in regard to the Blake-Foster estate and any similar case that might arise, 24079-81.—Witness did not believe the Act gave Estates Commissioners power to exclude a property from zones, 24082.—Landowners had been trying to get a case, but had been unable to do so, 24083, 24089.—Landowners said that power to declare a property an estate was given in order to facilitate sales, and it was not unreasonable to ask Estates Commissioners to declare property an estate before going to expense in negotiations which might come to nothing, as it was they had to wait till everything was gone through and it might take years, it was a grievance that deterred many men from selling, 24084, 24170-5, 24181-4, 24194, 24211, 24564.—As soon as property was declared an estate owner could go to his banker and draw money on the strength of it, 24085.—And interest dropped to 3½, 24086.—Landlord agreed to accept percentage on purchase money in lieu of rent, 24176.—And Estates Commissioners only paid him if they got it from the tenants, 24177-80.—In some cases landlord had been allowed to collect interest, but it was not the rule, 24179.—If in the end the Estates Commissioners refused to declare property an estate arrears would have been accumulating, 24185, 24188-90, 24208.—Due to difference between rent and interest paid during interval, 24186-24210.—Arrears for over two years could not be collected, 24209.—Tenants paid one year and Government one, 24377.—Balance recoverable by civil process, not by ejectment process, 24212-3.—Interest always below rent, 24187.—Not declaring property an estate would prevent landlord from selling at all, 24189, 24191A-3.—Ultimately when purchase money was paid down landlord was entitled to receive year's rent in respect of arrears, 24195-6.—Arrears had accrued since Estates Commissioners came into operation, 24197-200, 24263.—Land Commission Report up to 31st March, 1906, highly satisfactory and creditable, but witness knew of cases of arrears, 24264-9.—There was some advantage in allowing provisional state to last in cases of properties in rundale, etc., but there were many disadvantages, 24201, 24983.—Advantage would only apply where owner afterwards desired to exclude land, any outside land he wished to include could be dealt with by Commissioners declaring it to be an estate by itself, 24981-2.—Under the Act, Commissioners had not authority to provisionally declare an estate, 24202.—Some of the advantages could be secured in other ways, and owners of congested estates felt the prolonged uncertainty as a great hardship, 24203.—Landlords were relieved from cost of collection, and though an agent was still needed to manage property witness did not think many owners would continue to pay full salary when collection had ceased, 24204-7.—Where lands were sold direct to Estates Commissioners sale was voluntary in its inception and landlord need not accept price unless he chose, 24984-7.—But the awkward part of it was that tenants got wind of price offered by Commissioners and resented going on at old rents if landlord refused to sell, 24988.—Very difficult to avoid such a result, 24989-90.—But some more automatic arrangement would improve matters.—Mr. Wrench had been a Land Commissioner since 1887, whereas the other two Commissioners had been only three years in Chief Commission of Land Commission Department, 23914.

OBJECTIONS TO PRICE PER ACRE AS STANDARD OF COMPARISON.

Report abandoned relative term of years purchase, or percentage of reduction, and gave land prices in standard quotation of cost per acre and proceeded to compare prices ruling on this basis before Act of 1903 with those under it, drawing conclusion as to appreciation that had occurred without any attempt to prove identity of things compared, 23914, 24130-7.—Witness objected because it was a very popular way of indicating value of land, tenants would jump at it at once, 24136.—It was most misleading and damaging to landowners, 24138-9.—Notorious that former Land Purchase Acts left untouched most properties owned by solvent landlords and occupied by punctual tenants, most of the earlier transactions were in the nature of forced sales, which would under no circumstances furnish a fair standard, 23914, 24000-1, 24000-8.—Witness did not say that no solvent properties were sold, 24002.—Sale of Lord Bath's estate was in nature of forced sale, 24003-5.—More accurate to say that two kinds of estates were sold, encumbered estates, sales of which were forced sales, and estates of rich men ready to sell at a loss in order to get out of troubles of land owning in Ireland, 24009-10.—Witness made no statement that Commissioners were not basing their operations on second term rents, 24129, 24142.—Rate per acre under Act of 1903 stated to be £13 4*s.*, 23914.—Reference was Report of Estates Commissioners, page 14, paragraph 3, 24167.—Tenant able to purchase fee-simple of acre of land for price of a cow and get a loan to pay for it, 23914, 24233.—£13 4*s.* a ridiculous price for an acre, 24234, 24237-8, 24246.—Different conditions in Essex made comparison useless, 24235-6.—Impossible to say without examination whether apparently worthless land was overvalued at £13 4*s.* per acre, 24242-3.—Impossible to stick to one average price for an acre of land, 24245.—Witness objected to acreable price, 24014, 24042.—It was damaging to land-owning classes, 24239-40.

Mr. Wyndham's Estimate of Money Side of Land Problem.

Framers of Act of 1903 recognised that a gap had to be spanned between what owners would take and what tenants would give, and that prices would increase; Mr. Wyndham had estimated money side of land problem as £4,000,000 worth of second term rents; second term rents were selling at 24·8 years' purchase, 23914, 24248.—Nothing in the Act to show price at which land should be bought, 24126-8.—Mr. Wyndham took £4,000,000 per annum as highest estimate of total amount he would have for purchase, 24399-401.—And therefore considered that lands should be sold on an average at twenty-five years' purchase, 24403-4, 24836, 24839, 24842, 24848.—Mr. Wyndham had said the Bill provided incidentally for twenty-two years' purchase of second term rents, and something over eighteen years' purchase of first term rents, but he was referring to minimum price which Bill provided should be paid to landlords plus the bonus in cases within the zones, 24842.—Debate from which Sir A. MacDonnell quoted was grounded on an attempt by tenant party to knock the bottom out of the zone system, 24847.—When he said that the Act contemplated 25 years' purchase witness meant that Act provided money for sale of real property whose rental was known, and also for zones in the first section; to bring cases within zones bonus must be taken into account as well as advance to tenants on which tenants paid interest, 25053.—There was provision for going on at a lower rate voluntarily, 25055-6.—Witness concluded that price of land selected by Commissioners was not a fair example; that so far as prices were higher the fact was due to better class of estates sold, 23914.—Witness did not know that landlords had any desire to inflate prices; of course they wanted the best bargain they could get, 24252.

Increase in Price of Land since Act of 1903.

Estate offered at 17 years' purchase before the Act sold after it for 24½ years, fair price if within the zones, 24253-9.—That such increase of price had been foreseen and provided by framers of Act of 1903, and was well within limits laid down by them, 23914, 24015-20.

Security of Rental as Factor in Fixing Price.

Price given was based on rent, 24022.—But a well-secured rental was more valuable than a less well-secured rental, 24023-6.—Court of Appeal had decided that even in case of badly secured rental where arrears were long due arrears should be taken into account in fixing price, 24024, 24026.—£100 rental in Seven Dials would not sell for same sum as £100 rental in heart of the city, 24028-33.—Impossible to say whether land sold in 1903 was as good security as land sold previously, 24043.—Witness entirely disagreed with Mr. Bryce's view as to equitable price, 24231.—Witness did not consider net income of landlords a fair price for estates, and was not aware that landlords would accept that price, 24261.

Objections to Estates Commissioners.

Commissioners seemed disposed to adopt worst faults of the old Purchase Commissioners, it should be made clear to them that it was their business to facilitate sales from landlord to tenant, not to obstruct them, 23914.—Contemptuous treatment by Commissioners of Lord Lieutenant's regulations, 23912, 24090-6.—Lord Dudley was Lord Lieutenant referred to, 23960.—Witness certainly not of opinion that Commissioners should administer without remonstrance regulations which they were convinced were illegal, 24049.—Witness admitted a certain amount of Irish ornamentation about that paragraph of his evidence, 24097-8.—Since publication of Report, Mr. Wrench's minority views on certain points had been supported against majority of Commissioners by judgments in Court of Appeal, 23912-4.—Judge Ross upheld Mr. Wrench's views by a statement, not a judgment, 23914, 23798-9, 23988.—Statement witness referred to was statement in public Press, but it now appeared that in the Burrowes case they were not aware of exact nature of rents which were second term rents, 24103.—Judgment of Judge Meredith in case of J. D. Crosbie's Estate upset by Court of Appeal, 23979-83.—There was no difference of opinion amongst Commissioners in original reference to Judge Meredith, 23984-92.—Judgment was so important and differed so materially from original view of Commissioners and from judgment of their own judge that it vitally affected sales of estates, 23995.—Cases quoted were relevant as explaining landowners' distrust of Commissioners, 23997-9.—Witness admitted that the reference to the Estates Commissioners was a bit of Irish embroidery, and thought he would be justified in striking it out entirely, 24109-13.—Witness had no faith in dealing with abstract ideas, he was contradicting evidence given by Estates Commissioners, 24168.

Objects for which Grants should be Made.

Grants should be made for fishery piers, boats, and equipage; for roads, bridges, and improvements in thoroughfares, and to develop turf industry, 23825.—Quarries and mines should be opened wherever there was a fair prospect of profit, 23825.

Effect of Arrears on Price of Land.

Lord Chancellor's judgment laying down that arrears would be regarded in fixing price, and Lord Justice FitzGibbon's statement that Act of 1903 recognised absolutely the entering into calculation of purchase money the consideration of arrears in general, 24114.—Witness knew of no dissatisfaction on part of landlords with advance limited to one year, 24115.—Judicial Commissioners had decided that one year's arrears were illegal, 24116.—Both sides appealed in Crosbie case, 24117.—Witness did not blame Estates Commissioners in that matter, 24123.

Second Term Rents as basis for Price of Land—Second Term Rents compared with Valuation.

Landlords were willing to have second term rents taken as basis of purchase prices, but that was not to be considered as an admission that they regarded second term rents as fixed by Court as representing real letting value, 24145.—Prices of agricultural produce had risen in last ten or fifteen years, 24146.—That would affect any comparison of prices given for land, 24147.—Men appointed to Sub-Commission Court took great pains and did the best they could, results probably as fair as one could expect, 24148.—Witness did not agree that rents were fixed on no definite principle, 24154.—He did agree with Commissioner Baldwin's description of the process as Government letting loose eighty-four men on the rental of Ireland without instructions, 24155.—Rents so fixed had to be taken as basis of purchase price, 24156-7.—No question that second term rents were much below what competitive rent would be, 24158.—Cases of competitive rent often occurred, 24160-1.—Griffith's valuation neither relatively nor actually a good guide to what rent should be, much misleading evidence on the subject had been given, question bore immediately on subject of fair price and adequate security, because second term rents in aggregate nearly approximated to Griffith's valuation, and if that could be shown to be well below present value of lands, it would follow that second term rents, taken as a basis for purchase, left ample margin for security, 24281.—Griffith's valuation first started by Townland Valuation Act of 1844, which gave scale of prices quoted by Devon Commission, and compared by Mr. Finucane with present-day prices, several amending Acts culminated in 15 and 16 Vict., s. 63, 1852, setting forth much reduced scale of prices to be applied not only to all new valuations, but to all valuations in process of being made, 24271, 24281.—There had been considerable increase in all prices except wheat, 24281, 24288.—Mr. Finucane had corrected his mistake in regard to scale of prices mentioned in Valuation Act, but had not withdrawn the argument he built on it, 24333-6, 24339-40.—All figures revised under Act of 1852 to make them uniform, 24283.—Act would not apply to valuations already made, but very few were made, 24284, 24372-5, 24384.—Devon Commission Report not a reliable document for deciding present state of landlord and tenant questions, since it was compiled sixty-two years ago, 24290.—Valuation under Act of 1852 made an estimate of net annual value of land with reference to statutory scale of prices, all rates, taxes, and public charges, except tithe-rentcharge being paid by tenant, 24291, 24297.—Act of 1852 provided that improvements effected within seven years preceding valuation should not be taken into account, thus two and a half millions borrowed for land improvement under Land Improvement Acts, sums borrowed under Relief of Distress Act, 1881, etc., were excluded from consideration, and Griffith's valuation must, in aggregate, be much below present value, 24291, 24320.—And therefore land was better security, 24321-5.—Amount of Board of Works loans based on estimated by the Board of enhanced value of land after money was spent, 24365-6.—Loans for drainage included, 24367.—That in itself established that there was an addition to actual possible output of land, 24368-70.—Valuation would be higher than rent, because valuation was not only rent, but interest in tenant's improvements so far as they existed before 1845, 24388-9.—Great part of improvements since 1845 were landlords' improvements, consequently there were cases where rent exceeded valuation, 24390.—Tenants also had spent money, 24394.—So that one might counterbalance the other, 24395-6.—No ground for concluding that land originally valued as tillage land, and since turned into pasture was too highly valued because prices had not fallen since 1852, and land had become pasture land because stock was found to pay better, moreover mixed farms were valued on mixed system, and changed to pasture reduced cost of labour, 24291.—Scale of wages of individuals had gone up, but machinery made fewer hands necessary, 24326-7.—Price of cereals had not fallen, as stated by Mr. Finucane, 24295, 24344.—Mr. Finucane's evidence contradicted by Sir John Barton, 24340-3.—Mr. Henderson estimated that a valuation at close of nineteenth century would add £5,000,000 to Griffith's valuation of £15,466,564, 24291.—Sir John Barton put it at £3,000,000, 24329-31.—Witness's impression was that the £300,000 was the land improvement increase, 24332.—Valuation did not represent a gross value including tenants' and landlords' interest, 24296, 24300.—It had nothing to do with rent, 24298-9, 24306-7, 24315, 24357-8.—And was not so uniform as to make it useful in that way, 24299, 24311, 24354-5.—But rent approximated to it more or less, 24311.—It was merely valuation of agricultural producing powers of soil, 24300, 24308-9, 24311.—It was before all the Land Acts, and the landlord was the entire owner of the land, 24302-3.—Deduction was made for cost of labour and cost of production, 24305, 24311, 24318.—Valuation not affected by whether the land was held by landlord or tenant, 24312-4, 24385.—Tenants' interest had subsequently to be taken out of valuation, 24315.—So that rent and valuation were two different things, 24317.—Witness agreed that Poor Law valuation could not be made a fair basis for settlement, 24337-9.—Valuation for taxation might be higher or lower than real valuation, provided it was relatively the same, 24397-8.—Deduction of 25 per cent. from gross value not contained in instructions to valuers, 24359, 24363.—Sir R. Griffith had said in a letter that 25 per cent. added to his valuation would make a fair rent or something like that, it was not an estimate of rent or any fair standard, 24361-2.

EFFECT OF VARIATIONS IN PRICE OF PRODUCE AND COST OF LABOUR ON VALUE OF LAND.

Effects of varying of price of produce and cost of labour on value of land; assuming gross annual produce of land to be worth £100, and cost of production to be £40, there would be £60 to distribute between landlord and tenant, one-third to landlord would be £20, leaving £40 for tenant; if value of gross produce fell 20 per cent., and cost of production remained constant, landlord would get £13 6*s.* 8*d.*, and tenant £26 13*s.* 4*d.*, reducing landlord's share by 33½ per cent.; conversely a rise in price of produce might justify a similar rise in rent, that is, a rise or fall in price of produce would justify a much larger percentage of rise or fall in rent, 24434, 24449.—If cost of production increased by 20 per cent., prices remaining constant, cost of production would be £48, nett produce £52, giving £17 6*s.* 8*d.* for landlord and £34 13*s.* 4*d.* for tenant, that is, 20 per cent. increase in cost of labour would only cause decrease of 13 per cent. in rent, 24434, 24835, 24865-70.—And in general rent diminished in less proportion than cost of production increased, 24463-5, 24835, 24876.—The fact that a doubling in cost of production reduced rent to one-third of the original £20 (a reduction of 66 per cent., 24549) did not affect witness's argument that increased cost of production was not so potent a factor in reduction of rent as corresponding reduction in price of produce, 24466-88, 24545-7.—But it would be most misleading to say that whatever the increase in cost of production, diminution of rent would always be in proportion shown in illustration, 24871-91.—Witness agreed that cost of production might be treated as constant, but not that it was an academic question, 24893.—Producing power of land itself had largely increased, prices had risen, and cost of production might be treated as constant on the whole, so that Griffith's valuation, as a whole, was below what a re-valuation would exhibit, and consequently second term rents offered a perfectly safe basis for purchase, 25534, 24489, 24516, 24521.—"Safe" used in sense that holdings would be good security, 24509.—Witness assumed that everything was constant but prices, 24436-43.—£40 not necessarily a true figure, it might be excessive for cost of production on some farms, 24445-9.—Witness was not arguing to show that second term rents were unduly reduced, 24434, 24450.—Figures would be useful to refer back to in respect of what was occupation interest, 24451-2.—Witness did not intend to argue that landlords' interest in every farm should always be one-third, 24460.—Figures were simply an illustration, 24456.—Witness meant also to show the influence of cost of labour on general value of land, 24490-5.—Cost of production not uniform, 24496-7.—Seventy-two per cent. of holdings were less than thirty acres, and no outside labour would be employed on them, 24498-500.—Cost of labour more likely to influence value on large farms, 24501-2.—Therefore in 72 per cent. of cases value of holding was not affected by a rise in cost of labour, 24503-5.—And an increase in cost would benefit the numerous small holders who were migratory labourers, 24505.—Broadly, a rise in cost of labour meant additional security or no loss of security to the State, 24507.

SAFETY OF RENTS PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED BY ACT OF 1881.

By Act of 1881, which practically deprived landlords of all power over their land, it was held out as justification that the Act would make rents safe in Ireland, 24510-2.—Now that it was a question of security to the State in carrying out its policy of facilitating transfer of land from landlord to tenant, the State could not urge that there must be a diminution allowed in money advanced, because security was not good, 24513-5.

BUDGET OF A HOLDING GIVING ANNUAL PRODUCE OF £100 VALUE.

Class of holding that would give annual produce of value of £100 would be a small mixed farm, a mixed farm of twenty-five acres properly worked would give £89 12*s.*, one of thirty-five acres £100, 24522-3.—Extra labour required would cost £4 and £2 for keep, 24524.—Labourers in the family would be tenant and his son, and probably other children, 24525-6.—One horse would be kept, 24527-8.—£40 as expense of labour would not be far wrong, 24530-5.—Allowing 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for a man's wages, 24536, 24540.—Best way of working such a farm was for crop to be consumed on the farm, or, if sold, money to go back as food or manure, stock at end of year would be worth £97 10*s.*, and whole value of farm would be in value of stock except for flax, 24539—Figures absolutely arbitrary, 24541.—Cost of farm servants' labour had gone up a good deal, but use of machinery probably halved number employed, 24542-4.—Cost of production depended entirely on kind of farm and nature of tillage, on farm, suggested rent £11 9*s.* 8*d.*, Government valuation £10, tenant would receive, including his wages and those of his son, £80 17*s.* 4*d.*, 24551-4.—Hypothetical case carefully prepared by witness, 24555-60.—He had a locality, but not a particular farm in mind, 24561-2.—One-third of profits going to landlord would be a rack-rent, 24563.—Higher than second term rents, 24564.

ARREARS.

Mr. Finucane's further statement that rentals showed twenty years' arrears against tenants incorrect, 24290.—Witness would withdraw statement if it was a mistake, 24291.—Mr. Finucane said that some rentals showed these arrears, 24345.—And to put forward a thing of that kind was to cast a slur on landlords, 24349.—Landlords got criticised for their generosity, 24353.—Neither Mr. Bailey nor Mr. Finucane mentioned that when no gale-day was shown on a receipt, it was *prima facie* evidence that rent was paid up to date, 24353.

EFFECT ON SALES IF ZONES WERE ABOLISHED.

Abolition of zones, with object of subjecting all holdings to inspection and possible revision of prices agreed on between landlord and tenant, would introduce an uncertainty as to financial results of sale which would deter prudent landowners from selling, 24565, 24566-7, 24578.—And increase existing delays in completion of sales, 24565.—Witness would accept amendment to effect that landlords now having ing opportunity to sell under section 1 would not be wise in selling if zones were done away with, 24586.—Relations between landlord and tenants were upset, 24568-9.—Zones brought in in 1903, 24570.

FALLING OFF IN SALES BEFORE 1903.

Witness did not say no prudent owner sold before 1903, but sales were falling off, and that was why Mr. Wyndham introduced zones, 24571-2, 24579-80, 24582-4.—Number of applications for loans did not affect question; applications came from tenants, true test was number of advances applied for, 24581.—Mr. Wyndham had said advances declined from £1,900,000 to £1,280,000 from 1899 to 1901, 24581.—Number of tenants applying had decreased from 8,000 to 3,000 in last four years, 24581.—Decrease due in part to expectation of coming legislation, 25062, 25102-3.—And to depreciation of Land Stock; Mr. Wyndham, on 25th March, 1902, said that advances were made in 1899 of £1,900,000; in 1900, of £1,800,000; and in 1901, of £1,280,000; and number of tenants applying had gone down from 8,000 to 3,000, and he believed the landlords who were prepared to sell under existing law were coming to an end, 25062.—He meant that figures given included sales that had matured in that year, 25063.—Fall in Land Stock certainly affected landlords and caused gap which Mr. Wyndham aimed at bridging by bonus—at one time it was as high as £113 for £100, 25078.—For five years it was over £110, 25084.—But bonus thus obtained was more than balanced by reduction due to difference between first and second term rents, 25087-8.—Another cause for decrease was that a number of insolvent landlords were squeezed out, 25089-101.—There were still embarrassed landlords in Ireland, 25104.—Landlords who had sold either had other interests and sources of income or they were tempted by premium on Land Stock during 1897-99, or they had been forced to sell because they were embarrassed, supply of these three classes giving out, 24581.—When Act of 1903 was introduced it was common knowledge that market for estates in Ireland was exhausted, 24166.—Although amounts advanced were pretty uniform, averaging £1,500,000 a year for five years preceding 1903, applications had practically ceased, 24214-9.—And in any case it would be a great advantage to facilitate and increase purchase, 24220.

MEANING OF NET INCOME.

Mr. Finucane thought a full and generous price for tenanted land compulsorily sold would be a sum which, including bonus, would yield normal net income actually obtained during preceding five or ten years, 24564.—Net income here had quite a different meaning from net income in Report of Commissioners, where it was said to mean gross second term rental, less cost of collection and management and bad debts, 24564, 24587.—Passage occurred on page 7 of Report, 24588-90.

PRICE OF LAND; LAND CONFERENCE TERMS.

Land Conference recommended gross rental, less ten per cent. if incurred for cost of collection, etc., 24591-4.—Act had not carried out those terms, 24595.

EFFECT OF BOYCOTTING.

Certain circumstances, such as boycotting or intimidation, might have made lands valueless to owner, and if price was reckoned on income actually obtained, he would get nothing in respect of such lands, 24596-7.—There were lands lying derelict owing to political feeling, 24598-9.—In Leitrim and Clare, 24501-2.—Witness could not name estates without asking his informants, 24604.—By derelict lands witness meant to say lands let on eleven months' agreement which tenants refused to take on a second year, so that rent would either not appear at all or would appear at much lower figure, 24815-8, 24828-30.—Better to say "unoccupied" or "untenanted," not "derelict" farms, 24831-4.—Derelict farms did exist, but not to any large extent, 24833.

NET INCOME NOT A FAIR BASIS OF CALCULATION.

Modification by Mr. Finucane of his original definition still left it absolutely optional to whatever authority was appointed to say how much should be given taking second term gross rent as net income where it was regulated by column in rental, 24824.—Mr. Finucane would deduct costs of going into court, 24564.—Which was unreasonable, 24605.—If income was to be basis of calculation, witness stood for Land Conference view, 24606, 24608-9.—No reason or justice in estimating selling value of land at price that would simply secure present income. Since owner was still in full possession of fee, and proprietor of timber, quarries, gravel pits, turf-bog, marls, clays, all minerals, royalties of every kind, and sporting rights, 24564.—Owner had also right to his prospective share in increased value of land, due to extension and rise of towns, new means of communication, etc., and general advance of civilisation, 24564.—Railways had very developing effect in a backward country, 24612.—Witness was not going to estimate value of prospective advance in civilisation; his argument was that in accepting net income landowners sacrificed this among other things, 24613-24, 24627.—It was more difficult to estimate than effect of introduction of Canadian cattle, 24625-6.—There were also sentimental considerations, 24564, 24628-30.—Which were recognised by the Land Conference, 24564, 24631.—Mr. Wyndham had met that by arranging bonus and zone system, but it would be counter-balanced if zone system were done away with, 24631-2.

ESTATE EN BLOC BETTER SECURITY THAN SEPARATE HOLDINGS.

An estate *en bloc* might evidently be better security for aggregate amount of purchase money than some of the several holdings severally considered in relation to portion of purchase money allocated on each holding; decrease in security in no way attributable to owner, who ought not to be mulcted on that account,

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24633-41.—Some of the poor holdings might not be good security, 24633-9.—Uneconomic holdings not as good security as good land, 24640.—Interest on mortgages on Irish land not less than five per cent., 24644.—Amount of mortgage advance on ordinary estate probably less than half its value, 24646.—If tenant were really part owner and landlord simply a rent-charger, landlord should be entitled to rent in full, whatever the fluctuations in profits, 24564.

Purchase under Bright Clauses of Act of 1870.

Under Bright clauses of Act of 1870, Treasury, at suggestion of Irish Board of Works, fixed twenty-four years' purchase of tenement valuation as standard price of land, and sanctioned advance of two-thirds of loan to tenant; price increased to twenty-seven years' purchase in 1871, to thirty years' purchase in 1872; thirty years' purchase—a basis of calculation of Treasury advance—no limit to price to be given, and that did not come up to full value of holding in many cases, 24565, 24647-50, 24667-71.—Transactions took place in 1871 or 1872, which were prosperous years, 24651-4.—Since then rent had gone down forty per cent., 24655-7, 24686-90.—Reduction of twenty per cent. on second term rents and twenty per cent. on first term rent worked out at thirty-six per cent. on the two, not forty, 24850.—Tenants were paying five per cent. interest instead of 3½ as at present, 24850.—Which gave a reduction of thirty-five per cent., and left security within one per cent. of what it was before, 24851-9.—Landlords would be content with thirty years' purchase of Griffith's valuation, 24659-62, 24677-8, 24850.—Valuation had not altered, 24663.—Tenanted land sold at much higher figure in 1871 than now, 24672.—Price might have gone to forty or fifty years; two-thirds of sum, not exceeding thirty years' purchase, was only limit put by Treasury to advance, 24673-6, 24679-85, 24693.—Treasury estimate not a safe guide to fair price on value of holding; Commissioners were looking at the matter from point of view of security for the State, witness from that of fair price for landlord, 24690-3.—Numbers of tenants bought at thirty years' purchase, 24694, 24860.—So far witness had been referring to price of untenanted land, 24695.—Witness did not agree that eighteen years' purchase would be equivalent of thirty years' purchase of poor law valuation when rents were thirty-six per cent. higher, 24864.—Fact that Bright purchasers had sought relief did not prove that they had bought too high; when it came to looking for better terms very few people would admit that they could meet any instalments, 25048-52.

Fair Price for Tenanted Land.

With regard to fair price for tenanted land, price was arrived at by mutual agreement between landlord and tenant, 24697.—And if price fell within the zone there was supposed to be sufficient security for advance, 24698.—If compulsory system were adopted, Land Conference terms would be the equitable price—practically second term rents secured, 24701.

Tribunal to Fix Prices.

Landowners would object to fixing of prices by a new tribunal; such tribunal sure to be affected by extraneous influence, 24702-4.—Certain fixed number of years' purchase would be better if a practical arrangement could be made, 24705, 24707.

Second Term Rents as Basis for Price.

Witness did not approve of Mr. Finucane's proposal to classify estates and give landlord's rate of interest according as estate was good or bad security, 24705-6.—Some rough-and-ready method had to be adopted; best would be to take second term rent as fair rent, and capitalise that, so as to yield that second term income to landlord, 24708-9, 24948, 24713-4.—Landlords would be satisfied, 24802, 25065-8, 25117.—But they would not be getting full value of their properties, 25065.—Price to be paid would include bonus, 24805, 24811.—It would not work to fix so many years' purchase on an arbitrary scale, 24710-2.

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Rate of Interest at which Purchase Money should be Invested.

If money were invested at 3½ per cent. that ought to be satisfactory, 24715-6.—Personally witness would ask for Land Conference terms, 3 or 3¼ per cent., but Landlords' Convention declared themselves content with 3½ per cent., 25032-3.—Good deal of land sold was tied up in marriage settlements, 25035.—In case of land not settled it would still be necessary to fix 3½ per cent. limit if security was to be equally good, 25037, 25040.—Witness would like to know where he could get 4½ per cent. on United Kingdom Railway Stock, 25038, 25040.—Witness would hardly consider four per cent. safe; Representative Body of Church of Ireland, with three millions on mortgage on Irish Land, which bore fairly high interest, could barely touch four per cent., taking all their investments together, 25043, 25047, 25105-10.—They always took trustee securities, 25044.—Nearly all the mortgages were in Ireland, 25108.—They looked forward to losing £30,000 a year when mortgages were paid off, 25110.—Compulsory purchase by reducing power of mortgaging land would reduce landlords' prospects of averaging interest at four per cent., or near it, 25111.—Sum to be invested would include bonus, 24717.—Not compulsion, but voluntary sale dealt with, 24954, 25116.—Income taken to be represented by second term rents or their equivalent, 24718, 25151-4.

Deductions for Net Income.

Deductions for net income should be whatever had been expended up to a limit of ten per cent., 24719, 24722, 24957.—That was Land Conference's recommendation, 24722-3, 25148.—Land Conference based their advice on second term rents, 25155.—Their terms were not carried out, 25156.

Price which would satisfy Landlords

Landlords would be satisfied if on completion of sale they received such a capital sum in cash as would, when invested in a 3½ per cent. security, give them an income equal to their net income derived from second term rents; this should be over and above all costs incidental to sale, 24955, 24998, 25014.—That was sum mentioned plus bonus, or, if these costs were borne, without bonus, 24956.—All loss of income during progress of sale should also be covered, and where there were solvent arrears, equitable addition should be made to purchase money to compensate for their cancellation, 24957.—Extraneous sources of revenue, such as sporting rights, timber, etc., would not be covered, 24958, 25000.—Sporting rights would not be put on same security as second term rents, 25001-2.—There must be some sort of tribunal to investigate and decide on such matters as sporting rights, 25123-8.—Witness made no claim for equity of redemption, 24999.

Costs of Sale.

Costs of sale would be about 10 per cent., 25006.—Lawyer's cost 2 per cent., negotiating fees with agents and settling with employés on estate 3 per cent., surveyor 1 per cent., loss during progress of sale and interest on bonus 4 per cent., 25008-12.—Four per cent. for loss during progress of sale would be an entirely under estimate if cash was not forthcoming for five years, 25013.—Cost of investment not included in expenses of sale, owner might pay that himself, 25074-5.—Landlord only got interest on a portion of purchase money, and he had to drop rent from last gale day to date of signing agreement, 25014.

Price should be Calculated on Gross Rental, not Gross Rents Received.

By gross second term rents witness meant second term rents as fixed by Sub-Commission Court, 25017-8.—Price should be calculated on gross rental, not on gross rents received, 25021-2.—Allowances could be made for special cases, 25023.—If these existed to any large extent estates where, owing to poverty of tenants, bad seasons, etc., owners as a permanent thing got gross second term rents minus fifteen per cent. or so, those would have to be treated as exceptional cases, 25023a, 25073, 25029-30.—Such landlords would not be unreasonable, 25028.

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Bad Debts.

Bad debts not included in ten per cent. allowed for collection, etc.; landlords were not asking anything for bad debts, 25069-71.—Circumstances detailed in return by Monsignor M'Glynn dealing with certain property in townland of Willy, in Donegal, were absolutely exceptional, 25072.—In speaking of net income as basis for sale, witness was referring exclusively to tenanted land, 25112-5.

Arrangement for Valuing Assets other than Agricultural Rental.

Income would be ascertained from rent-book, 24720-1.—Many landlords spent money on their property, not for their own gratification or profit, witness wished to guard against saying anything to injure class who could not stand reduction of 10 per cent., 24724-7.—Law costs incurred in connection with political agitations should be withdrawn, 24727-30.—Ten per cent. should cover everything, 24731-2.—Some method of valuing sporting rights could be found, 24734-8.—Or landlord could retain them, but it was more satisfactory to sell, 24739.—Quarries, etc., would be treated in same way as agricultural property, valuable bog where tenants were secured on buying out would have to be subject of special agreement, 24740-2.—Where there were other things than agricultural rental to be considered, there would have to be some arrangement by which landlord could appear before somebody, 24743, 25123-8.

Mortgaged Estates.—Method of Calculating Price.

Difficulty in dealing with mortgaged estates, years' purchase required to provide fair price in case of unmortgaged estates. Witness would not deduct interest on mortgage to get net income, because when an estate was sold all mortgages and charges were lifted off the land and attached to money for which it was sold, bank authorities would pay off all charges and hand over remainder to owner, 24751-9, 24893-903.—If interest on mortgage was deducted from income, owner was mulcted twice, 24762, 24904.—Property rose to its full value once it changed owners, 24763, 24783.—And why should one set of tenants buy the same thing cheaper than another set? 24906, 24921-2.—Tenants would get thirty-three instead of twenty-five per cent. reduction, 24772a-8.—Tenant would not have to pay a larger sum where there was a mortgage, 24786.—Tenant did not pay interest on bonus, 24776, 24789-90.—Matter in question was price of property; income considered only in order to fix price, 24972-5.—Two items to be considered on introduction of compulsion, land was taken and price was fixed, 24798.—Views expressed by witness on compulsion were his own merely; he was not authorised to put forward views on behalf of Landowners' Convention, 24807-9.—Landlord, who saw net estate selling better because it was mortgaged, would have no legitimate complaint against tenants, 25003-4.—Objection that encumbered landlord would get £100 more income than he had been enjoying if interest on mortgage were not deducted, was met by existence of equity of redemption in every mortgage; owner had a right at any time to clear his estate, 24907-8, 24910-5.—System advocated by witness amounted to asking State to advance money for general capitalisation of value of estate at 3½ per cent., giving power at same time to recapitalise £6,000 worth of estate at five per cent., 24909.—Practically adoption of same procedure followed between landlord and tenant under zones system, 24919.—Witness did not see why compulsory powers should be used to inflict an injury on owner to which he would not be liable under voluntary sale, 24931.—Deduction from gross income of interest on charges before basis for calculating price was arrived at would be unsound in principle and unjust in practice, 25157.—Advantageous to sell to tenant as cheaply as possible, provided full justice were done to landlord, 24923.—Property apart altogether from charge upon it represented a certain sum, and full justice would not be done unless it were sold for that sum, 24924-7.—Although encumbered, landlord got £100 a year more than before sale, 24928-30.—Witness was not prepared to equalise matters by giving more bonus to unencumbered estate and less to encumbered one, 24936-7.—It would mean modifying principle on which bonus was fixed, 24937.—Which was to bridge a gap assumed to exist on all classes of estates, 24938.—When it came to compulsion, tampering with bonus was rather a serious matter, 24939.—It would be a very nice arrangement for tenants, but bonus was given to assist landlords, 24942-5, 25013.—Bonus was included in the zone, 24946-7.

Uneconomic Holdings treated as Agricultural.

Uneconomic holdings if not agricultural were residences, and as such excluded from the Act, so they were treated as agriculeural, 25157.—Such holdings had their value as homes in the country, 25157, 25167.—Many uneconomic holdings in process of establishment in labourers' cottages where amenities were not so great, 25157-9.

Uneconomic Holdings as Security for Advances.

Uneconomic holdings excellent security in many cases for State advances, 25164, 25171-2.—Case where tenancies sold for £2,194; estate for £1,901, 25164-5a.—Rent could not be got out of land itself, 25166.—Table of sales in Donegal of holdings rented at from £5 12*s*. downwards showed prices from 23 to 66⅔ years' purchase on an estate that was striped, such sales meant stereotyping paupers, 25168.—No room for large improvements, 25168a.—Prices quite unaccountable; men regarded land as easiest way of making a living, and would sooner put their money in that than anything else, 25170.

Landlord's and Tenant's Interest.

Landlord's interest was measured by rent, 25176, 25182-3.—If landlord's interest were one-sixth and sold at 12 years' purchase, tenant's interest would not always sell for a greater sum because landlord's interest was in fee of holding as well as in rent, 25177-8.—Tenant not farming properly cut down rent by failing to develop producing powers of the land, 25179-81.—Fee included anything beyond actual rent and all undeveloped powers of the soil, 25184-8.

Occupation Interest in Untenanted Land.

In regard to untenanted land, tenant right was a real and valuable asset, Ulster right differed somewhat from analogous customs elsewhere in Ireland, but, generally speaking, since Act of 1870, Ulster tenant right and any analogous customs had been legalised, and Act of 1881 gave every tenant the right to sell his occupation interest to the highest bidder, 25188.—Existence of occupation interest proved by fact that owner of farm which tenant had surrendered or from which he had been bought out paid income tax both as owner and occupier, moreover witness had himself sold occupation interest of two farms for £255, 25209-10.—Occupation interest more valuable in case of small holdings because there was more demand for them, but in all cases where interest as well as fee was in owner's hands value of holding was considerably increased, 25188.—Measuring tenant right by number of years' purchase of rent was usual but utterly absurd and unfair to owners, 25188.

Presumption of Improvement on Tenant's Side with certain Exceptions.

Mr. Finucane said that whatever the presumption of the law, the tenant had in fact to prove that improvements were his, but in witness's own case as tenant under Lord Southwell of some fields near Letterkenny, Sub-Commission fixing judicial rent made reduction of more than 50 per cent., 25188-9.—Improvements set out in schedule put in by witness and deduction of £2 2*s*. from gross rent for witness's improvements, 25285, 25292.—Though he swore in Court he had made none, 25293-4, 25298-301.—In Ulster tenant right cases all presumption of improvements was on tenant's side, 25286, 25295.—In other cases there were certain exceptions, improvements made prior to 1850 had to be proved by tenant, also those made on estates kept up on English system; tenant got no credit for improvements for which he had been compensated, 25295.—Valuer was sent to fix a fair rent and then deduct 15 per cent. as security, taking remainder as basis of purchase price, 25188, 25190.—Unfair and unreliable method, 25191-2, 25194-5, 25204a, 25207.—At present landlord was not compelled to accept the offer, 25192A.—But system tended to make sales less frequent than they would otherwise be, 25206.

EXTENT TO WHICH COMPULSION ALREADY EXISTED.

An element of compulsion came in where estates consisted of both tenanted and untenanted land and Estates Commissioners refused to declare property an estate unless untenanted land was sold with it, 25196-202.—Witness was under impression that same thing was done outside congested estates, 25203.—Commissioners had refused to declare a property belonging to father of the O'Conor Don an estate unless he sold with it 400 acres of grazing land in another district, 25204.—There was also compulsion by tenants who had settled their bargain with the landlord and were pressing him to complete sale, 25208.—Witness would prefer downright compulsion if fixing value was an automatic thing agreed on beforehand, 25216.

TRIBUNAL TO FIX PRICE IN EVENT OF COMPULSORY POWERS BEING GRANTED.

He would not like to see Estates Commissioners as at present constituted given distinct powers of compulsion, 25217-9, 25225, 25238.—He would prefer compulsion with a sound tribunal, an independent judge of the High Court, 25220-6.—There should be an appeal to some outside body not part of the Land Commission, 25226-7.—It would be possible to set up a tribunal which would command landlords' confidence, 25228.—If it could be kept off political lines, 25230.—If Court was to be constructed for the purpose there would be great temptation to run it on political lines, 25231.—Bench of three judges of existing High Court would do, 25232-3, 25283.—Landlords would be satisfied with such a Court, 25234.—Price would be fixed in first instance by a lower tribunal, 25237.—Which should be free from political influences and employ competent valuers, 25239, 25244.—Landowners would not be satisfied with Estates Commissioners as Court of First Instance, 25245-7.—Commissioners would themselves be parties to the suit, 25251-7.—Land Commission needed more rules to guide them, but they did the best they could, 25248, 25259, 25261.—Landowners might object to them as a Court of First Instance that they had been cutting rents very low, 25249.—Land Commission might be a satisfactory tribunal, but not if Lay Assistant Commissioners were valuers, 25258-60.—Witness really had in his mind an arrangement which did not exist, 25262-3.—Very important that Court of First Instance should command confidence in order to render appeals more rapid, 25264-6.—Personally, witness thought Judge Fitzgerald's Court would be a fair tribunal, the best that could be had, 25267-9, 25282.—As at present constituted, 25271-2.—Whoever was fixed on ought to be in a judicial position, 25270.—Great stress should be laid on qualifications and standing of valuer employed, 25272.—In speaking of compulsion, Witness spoke for himself only, he had no brief from landlords, 25244.

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Land for relief of congestion could be acquired without compulsion if a fair price were offered, 25277. Landowners would not object to compulsion if men would not sell on fair terms within a reasonable time, 25278-9.—Cases not agreed on would go before a tribunal of first or second instance, 25281.

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AS A GUIDE TO VALUE OF OCCUPATION INTEREST IN UNTENANTED LAND.

Income tax assessment was a guide as to value of untenanted land, Schedule A represented ownership, and full rate of tax was assessed under it on valuation of all lands on which payer was owner; Schedule B represented occupation, and one-third of tax was assessed under it on all lands occupied by owner, it followed that Inland Revenue Authorities added one-third of Government valuation for occupation interest; income tax assessment should be taken as representing net income from untenanted land, but vendor should have option of proving that his net income should be taken at a higher figure, 25303-25343.—Government adopted it as basis of taxation, therefore it should not object to it as basis of price, 25306.—Witness was referring only to untenanted land, 25309-15.—Income tax basis suggested by Land-

owners' Convention, 25344-5.—On this basis untenanted property of £100 poor law value capitalised at 3½ per cent. should sell for £3,400, grazing ranches were good land; witness had no doubt Estates Commissioners could recover the £3,400, 25351-4.—All considerations weighing with Estates Commissioners operated to beat down price for owner except the abstract one of justice between man and man, abstract view very likely to be discounted; practically impossible for anyone to be fair under the circumstances, 25634.—Nothing unreasonable in deducting certain percentage for cost of collection, etc., 25316.—10 per cent. would be upper limit, 25317-8.—Valuation taken as basis because it approximated to second term rents, 25322.—Sale of tenanted land would be calculated on basis of second term rents, 25325.—Difficulty in way of ascertaining second term rents in case of untenanted land and adding one-third was that provision for fixing second term rents in land code applied only to tenanted land, 25323.—Standard of second term rents on similar land in same county might approximate, but it would be difficult to arrive at, 25324, 25327-30.—Average based on second term rents throughout the country would not be very fair to owners deriving much of their income from grass lands, 25331-2.

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In practice rents were not unstable, 25333.—Cattle dealers not much in fear of Free Trade in cattle, etc., 25337.—Witness thought large holders would suffer most from competition of Canadian and Argentine cattle, 25340.—There was a limit in breaking up of grass lands beyond which it would be dangerous to go in interests of country at large, 25340-2.

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Plenty of land would be offered for sale if fair price were offered, delays and losses removed, and if landlords' confidence in tribunal were restored, 25355-6.—Witness not at all sure that Estates Commissioners enjoyed confidence of tenants, 25357, 25361.—Landlords certainly had no confidence in Commissioners, 25363.—Landowners' Convention entirely disagreed with Mr. Bailey's views, 25380.—As between Congested Districts Board and Commissioners tenants invariably preferred whichever gave lower prices, 25358-60.

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Great and avoidable delay in clearing titles, 25370.—Congested Districts Board should be afforded means of clearing equities, 25378-9.—There was no registration of title before 1891, 25370-1.—Present purchasers should be made to register, 25373.—Two remedies might be applied to expedite registration, provision of indemnity fund, 5*s.* in £100 would be enough, and owners would be glad to pay it to save delay and cost, 25374.—Very desirable that migrants should be retained a little time in hands, otherwise they would simply get a living out of the land in easiest way possible, 25374.—Pelham-Clinton estate was a case similar to Townawilly estate, neither should be taken as normal, 25380.

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Griffith's valuation ten or fifteen per cent. higher in North than in South; valuation begun in South and finished in North; great depression at period of commencement; great prosperity when it was finished, 22513-4, 22524, 22527, 22581.—Valuation same for tenanted and untenanted land, valuers examined soil and sub-soil and calculated on that, tenants' valuation taking into account all interests in land, 22515.—Prices of agricultural produce were higher than prices of cattle, therefore tenanted cultivated land was valued more highly than pasture, 22516-7.—Oats had increased from 4*s.* 10*d. to* 5*s.* 4*d.* and 5*s.* 11*d.*, 22518.—Standard prices laid down in Act were unchanged throughout period during which valuation was being made, 22522, 22525.—Valuations in each county were comparative, which was important, because each county was a rating area, 22529.—Act laid down standard of valuation as same practically as for England, 22544.—Valuation assumed to be fair level value of holding, taking everything on holding as it was, 22545-7.—It combined landowners' and tenants' interests, 22548.

Valuation Compared with Rent.

Poor law valuation could be compared with judicial rents up to about 1890, 22530.—No information in regard to second term rents, 22531.—Though comparison could be made, 22541-2.—In Roscommon valuation was six per cent. higher than first term rents, 22532.—In Mayo and Galway, ten per cent. lower, 22533-4.—In Donegal two per cent. higher, 22535.—In Kerry thirty-two per cent. lower, lowest in Ireland, 22536.—In Leitrim eleven per cent. higher, 22537.—Chief reason for differences was that valuation got higher as valuers worked north, 22538.—Comparison really confined to parts of counties on which rents had been fixed, 22540.—Witness did not apprehend that if revaluation were made every fifteen years he would find differences of twenty per cent., 22606-7.—Therefore there was no question of comparison between valuation and rents fixed by Court, 22608-14.—Tenant's improvements increased tenant's interests, and, to a certain extent, landlord's also, 22617-8.—Rent should be a proportion of valuation, but it would not be a uniform proportion, 22622.—Rent of holdings which had been much improved since Griffith's day would have to be based on conditions quite different from those of sixty years ago, 22623-4.

Probable Result of Revaluation.

Revaluation would increase existing figure, 22549, 22550.—At time of valuatoin prices were low, and valuation of all other property was about twenty per cent. higher, 22549.—Buildings valued every year, towns going up very much, 22551.—Twenty per cent. deducted from valuation of houses, so that they should be on equal terms with land, 22552-3.—Valuation included improvements, 22554-5.—If valuation were now found to be higher, increase would be largely due to improvements, 22556.—Increased taxation and price of production would have to be taken into account, 22557-8.—Revaluation would be much higher than rent, because valuation included rent and interest on tenant's improvements, 22563.—Griffith made no reduction, 22564, 22574.—But valuation was considerably under the value, 22565-8.—Largely owing to deductions made by Commissioners, 22569, 22575.—Much more so in South than in North, 22571.—Some scale of prices necessary for valuation, 22577.—Witness had never seen statement by Griffith that valuation was twenty-five per cent. below letting value 22579-80, 22582.

Valuation in Relation to Income Tax.

Valuation had some bearing on payment of income tax, 22560, 22668.—But in Ireland income tax could be paid on rent or valuation, whichever was lowest, and also under Finance Act of 1896; every payer of income tax could deduct one-sixth for value of house and one-eighth on land for his improvements, 22560. Owner in North would pay a higher tax, because he paid on his rent, whereas in the South owner paid on valuation, 22561-2.

BARTON, Sir JOHN—*continued.*

Method by which Valuation was Arrived at.

Griffith arrived at valuation by dividing each county or rural district into quality lots—every lot being valued; then a line, about two miles wide, was drawn across county; head valuers went over that area, and their valuation was compared with that made by first two valuers; if there was more than 1*s.* an acre difference it was all valued over again, 22585.—Witness thought he could get a few specimen lots of farms in pasture with valuation arrived at then and get a valuation made now, 22586-92.—Books did not show how much was in pasture and how much in tillage, 22593.—Mountain land was a quality lot and would show separately, 22594-6.—Any particular lot could be revalued, 22597.

Changes in Valuation of Land.

Valuation of land did not alter except where it was taken for building and ceased to have any agricultural value; result was that since valuation it had gone down about £30,000 all over Ireland, 22626-7.—Reduction also due to erosion from the sea and railways, 22628.—No land had come in to be valued as agricultural land, 22629.—Land valuation in 1870 about £9,000,000; all other property, £3,500,000; land about the same now; all other property had gone up to £5,780,000, 22631.—All other property included railways, canals, waterworks, etc., 22632.—And farm buildings on holdings, 22633-3A.—Railways accounted for very small part of increase; valuation in Belfast had increased from £426,000 to £1,478,000, 22646-51.

Valuation of Buildings.

Farm buildings were valued on cost of building, and if, as often happened, house was much too large for farmer, very large reduction was made, 22539, 22636.—House turned into hotel would be valued as hotel, 22637.—Registrar-General had houses classified in census returns, 22641-2.

Revaluation Question.

In regard to revaluation, it was more a question of policy whether it was desirable to have revaluation going on at the same time as sales of land, 22653.—Introduction of another body of Government valuers would lead to a good deal of confusion, 22663-4.—Witness had stated before Valuation Committee that revaluation was desirable but impracticable in view of Land Purchase Act, 22667.—No great demand for revaluation, 22654-6.—People comparatively satisfied to pay rates on Griffith's valuation, 22657.—Revaluation would not affect question of fair rents at all, fact of valuation being high or low quite unimportant as far as local rates were concerned, 22658-60.—

Revaluation on principle of Griffith's valuation would represent fair rating value, and would be on same principle as existed for fair rating value in England, 22670-4.—Prices given by tenants to each other for occupation interest of untenanted house property would be a factor in arriving at fair rating value, 22675-6, 22678-81.—In conjunction with other circumstances, 22682-3.—Very large prices given in certain localities due to peculiar circumstances; such cases should be eliminated, 22677.—Griffith's valuation made on same system in Ulster as elsewhere, 22684, 22691.—Ulster tenant-right not taken into consideration as an addition, 22686.—If judicial rent were taken in making revaluation, interest on tenant-right would have to be added—whole checked with valuation made by examining the soil, 22687.—If revaluation were made on basis of Griffith's valuation, fair rent fixed by Court would be ignored, 22689.—Parliament would fix by distinct instructions the basis on which a general valuation would be conducted, 22690.

Increase in Gross Value of Agricultural Land and Increase in Agricultural Prices.

Increase in gross value of agricultural land, due partially to increase in agricultural prices—wheat the only item in which there had been a decrease, BARTON, Sir JOHN—*continued.*

and that was so small as to be negligible; oats, in 1852, were 4*s.* 10*d.*, average now 5*s.* 10*d.*, 22694-5.—Barley, 5*s.* 6*d.*, now 7*s.* 1¼*d.*; flax, 49*s.*, now 55*s.*; butter 65*s.* 4*d.*, average now 96*s.*; beef, 35*s.* 6*d.*, now 53*s.* 3*d.*; mutton, 41*s.*, now 65*s.* 2*d.*; pork 32*s.*, now 49*s.* 5½*d.*; in addition a great deal of land had been improved by reclamation, and facilities for farming had greatly increased with improvement in agricultural implements and improvement in transit, 22697.—Yet acreage of tillage had decreased, 22699-700.—Output of flax had decreased, 22702.—Difference in colour due to property of water in which flax was steeped, 22703-5.—Price of flax much higher a few years ago than now, 22708-10.—Crop now grown altogether in North of Ireland, 22707.—Grazing land would seem to be more valuable now than at time of Griffith's valuation, 22711-2.—But it was guess-work, 22737.—They did not get much advantage from better machinery and implements, but they got the advantage of less labour expenses, 22713-4.—A certain number of grazing farms could be traced with their valuation, 22715-6, 22733.—Books would sometimes give number of head of sheep and cattle the lands would carry, 22719.—Then present valuation could be obtained by applying rise in prices, 22722.—Average increase in prices was forty-five per cent.; that did not indicate a corresponding amount of increase in valuation, 22724.—Prices had to be checked with many other important considerations, 22725-7.—Increased price of living an element in all these calculations, 22728.—In regard to all labour on the farm increased price of living was included in increased price of labour, but farmer's own establishment was run on a higher scale, 22729-32.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTION DEFECTIVE.—AMENDMENT SUGGESTED.

Land was the main source of livelihood for people in the West, valuation and population the best statistics available for fixing congested areas, 22738.

Areas at present much too confined, smallest area should be a rural district, 22738.—Which was practically a union, 22739-40.—And included several electoral divisions, 22741-2.—Congested Districts Board required to satisfy all people in congested area before going outside it, though people alongside required help just as much, 22743.—Larger area would get over this difficulty, 22744, 22757.—Witness proposed to take in whole of Donegal less the two rich rural districts of Strabane, whole of Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, and Galway, less three rural districts, whole of Kerry, and two rural districts in Cork, 22745.—Thus enlarging area considerably, 22746.—His desire was first to take in all districts at present dealt with as congested, 22746.—Then to take rural districts in which areas at present dealt with were situated so as to leave nothing else; where a rural district alongside had an average valuation of over £3 per head he struck it out, 22747-50.—Clare not included at all, 22751.—Antrim could not be considered congested as a county, though there might be islands of congestion, 22753.—It had only one rural district with average valuation less than £3, 22754.—Tyrone had three rural districts over £2 12*s.*—Cavan one under £2.

VALUATION WHERE LAND HAD NO AGRICULTURAL VALUE.

Valuation in poor districts of Connemara and Donegal where land had practically no agricultural value based on letting value, 22758-9.—In which price of produce was an element, 22760-1.—Rent had nothing to do with valuation, 22762.—Letting value arrived at by examination of soil, etc., and seeing what crops or cattle land would bear, 22765-7.

There might be great difference between rent and valuation where land had been reclaimed, 22768-70.

LAND CLASSED AS UNTENANTED LAND.

Return of untenanted land included land suitable for division into farms, but was really all land on which there was only one occupier and no immediate lessor, 22770.—All demesnes classed as untenanted land, 22770-4.—To ascertain extent of grass lands as distinct from other untenanted land investigation would have to be made on the spot, 22775-9, 22786-8.

BARTON, Sir JOHN—*continued.*

—Registrar-General prepared a return each year of amount of grass in each county and might be able to give desired information, 22780.—Holdings of tenant purchasers under Land Act not included in return, 22789.—Land let on eleven months' system would be classed as untenanted, 22790.—It was possible to get a rough estimate of untenanted land that was not pasture by deducting amount of pasture land shown in Registrar-General's return from amount of untenanted land, 22791-3.

CASTLETOWN, RIGHT HON. LORD.

AFFORESTATION PROPOSALS.—ADVANTAGES OF AFFORESTATION.—EMPLOYMENT PROVIDED, ETC.

Compulsion should be exercised on landlord and tenant, 26383.—Work should be done in small areas, districts differed enormously, 26383, 26710.—Some districts not suitable for planting, others had abundant water supply and large population with very little work for winter months, large areas capable of afforestation should be used by people in off-labour season, planting, ditching, etc., done in spring, local industries increased near large forests, as in Sweden and Germany, 26383.—Witness would furnish Commission with return showing particulars of employment which 1,000 acres of forest land afforded, 26419-21.—Wood industries, such as wood-carving, brush-making, etc., provided clean, healthy, local work; for toy-making alone, Great Britain paid annually £1,000,000; peasants living in forests, as a rule, superior in physique and character to those of the plains; in Würtemburg, less than quarter the size of Ireland, profits from forests amounted to £1,200,000 annually, or 14*s.* per acre clear profit on land of low agricultural value; in Germany £40,000,000 paid annually in wages to workers in manufactures directly dependent on forest produce, 26388.—Years ago Ireland had very good timber 26383.—Pinus sylvestris and scrub oak, 26384.

REGULAR SYSTEM OF PLANTING NEEDED.—KIND OF TREE TO BE PLANTED, ETC.

There should be regular system of planting, State afforestation carried out with success by every European country except Great Britain, 26385.—Scotch fir would be useful tree, experiments with American conifers too expensive for general system of forestry, till a tree got cheap it would not do to plant it, larch, pinus sylvestris, and Douglas had got fairly cheap, no reason why American woods should not flourish in Ireland, 26397-402.—German system of planting closer than three feet, thinned out every ten years, practically no sale for timber of this age, 26486-92.—Irish Forestry Society suggested that when Commission visited congested districts they should take two experts who could point out possibilities of afforestation, 26385.—Witness placed before Commission draft scheme for re-afforestation in Ireland by Irish Forestry Society, 26386-88.

OPPORTUNITIES NOW EXISTING OF SECURING WASTE LAND FOR PLANTING UNIQUE.

Owing to operations of Land Purchase Act 1903, it was necessary for national afforestation to secure waste lands for planting, opportunities for doing so now were unique, difficulties in future would be insurmountable, Departmental Committee Report of 1902 stated that world was approaching shortage if not actual dearth of coniferous timber, which constituted 80 or 90 per cent. of total British timber imports, area of waste lands which might be afforested became national concern; too large a scheme for individual effort; timber could be grown in Great Britain equal to that imported from Baltic, 26386.—

CONDITIONS FAVOURABLE TO GROWTH OF PROFITABLE TIMBER.

Conditions in United Kingdom, especially in Ireland, more favourable to growth of profitable timber than in Continental forests; plantations treated according to Continental system yielded timber not to be excelled in any European country, 26388.—Timber grown in Cork, sent to Glasgow Exhibition, gained gold medal, competing against Scotch timbers, 26387-8, 26541.—Scotch pine and spruce, common trees in England, yielded "red and white wood," highly esteemed for agricultural purposes; preference for foreign timber not due to unsuitability of soil or climate, but to neglect of sylvicultural principles, 26387.—Great Britain and Ireland imported more timber than all rest of Europe; £27,000,000 paid annually to other countries for timber and wooden goods which could be produced in Ireland, 26388.

Establishment of forestry bureau in America, 26388.

Benefits Derived from Carefully Administered Forests.

Benefits derived from carefully administered forests, regulation of natural drainage, profitable relief works, cheap timber for building and farm purposes, increased scenic attractiveness, leading to influx of tourists and establishment of health resorts, 26388.—Present crisis in history of Irish land tenure had most important bearing on forestry; transfer of land from former owners to occupiers unprecedented, and held the widest possibilities for development or decadence of forestry, 26388.—Witness was speaking of congested lands, but there were other areas in Ireland where timber growing would go on well, 26389.—Mr. Morley spoke of flourishing state of Forestry Department in India; "thousands were employed, and over a million cleared after all expenses," 26389.—Waste land utilised by State for afforestation; large shepherd proprietors in the land had disappeared, 26390, 26393-4.—Good many farms in Ardennes Forest, but forestry was more remunerative than pasture, and farms were going out under communal system, 26391-2.—Brandenburg district had been worked under old feudal conditions; feudal rights taken away, and then State used land for afforestation, 26396.

Funds for Experimental Scheme.

Commission for Woods and Forests had a fund of £20,000 from Crown and Quit Rents in Ireland, which could be used for experimental scheme, 26403.

Returns Furnished.

Returns furnished as to (*a*) lands available for planting (*b*) how planting was progressing, (*c*) existing plantations, (*d*) prices obtained by people who had cut down, 26405.—40,000 to 50,000 acres available, with no grazing or subsidiary rights to hamper title, 26407-8.—Congested Districts Board owned large areas which they would be willing to have planted under suitable arrangements, 26411.

Kilkenny instances of value of land, 7*s.* an acre before, and 10*s.* after planting, 26411-3.

Type of Land Suitable.

Difference shown by bad and good management of neighbouring properties; in one case land value nil, and value of trees per acre, £2 17*s.* 7*d.*; in the other, where German system was adopted, value came out at £100 per acre, 26413-4.—Type of land cultivated in both cases was limestone rock, covered with soil and heather, on low-ridged hill, 26415-8.—Great deal of timber grown on granite as well as on limestone in western congested districts; but granite, unless it had fair amount of soil, would not grow as good timber as limestone, 26432-4.—Timber grew best on high heathery ground, with sharp drainage, not on wet, boggy ground, 26426, 26435.—Finaun grass land could be used if well drained; this would add to expense of planting; plenty of land available without touching grass mountains, 26436-46.—Wind not a very serious consideration, except on small plantings, 26439, 26447-8.—Parts of stretch of hills north of Recess would be suitable for afforestation; large portion about Oughterard not suitable, 26425-9.

Attitude of People Towards Afforestation.

Congestion would be relieved by afforesting bare hills to the North, 26428.—And work provided during winter months, 26431.—Population unsympathetic because ignorant of value of timber; but some occupiers planted their own holdings, and Arbor Day had been established in Ireland, 26452-4.—Question of malicious injury by local peasantry would arise, but State could recover, and by degrees people would understand that purpose was to provide labour, and that it was better to help the State, 26475-85.

Reasons of Slow Progress of Afforestation.

Afforestation had progressed slowly under Department of Agriculture, because no specified sum had been spent on it; what money the Department had had been spent on Forestry School at Avondale, which was no use until there was forestry work, 26458-9.—Before Land Act of 1881 nearly all land was let out by landlords to tenants for grazing; but since then Act made taking up of land from tenants for planting absolutely impossible; Board of Works lent money, but only at very high interest, 26472-4.—Another reason why landlords had not done much was that they had to wait so long to get any return for their money, 26465.—Question of first expenditure, 26466.—Lands should be acquired and planted by State; this system had been quite successful on Continent and in America, 26467.—Planting in Ireland would be rather small, 500 to 1,000 acres, but profits would not be materially affected, as they would be under State supervision, 26468-71.—Forestry not only for ornament but for cropping; after crop of larch trees had been taken off land it could be parcelled out to peasant proprietors; bogland benefited enormously by needles, 26485.—Best Scotch plantation that of Mr. Munro Ferguson at Rail, 26493.

Housing Question.

Housing most important question in connection with congested districts work; witness suggested system of Parish Committees as adopted at Spiddal; strong desire among the people to have houses in order, good stables, etc, 26493.

Parish Committees Should Deal With Small Areas.

Best for Parish Committees to deal with small areas in congested districts; spraying of potatoes and other improvements might be encouraged through them, 26494-7.—The smaller the area dealt with the better, 26495.

Well-managed Estates Should not be Intefered With.—Compulsion should be applied in case of hopelessly Poor and Ill-managed Properties.

Transfer of ownership from landlord to tenant resulted in many cases in better class of houses being built, 26498-9.—Well-managed properties should not be interfered with, but small Sub-Commission of present Commission should schedule worst-managed properties, assess value, and decide if compulsion, under superintendence of Supreme Court, was necessary, 26500.—Well-managed estate meant one whose landlord lived on it; was well disposed to tenants, and tried to meet difficulties of congestion, 26500a, 26504-6. Some landlords did a great deal, 26500a-3.—An estate was well managed if it became a substantial economic advantage to district where it was situated; this definition applied only to congested districts, 26522-3.—Landlord might be so situated that he could not help himself, 26512, 26590-1.—Witness founded his opinion upon information derived from tenants and owners, 26587-9.—Condition of estate could be ascertained by applying to Judge Ross's Court; Commission on Congested Districts Board should approach owner and tenants; take over estate and put it in an economical condition; certain number of estates were practically plague spots, and should be dealt with rapidly, 26513-21.—Compulsion should be limited to this class of poor estates, 26525-7.—Proposal of compulsion limited to congested areas scheduled under act; witness was no party to compulsion; the less State used compulsion the better; if possible land should be acquired voluntarily, 26538-40, 26574-82.—It was not necessary on well-managed estates, but there were congested districts absolutely hopeless, where it was necessary for establishment of economic holdings, 26537-69.—But well-managed estate situated

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between two badly-managed estates must be taken if necessary for re-arrangement of district, owner being compensated, 26527-8, 26570-1.—Improvement, etc., of estates should be left to Congested Districts Board. 26524.—But tribunal should fix price to be given for land, 26529-36.

Advantages of Communal and Co-operative Farm System.

Witness had worked communal and co-operative farm system on his estate for ten years; 400 acres of land were taken over and converted from grass to tillage, and let out at fixed rent, by the year, on co-operative con-acre system in small quantities to farmers round; at first about forty men working; now over 200 small farmers could rent their own land; conditions had improved, and nearly all these men had purchased their holdings; communal system worked to advantage in Belgium, France, Holland, etc.; if Congested Districts Board adopted this method they would keep control of land for congested tenant; witness suggested it as an alternative to present system of enlarging holdings, 26592-613.—Rent must be fixed, 26614.—It might be tried at Mountbellew, where men could be trained at Agricultural College, 26617.—Great advantage in using Raffeisen banks with this system, 26595, 26619.—The whole thing should be co-operative, 26618-9.

Synopsis of Twenty Years' Work among the People.

Short synopsis of twenty years' work among people; Commission should deal directly with people; poverty existed because land was continually tilled and worn out; communal system restored land; people should be compelled to cut bog properly, so as to assist drainage; areas of low quality grazing land would be better tilled and could be used for benefit of small holders; people in some districts prepared to leave and take up holdings in any part of Ireland; general concensus of opinion that it would be right to go in driblets; shelters needed for cattle, and improvement could be made in mountainous districts by planting belts of trees for protection, 26620-3.

Conditions in Gorumna, Carraroe, and Spiddal.

Turf and fishing industries existed in Gorumna, Carraroe, and Spiddal; most difficult districts to deal with; fishing could not be developed to great extent, and there would only be profitable employment for section of people, 26633-6.—Number of people benefited by industries should be ascertained, value assessed, and residue induced to move on to other land; witness was strongly in favour of migration for inhabitants of Spiddal; hard-working people who would do well on good land; their agricultural knowledge would soon be improved if migrated on communal scheme, 26624-32.

Migration.

Migration very difficult, but could be carried out by degrees; witness strongly disapproved of emigration, as people of West were finest peasantry, physically and mentally; their land was difficult to deal with, and troubles were the result of history; if Congested Districts Board gave assistance these people could be used for advanage of rest of Ireland; witness had employed Mayo men on his estate in Queen's County with satisfactory results, 26638-41, 26710.—Migration must proceed slowly, because of difficulty of getting hold of land when wanted, and unwillingness of people to migrate, 26642, 26648. People had become more accustomed to migration since it was introduced by Congested Districts Board, and success of migrants on new holdings helped to do away with objections; there were two difficulties—petty jealousy among migrants and unwillingness of people to allow migrants to settle in their district, 26665-74.

Grass Lands should be bought up by the State and distributed among Uneconomic Holdings as fast as was advisable.

Certain amount of untenanted land at present could be bought at fair price from landlord, but land was gradually passing into hands of people and being used for other purposes than migration of congests; after a few years there would be little untenanted land available, and grass would have to be purchased by compulsion; this might be prevented if State bought up all grass land, worked it on communal system, and moved migrants on gradually, 25543-51.—Certain amount of grass land should be given to head of families with uneconomic holdings, but no new holdings created for younger sons; surplus should be held by State for benefit of migrants from uneconomic districts, 26652-64.—There would be an interregnum between purchase by State and permanent settlement of small farmer; holders in district might have pieces of land for tilling until migrants came; if State had control of land this advantage would not necessarily be taken away then, 26676-81, 26700-2.—Land could be divided up at once if it was ready, and if there was friendly feeling between migrants and those with whom they would be contiguous, 26704.—Large number of uneconomic holdings frequently abutted on grass land; if State purchased holdings and grass lands and sold to uneconomic holders they would be in position of owners, and allowed by State to share grass lands as communal holders; by degrees these men would have better system of agriculture, and State would have a margin for migrants, 26683-6; if there were uneconomic holdings on all sides the land must belong to the estate and should be dealt with in areas, 26687.

Disposal of Grass Lands on which there were no Uneconomic Holdings.

If State purchased grass land on which there were no uneconomic holdings State would hold these lands and graze them or let them out on eleven months' system; witness saw no objection to State holding grazing lands in congested districts, 26691-9.—Large areas of land available for relieving congestion outside congested areas without going to County Meath, 62695.—Requirements of uneconomic holders contiguous to grass land situated outside congested area should be satisfied first and then migrants brought to use surplus, 26708.

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CRICHTON, Mr. ALEXANDER.

Principle on which work of Land Purchase should be distributed between Board and Estates Commissioners.

Congested Districts Board had been very successful but urgently needed larger funds and greater powers, 27232, 27238, 27253, 27261, 27280.—Non-scheduled parts require care, but self-help should be developed, and this task should be entrusted to the Estates Commissioners, 27232, 27253.—While Board should continue to act on philanthropic lines, 27253.—Strong feeling that Board's sphere of operations should be extended enormously, but it could not profitably extend activities to almost every county, as its essential duty was to relieve very acute congestion, and from a moral point of view treating large number of Irishmen as children was undesirable, only the very poor should be "spoon-fed" by the Board, while Estates Commissioners assisted those better off to work more in the spirit of self-help, their main duties being to help uneconomic holdings to be made economic; to encourage colonisation of grazing ranches, and to assist in reclamation works, 27295-8, 27310-3.—Whole of Connaught and Donegal should be put under the Board, but expense might be a bar, 27233-4.—If whole of Connaught were given to Board that would establish claim for larger grant, 27260.—In portion of Connaught people were able and ought to help themselves, 27299.—Or if whole were given to the Board, the Board might differentiate, 27303.—All advances under Land Act should be made by Estates Commissioners or by Land Commission, but Board and Estates Commission should have power to make up deficiency between vendor's price and safe advances under Land Act, 27236.—Land Commission advanced money for purchase, Board paid for improvements out of income, 27236.

FINES SHOULD BE IMPOSED.

Fines should be imposed as a reduction of purchase-money, 27236-9, 27244-5.—This would enable Board to carry on more purchases with a given amount, 27246.—Fine was portion of tenant right, 27241.—Bonus was calculated on actual money advanced, which equalled whole of purchase-money, 27247-50.—Board bought both landlord's and tenant's interests, 27242.—Extent of annuity was based on purchase-money, which represented landlord's and tenant's interests, that necessitated either very low price to landlords or else unsafe advance to incoming tenant, 27243.—Instance given of farm sold for £300, State would pay £270, incoming tenant £30 or in other words Board paid £300 and landlord paid 12 per cent. on £300, Board recovering £30 from tenant and fixing annuity on £270, 27251-3.

BOARD NEEDED INCREASED RESOURCES; DEPARTMENT TO HAND OVER PROPORTION OF THEIR REVENUES AND THOSE OF FISHERY BOARD, PROPOSED.

Board seemed more successful than Department of Agriculture, so witness advocated handing over proportion of their revenues and those of of Fishery Board to Congested Districts Board, 27253-4, 27256-7, 27259.—Fishery Board had been absorbed in Department of Agriculture, 27255.

All possible applications for money should be made in view of new Bill, 27261.—When Board purchased estates in non-congested areas it ought to assist poorer people in those districts, which would necessitate increased resources, 27261.

INDIRECT METHOD OF REDUCING PRICE TO VENDORS, PROPOSED.

Witness advocatead indirect method of reducing prices payable to vendors of tenanted land in order to increase funds of Board, *e.g.*, let rate of interest on advances be 3½ pe rcent. and let annuities on estates begin after a term of fifteen years, this would give Board a profit of ¾ per cent. on advance for fifteen years, 27261, 27264-5.—But it would increase number of years during which annuities would have to run, 27266.—Witness gave example of sale of his mother's estate, she used to give abatements, but Board bought cheaply and tenants had to pay rents they had never paid before, 27262-4, 27269.—On Dillon estate 3½ per cent. had been charged by Board since Act of 1903, 27267-9.—Vendors would have to sell more cheaply, but actual loss would be reduced if full payments, including bonus, were made within a year, existing delays were a hindrance to satisfactory working of Land Act, 27270.

PRESENT SYSTEM OF FINANCING THE LAND ACT UNSATISFACTORY AND WASTEFUL.

Impression in Ireland was that Treasury was responsible for delays, as it refused to lose more than £500,000 a year in financing the Act, and would not dare to upset the money market by creating undue amount of Land Stock, 27274.—Treasury did not really lose, as difference between par and value on flotation was borne by Irish Development Grant, 27275.—But schoolmasters' prospects were blighted by cutting in on Irish Development Grant, 27278.—Landlords had been generous, and had not received due credit for their generosity when they offered to take half purchase money in Land Stock, 27270-74.—Mr. Waldron, Dublin stockbroker, thought that these flotations of Land Stock would not have much effect on money market, 27277.—Ideal condition would arise if stock issued by Treasury were quoted at a trifle above par on Stock Exchange, and if vendors were inclined to retain large proportion of all issues of stocks for themselves, present procedure was both unsatisfactory and wasteful, 27278.—Taxpayers in addition to present liabilities would eventually have to redeem the principal, 27278.

REMEDY PROPOSED.

Most suitable remedy seemed to be to increase rate of interest on fresh issues of Land Stock from 2¾ per cent. to 3 per cent., and therefore to increase annuities payable by purchasers of tenanted land from 3¼ per cent. to 3½, thus reducing loss to Development Grant, loss in case of redemption in cash at end of thirty years would be 5 per cent. instead of present 10 per cent., or 2½ per cent. for redemption at end of seventeen years, 27278-80.—Board's estimated profits on land purchase would be reduced, but saving to Irish Development Grant would more than compensate, 27280.—Acquisition of land intended to improve condition of people living on miserable holdings, so money spent on purchasing untenanted land for congested districts must increase security on advances made on tenanted property, therefore no necessity for so large a sinking fund in case of untenanted land, 27280.—If vendors of tenanted lands were compelled to sell at 3½ per cent. annuities instead of 3¼ per cent. there would be a saving of about 7 per cent. on the bonus, 27280.

INCREASE IN BONUS ON UNTENANTED LAND, PROPOSED; PRICE WHICH WOULD TEMPT OWNERS OF GOOD GRASS FARMS.

Bonus on untenanted land should be increased to 20 per cent. of advance, 27281.—But even that would not tempt holders of good grass farms to part with them, few owners would care to sell except on receiving twenty-five times their average net income, 27282-4.—Net income difficult to define, average should be, as a rule, one and a quarter, or one and a half times second term rent; it followed that vendors would not care to sell except at prices varying from 30 to 36 times second term rent, 27285.—20 per cent. deduction for expenses might be too much, 27292.—Advance to be made by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners would be based on what would correspond to a fair rent, equal to second term rent, and second term rents were lower than gross rents and lower than net profits, 27295.

FINES—ADVANTAGES OF A SYSTEM OF FINES.

Congested Districts Board offered land at low rent without fine, but Estates Commissioners should levy moderate fines, 27304.—Board did sometimes exact fines and then fixed annuities on balance of purchase money, 27305.—Rules *re* fines should be more definite, fines in Mayo would be a hardship, but in other places moderate fines might be levied, 27305-7.—Witness strongly felt that less should be given, as that took away inducement to thrift, but the people should have an opportunity of buying farms on easy conditions, if this were done it would induce children to stay in Ireland instead of emigrating to America, and if fine were levied it would help to ensure the best men getting the land, 27308-9.—Fine should be about one-tenth of total received by landlord and help of co-operative banks would prevent resort to money lenders, 27310-14.—Millions of money were on deposit in Ireland doing no good at all, 27308.—Poor men gave their daughters large dowries, 27315.—And would no doubt give as much to provide their sons with holdings, 27827.—The number of those wishing to get land was greater than quantity of available land, hence necessity for principle of selection, neither Estates Commissioners nor Board could deal with whole of Ireland except slowly, as Treasury resources and working powers of staff were limited, so whole district or whole country should be given equal opportunity of getting land on easy conditions, 27315.—Population of Ireland had declined 25 per cent. in 25 years, but number of agricultural holdings had only decreased a little, thus proving that holdings retained their possessors; great good could be accomplished by Estates Commissioners if they offered part of grass farms to sons of small landholders over non-congested Ireland for payment of small sums in cash; families need not be migrated, as cost was very great, but best sons of small thrifty farmers should be encouraged to colonise Ireland rather than American slums, if 4,000 new holdings could be offered every year to sons of small farmers for 20 years depopulation would be arrested, 27316-27327.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING PROPOSALS.

Farms might be bought and worked for grazing purposes on co-operative lines by the Irish Agricultural

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Organisation Society, 27317-8.—Objection was that tillage would not be increased, 27319-20.—Tillage might be tried on co-operative lines, but obstacle to co-operation was mutual mistrust, 27320-23, 27325. —Private ownership was more of an incentive to good work, 27324.—Co-operation was stronger and more useful in the poorest districts; people were more intelligent in the poorer districts than in the better off ones, 27326-7.

Method by which gap between Vendor's and Purchaser's Price should be bridged.

Board should bridge gap between demands of vendors and prices obtainable from a safe advance to purchasers out of its revenues; in non-congested areas future purchasers should bridge gap out of their own savings, though Estates Commissioners should help towards fencing, house-building, etc., 27327.—Farm yielding £100 net profit would cost, including bonus, £2,500; advance under Land Act would be £1,875; bonus at 20 per cent., £375; fine, £250; annuity at 3¼ per cent., £60 18*s*. 9*d*., 27327.—Bonus of 12 per cent. was paid on total of £2,500, 27329.—Bonus should be increased as it was too small to guarantee a low advance or a fair price, so Estates Commissioners could not hasten procedure, 27330.—£2,600 would be a fairer price for a grass farm bringing in £100 net than £2,500, but witness knew of much less being offered and then landlords were blamed for not taking small prices, 27331-3. —Landlords should get twenty-eight times seventy-five per cent. of their net income on a 3½ per cent. investment; the remaining one-fourth was more shaky, and would correspond to a five per cent. investement with certain risks, 2733.—Cost involved in carrying out purchases of untenanted land of £75,000 (Griffith's) valuation every year, or enough to provide land for 4,000 migrants and improve holdings of 7,000 small landholders would, if suggestion were carried out, be nil, 27337.

Grant in aid of Rates might be diverted to meet Costs.

Cost of increased bonus and administration and aid to migrants for houses and fences would have to be counted, 27337.—Increased demands on the bonus would amount to £135,000; if that should prove excessive demand on taxpayers sums now granted to graziers as grants-in-aid of rates should be diverted; large farmers would object, but slight all-round increase in rates would be juster than compulsion, 27338.—Witness altogether opposed compulsion, but advocates giving every possible facility to vendors to sell; if that was insufficient reduce grant-in-aid of rates, 27339, 27348.—Agricultural grant was unfair, as graziers received full benefit from it, but men who built houses on their land did not benefit, 27340.—Agricultural grant ought to be given to a class of more use to the country and who contributed to its wealth, 27349.—Therefore modification of present system of allocating grant was necessary, 27350.—Legislation would be needed, 27344, 27351.—Farms beyond a certain valuation should pay more, 27344.—Reduction of rates on houses and increase on land would be juster all round, 27345.—Witness advocated setting aside of grant-in-aid of rates, and that anyone holding more than a certain amount of land should be made to pay on excess 6*d*., 8*d*., or 1*s*. in the £; but full benefit of grant should be received on houses, 27346.

Evils of Compulsion.

Compulsion would not do landlords much harm; it might even benefit them; but small farmers and shopkeepers would suffer greatly, 27347.—Compulsion would do untold harm in Ireland, 27353.—Even in case of very obstinate landlords they should first be more heavily taxed, 27357-8.—Congestion could be dealt with by improvement of farms, migrating people to a distance, etc., 27357.—Witness would allow compulsion as a last resort on excess of land held over and above seven or eight times valuation of houses on property, 27355.—It was not necessary yet, 27356.—If a large number of landlords absolutely refused to sell it might become necessary, 27362-3.—Compulsion might even increase congestion in the future, 27364-5. —Witness held that labourers' cottages which had been erected by compulsion would increase congestion in the future, 27368.

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Grass lands were needed for relieving congestion by migration, and also for stopping emigration; the two must go on together, 27369.

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Objects of Irish Reform Association.

Objects of Association were—1st. Co-operation among Irishmen irrespective, of creed or class, for development of country's resources and promotion of welfare of the people. 2nd. Securing for Ireland effective control over Irish affairs, as far as legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland permitted, 26758.

Witness's evidence chiefly to do with Connaught, 26712-3.

Failure of Land Act in Connaught—Causes, etc.

Land Act, though practically made for Connaught, had absolutely failed there, in comparison with Ulster, Munster, and Leinster, 26714.—Number of holdings about the same in the four provinces, but Leinster holdings were much larger, 26715-6.—Connaught was exceptional, and required special treatment, 26714.—Fact that population of Connaught had decreased less than that of other provinces did not obviate the need for special treatment; the thing was to keep the people, 26995-9.—Connaught valuation much below that of other three provinces, 26718.—Principal causes of failure to purchase agricultural holdings in Connaught:—

(*a*) Smallness of holdings, which was not remedied by ordinary purchase; crux of Western problem was not purchase price, but how resources of country and general condition of people could be improved.

(*b*) Want of sufficient inducement to buy and sell, and length of transition stage between purchase being agreed and money paid; buyer paid higher interest than he would have to under annuity when purchase was completed; annuity only 3¼ per cent., including sinking fund, whereas landlord might charge 5 per cent., 26718, 26759-60.

(*c*) Witness had never found tenants anxious to buy, or landlords to sell, in the West; tenants looked upon purchase merely as change of landlord; reduction of rent from annuity not considered sufficient benefit; some landlords gave time for payment of arrears, but State only allowed two months, 26718-25.

(*d*) Established Commissioners and Congested Districts Board sat at Dublin, and were out of direct touch with district; Congested Districts Board should give paternal assistance, as suggested by Mr. Balfour, 26726-8, 26880.—Connaught people must be worked sympathetically, 26880.

(*e*) Unwillingness of landlord or tenant to take initiative in effecting sale or purchase for fear of prejudicing bargain; third man wanted to come between, 26729.

(*f*) Dislike to change of residence, especially among old people

It took witness two years to re-divide property 164 acres in extent, which was in rundale, owing to people's superstition and dislike to change of houses; improved state of things resulted, and nearly all holdings were now economic, 26729-41.—Work could not have been done after Act of 1881, 26735.—An economic holding was one which, if properly tilled, was sufficient to produce a living for a man and his family; test should be inherent capability of soil, but witness had known men with small holdings who did better than those with larger ones; in Connaught you had to consider ability and industry of holder, 26742-6.

(*g*) Indifference on part of landlords and tenants as regards sales, 26746-8.—Not a matter of climate, 26749.—But more marked in Connaught than in Kerry, 26750-1.—No dissatisfaction among tenants with present position, 26752.

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(*h*) Want of capital to improve and stock holdings, 26756.

(*i*) Tenants who bought direct from vendor thought they were barred from enlargement or improvement of holdings, 26756.—Remedy for difficulty (*a*)

(*a*) Size of holdings to be increased:—

Enlargement of Holdings.

1st. By acquiring under voluntary arrangement all grass lands that could be procured either on estate being sold or in surrounding district (congested or outside), whether in owner's hands or left as grazing farms, 26761-2.—Size of holdings should be regulated by quality of land and suitability of proposed occupier, 26761, 26779-82.—Not difficult to tell suitability of proposed occupier if he was a local man, 26779.

Migration of Large Tenants.

2nd. By migration of largest tenants as far as possible to where they wished to go and giving them sufficient inducement to leave, 26783.—Larger holdings, better lands, good drainage, etc., all inducements; but it was more a question of residence; people anxious to go where they had friends, 26784-6.—Untenanted lands of Ireland could at once be dealt with as a whole, for purpose of re-arrangement and migration, giving a satisfactory price and settlement with landlord; witness wanted one controlling authority; there would be no difficulty with people if question of price and negotiations were approached in proper spirit, 26787-96.—Compulsory purchase not contemplated, 26788.—Of course it could not be done in a moment, 26794, 26798.—Witness restricted his meaning to lands connected with congested districts, 26795.—Purchase of land for migration not so great a difficulty as getting migrant to move, 26799.—If State held large area of grass land which could not be applied to migration for some time there would be great danger of creating very thing it was proposed to remedy; if people got it into their heads that every son of a tenant and every labourer was to get a bit of land, 26801-2.

Annuities Proposed for Old People, Tenancy Passing to Eldest Son.

3rd. By granting annuities to old people for their joint lives, leaving them their house and garden, and adding holding to those adjoining, 26803-5. Tenancy might pass to eldest son, who would be relieved of responsibility of aged parents, and his position would be improved by the State; that was merely an incident; object was to get possession of holding for redistribution, in order to relieve congestion; to benefit community rather than individual, 26819-22.—Not necessarily a very expensive arrangement, as tenants of other holdings who received part of this land could be made to pay an increased rent for; practically the annuity would be contributed by the increased rent which would be charged for new holding, 26806-7, 26824-6, 26830.—State would lose something, but witness thought Government should be prepared for that in order to settle Western question, 26829, 26831.—This was not an old age pension scheme, as there was a distinct *quid pro quo*, 26832-4.

Landlords' Right of Pre-emption Should be Extended to State.

4th. Notice had to be given to Land Commission when an annuitant wanted to dispose of his interest under Act of 1881, and landlord had right of pre-emption; witness had strong opinion that this right should be extended to State, in order that holding might be consolidated and price controlled, 26835-41.—Right of pre-emption only to be applied in case of annuity created by Congested Districts Board or other authority, and to be part of condition upon which migrants were placed on land, 26842.—State could secure itself by reserving a proportion of fund which tenant received to pay off portion of the charge; if this were enforced it would prevent price of holding being raised beyond its proper value, 26843-6.

(*b*) Want of inducement for transfer of lands; productive power of land to be increased.

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State Should do Drainage Works, Maintenance Charges Being Borne by Tenants.

1st. By arterial drainage, which was duty of State in country like Connaught, where there was so much poverty and so many small tenants, 26853-8, 26860-2.—Landlords could not be expected to do it; since Act of 1881 they had become mere rent-chargers, and had no authority to enforce maintenance, 26859, 26872-3.—Power should be vested in State; charges of loan taken over, and drainage maintained; but maintenance charges should be paid by tenants; there must be authority to enforce this, or there was danger of money being lost that had been spent on improvements 26861, 26871, 26875-8.—Landlords and tenants both should be benefited; landlord would only be relieved conditionally on selling, 26863-7.

Reclamation.

2nd. By reclaiming waste lands and paying tenants' interest at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on outlay as soon as it became productive, 26847.

Striking of balance of all Board of Works loans that had been paid for ten years to tenants and vendors; occupiers responsible for maintenance rate; for example, it would be a great inducement to landlords to sell and tenants to buy if heavy tax in connection with drainage of River Suck could be paid off, 26847-7.—Also if money spent by State on holdings was given as a bonus to landlords and tenants, in order to get hold of grass lands for re-distribution, it would facilitate voluntary sale of grass lands in whole of Connaught, 26851-8.

(*c*) Tenants regarding purchase as merely change of landlord; remedies for (*a*) and (*b*) would apply to this difficulty.

Distribution of Work of Land Purchase Between Board and Estates Commissioners.

(*d*.) Congested Districts Board should be remodelled and its work confined to Connaught; Estates Commissioners taking control of other three provinces; Board should be composed chiefly of members acquainted with special needs of the West, and should have meeting place, staff, and offices in some central position in Connaught; Board could have local representatives in shape of advisory committees, 26879, 26905-6, 26913-5, 26923-8.—Competition was the soul of commerce, and the Estates Commissioners should have a fair trial at congested districts work, 26916-9, 26954-5.—Estates Commissioners would need extended powers in order to cover any loss they might make, 26922.

Advisory Committees would know special circumstances, 26929-30.—Would advise on questions of general policy, 26932-3.—Not on price, 26933-4.—Witness attached extreme importance to Advisory Council, 26931.—Landlords could still sell direct, 26936.—In cases of direct sale Congested Districts Board should have power to deal with estates after sale, 26937-41.

Sympathetic Treatment Needed in the West; Instances in Case of Action by United Irish League.

Landlords would make no difficulties if treated sympathetically, 26942.—By sympathetically witness meant not officially; Connaught people hated officialism, 26943-4.—That was why Congested Districts Board had a hold on the people which Estates Commissioners had not, 26945.—And why landlords and tenants were so much in sympathy, 26946-7.—Congested Districts Board instituted as a paternal body, and people of Connaught required to be dealt with personally and directly, 26880-1, 26908-12.—Mr. Doran was eminently suited for the work, but he was only one man, and business had to be done with Board as a whole, 26882-4, 26910.—General feeling in the West was that State should provide money, and those in sympathy with the people should spend it, 26956-7.—Witness thought Parish Committees were not composed of representative men, 26959.—Three years ago, when Athenry was in a bad state, witness had sold an estate there nearly all under grass, in

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large holdings, not knowing there was any congestion; in reply to representations of United Irish League, witness undertook to do all he could, provided there was no intimidation; he got the purchaser to let him off his bargain, and the farm was distributed by the League, the annuity being proportioned; no fault could be found with the League's action, but Estates Commissioners had not shown themselves sympathetic, 26960-8.—In another case League had accepted witness's explanation on behalf of a tenant who had taken a field, 26968-9.—And generally he had not found them to act badly or unfairly; it was all a question of sympathy, 26969.

Objections to Inspection as Primary Step Towards Purchase of Land.

Witness had offered estates for sale to Estates Commissioners, but Mr. Finucane refused to deal with him personally; then he applied to Congested Districts Board; they suggested joint inspection by Board and Estates Commissioners; witness strongly objected to inspection as primary step, since tenants were sure to see inspector and know that owner refused to sell at price offered by Commissioners, 26886-9.—Question of inspection was waived, and basis of an agreement arrived at with Mr. Doran; then Board decided that they could make no offer till inspection had been made, 26890.—Witness offered to show his books, receipts, etc., 26892.—All direct sales to tenants were conducted without inspection, 26894-5.—Other properties were purchased in rental, 26896.—Tenants on estates in question were some first term and some second term men, 26898-901. Joint inspection not reciprocal; Estates Commissioners did not call in the Board's inspector when they bought property, 26890.—Witness did not object to inspection as a second step, 26893, 26907.—Failure of the Act in respect to grass lands due to want of any guiding principle by which purchaser and vendor could estimate price; only method at present was inspection, which practically bound vendor to accept price offered, and therefore prevented owners from selling, 26999-7000.—Inspectors at present were officers of the Land Commission, 27112-3.—And Estates Commissioners were the Land Commission, 27114-5.—It would be an improvement to have a valuer appointed by owner, as well as one appointed by purchaser, 27118-20.—But still not a fair basis of action, 27121.—Witness had same objection to inspection as primary thing on untenanted as on tenanted land, 27122-4.—There was also the want of some disinterested medium through whom both parties could be approached without prejudicing their case, and further, the want of an open market, which was impossible, because it would bring in new tenants, 27000.—In regard to suggested remedies to it in evidence, price should be worked out according to (*a*), then estate should be inspected as regards general condition, etc.; if further inspection were required, as regards security, purchaser or vendor should be able to appeal to an independent tribunal as an equity judge, 27078, 27110-1.—Grass land primarily concerned, 87079.

Annuity for Old People—Method of Providing Annuity.

(*f*) Young people might be migrated, old people given an annuity and left the house and garden for their lives; that would not involve two holdings, 26970.—Annuity partly provided by increased interest paid by adjoining tenant on increase in his holding, for tenant's interest of which he would have paid nothing, 26972.—This interest would practically be interest on fine, 26973.—No one should get tenant's interest in a holding for nothing; tenants were perfectly willing and able to pay, 26794-7.—Whether proper payment was made by new holders for holdings from which people had been migrated depended on amount of annuity representing landlord's and tenant's interest, 26978-88.

Advances for Improvements and Stocking.

(*h*) Every tenant in a congested district should be able to get an advance for improvements and stocking at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., from State funds, 26991-2.—Advantages should be conferred on other provinces as well as Connaught, 26994.

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State Should Compensate Vendors for Depriving them of Right to Sell in Open Market.

Vendors should be compensated by the State for the loss sustained in being prevented from selling in open market; certain proportion, if not all, of such compensation should be recovered from new tenants by increasing their annuity; amount of compensation should vary from five to ten years' purchase of equivalent of second term rent, 27126.

Price of Land—Land Conference Terms, etc.

Land Conference report laid down income as represented by second term rents or their fair equivalent as basis of price, which should either be assurance by State of that income or capital sum producing that income at 3 per cent. or $3\frac{1}{4}$, if guaranteed by State, or if powers of trustees were sufficiently enlarged; costs of collection not exceeding 10 per cent., should be excluded from income, such income or capital sum should be obtainable without capital outlay to prove title to sell or to receive purchase money, without unreasonable delay, without loss of income pending re-investment, and without leaving portion of capital sum as guarantee deposit, 27000, 27104, 27107.—In typical case given gross income rent actually received was £746, less ten per cent., £672 yielding, when capitalised at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., £20,400; or, as Mr. Finucane proposed, taking Government valuation as basis, £490 for tenanted land gave £10,290 at twenty-one years' purchase; £322 for lands in owner's hands gave £8,372 at twenty-six years' purchase, which, with addition of bonus, £2,162, gave £20,822, 27008.—Bonus was payable on every kind of sale, 27010-12.—Except on bankrupt estates, 27013.—Poor rate was on untenanted land, and would have to be paid by purchaser, 27015-6.—Anything purchaser had to pay for afterwards should be deducted; anything redeemed should not be deducted, 27016.—Witness's summary showed that sale was perfectly safe without inspection, and that price could not be far wrong, since it worked out in six different ways, 27017, 27108.

Herd's Freedom.

Herd's freedom a distinct asset in Connaught; herd got collops and so many head of cattle, with grazing in summer and hay in winter, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land or more, 27019-20.—He was paid in kind almost universally, 27021-2.—He would get a holding instead of salary for work, and would not object to change, 27023-6.

Price of Land; Security Question.

(*b*) included tenanted and untenanted land, 27080, 27109.

Witness did not touch question of mortgages, because they were paid off, 27081.—Every charge paid off was redeemed, 27083.—There were two divisions to be considered in regard to security—security of the Government and security for payment of interest; for the former there was the landlord's interest, and over and above that the tenant's interest, which gave an ample margin, for the latter there was also an ample margin, 27000.—Witness, from thirty years' experience among them, absolutely denied that Irish tenants were dishonest as regards payment of rent; he put in a table showing rents he had received in the very worst times, 1879 to 1883; he got arrears even, though everyone else was giving abatements, 27165-9, 27174.—Rents now were twenty-five per cent. lower, 27170-1.—Inference was absolute security for the State in regard to annuities, 27172.—Five tenants to whom witness had sold under were worst paying tenants on property and very unthrifty, but they had paid annuities on average of twenty-two years' purchase, 27190-5.—Land did not produce half or two-thirds what it might, 27195.—Object of breaking up grass land was to have tillage, otherwise it would be anything but a benefit, 27196-7.—Four farms of twenty-five acres would not carry 100 head of cattle under present system, 27198.—They might by home feeding, 27199.—But home-fed cattle would have to be finished, 27200.—Witness fully endorsed Father O'Hara's evidence that gross produce could be doubled by improved agriculture, draining, manuring, greater variety of crops, right class of stock, etc., 27205, 27207.—Land was purchased in many cases at its minimum value, so that security was perfectly safe if money were spent on improving it, 27205.—Spirit of Act of 1903 was to develop resources of country and improve condition of people, and the more these objects were promoted by the State the better would be the security, 27208.—No need for compulsion, no landlords would make obstacles if they got a fair price, 27208-15.—Landlords willing to sell if there was anyone to deal with, 27217-8.—Landlords should not be asked to sell grass lands and be left with tenanted lands on their hands, 27223-30.—All charges must be redeemed out of purchase-money; any that could not be cleared should be deducted, 27084.

ADVANTAGES OF WYNDHAM ACT.

Wyndham Act far better for tenants than Ashbourne Act; under latter farm held at £100, and sold at eighteen years' purchase, would pay annuity of £72 for forty-nine years, whereas under former annuity would be £58 10*s.*, giving an annual saving of £13 10*s.*, 27175.—Number of years' purchase taken made no difference to comparison, 27176.—£13 10*s.* invested annually at compound interest at four per cent. would amount to £1,968 in forty-nine years, 27180.—Deducting balance of purchase-money still due at end of forty-nine years, which was £900, there was still credit balance to tenant of £1,068; total purchase-money under Ashbourne Act was £1,800; deducting £1,068 from that, total amount paid for holding would be £732, that was seven years' purchase as compared with eighteen under Ashbourne Act, 27181-2.—Under Wyndham Act tenant paying £72 per annum would get up to same amount in thirty-nine years as tenant under Ashbourne Act in forty-nine, which would be saving of £720, which, if invested at five per cent., would give £35 a year in perpetuity, 27183-4.—Any farmer could get five per cent. in improving his holding, 27185-6.—Tenants as a rule would choose the Ashbourne Act, simply because they did not understand it, 27188-9.

LAND CONFERENCE SCHEME.

In Land Conference scheme £672 was income, not net income, 27085-8, 27103.—Witness was considering free sale, not compulsion, 27087.—Inducement ought to be exhausted before trying compulsion; whole spirit of the Land Act was to work by inducement, 27088-90, 27097.—Landlord could pay off charges at any moment, 27093-4.—Tenant was bound to give fair value, but not to get land cheaper because estate was encumbered, 27091-2, 27095-6.—Ten per cent. deduction for cost of collection was taken from Land Conference terms; witness thought deduction should not be made since agency fees had to be redeemed, 27098, 27106.—In case of grass lands the ten per cent. should go under the head of taxes which tenant would have to pay when he came in, 27098-101.—Witness maintained that landlord's private engagements had nothing to do with position taken up by Land Conference, 27105.

GRASS LANDS.

Three kinds of grass lands; (*a*) those that could be profitably tilled by small farmers, 27127.—(*b*) those that would be disimproved by tillage, rich grass lands requiring considerably developed agricultural skill for profitable tillage, 27127.—(*c*) those that would be improved by tillage, heath lands, etc., 27127.—Very soon improved by breaking and manuring, Mr. Elliott's system had been marvellously successful in Ireland, 27128-32.—Restoration of land exhausted and burned by guano would be an immense benefit, 27133.—Theory originated fifty years ago, 27134.

METHODS OF ESTIMATING PURCHASE VALUE OF GRASS LANDS.

(A 1.) In case of grass lands farmed by vendors never having been rented it was difficult to estimate purchase value, vendor should be dealt with very liberally, 27135.—(B 1.) In case of lands where vendor had taken in grazing stock for the summer and had meadowed portion of land, purchase value should be estimated by average gross receipts for a certain number of years, deducting taxes and outgoings, and capitalising at 3¼ or 3½ per cent., according to circumstances, 27135.—This method could not be applied to A 1, 27137.—(C 1.) In case of lands let on eleven months' system (a ruinous system) purchase value should be estimated as for (B 1), 27135.

WASTE AND PARTIALLY WASTE LANDS; REMEDIES PROPOSED.

Four kinds of waste and partially waste land due to (*a*) want of drains and maintenance of drains;
(*b*) want of cultivating;
(*c*) want of manuring;
(*d*) burning and excessive use of guano;
(*e*) over meadowing and letting meadows by auction without manuring, 27138.

DRAINAGE.

Remedies suggested—(*a*) Government should at once make arterial drains where required and deepen existing water-courses; thousands of acres could be brought under cultivation, and there was no reason why the work should not be done this summer; tenants could not do it; landlords were debarred; therefore it was the State's duty, 27138-9.—Government would have to do maintenance, making tenants pay a charge, 27140-2.—Commission now about to report did not go beyond drainage nor touch question of reclamation of waste lands, 27143.

RECLAMATION.

(*b*) Government should pay occupiers for reclaiming and cultivating waste lands, charging annuity when they became reproductive, or else have reclamation done and divide reclaimed land among adjoining tenants, charging them annuity in proportion to increased value of lands; this also could be done at once without legislation, 27143.

ARTIFICIAL MANURE SHOULD BE GIVEN.

(*c*) Purchasing tenants should be given a certain amount of artificial manure free, provided that they put on farm-yard manure to a sufficient amount, 27143.—Paternal system involving expense, but that must be faced if anything was to be done in Connaught, 27153.

LAWS AGAINST BURNING TO BE ENFORCED.

(*d*) Damage had been done in the past, but existing laws against burning should be enforced, 27143.

MEADOWING SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED.

(*e*) System should be discouraged in every way, 27143.—It was generally practised, 27144-5.—Meadow as it stood was let for hay; whoever bought it let it stand as long as possible, and cut it down to the very soil, so that there was very little after-grass, 27146, 27150.—No way of preventing it; very often owner did it himelf, 27151-2.—Round Loughrea last year whole country was under hay-cocks, because the land was striped out, but fences were not yet made, 27147.—Possible to go on taking hay off land year after year, and after a certain point it did not get much worse, 27148.—Artificial manure paid over and over again, and paid at once, 27149.

INDEBTEDNESS TO SHOPKEEPERS.

Credit system of living, often practised by small farmers, most expensive system possible, both for shopkeepers and tenants, 27155.—Shopkeepers did not act harshly so long as their creditors continued to deal with them, 27156.—No cheap escape from Bankruptcy Court in Ireland, 27158-9.—Simple and expeditious means of getting clear before County Court would be an immense check on giving credit, 27160-1.—But at present credit was an absolute necessity to the Irish farmer, because he had no cash, 27161-3.—If he could not get credit he must be able to borrow money cheaply, 27164.

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CROSBIE, Mr. LINDSEY TALBOT.

Landlords and Estates Commissioners.

Witness wished emphatically to dissociate himself from Mr. Boyd's evidence, as reported in Dublin *Evening Mail*, as to dissatisfaction of landlords with administration of Estates Commissioners, 25515.

Sale of Witness's Kerry Estates; Criticism of Mr. Bailey's Evidence.

Witness affirmed that Mr. Bailey's evidence regarding sale of his Kerry estates and fictitious arrangement between himself and his tenants whereby a certain sum of money beyond actual purchase price was arranged, so that landlord might get bonus on added amount while tenant would get sum of money for improvements at low interest, was utterly misleading; Commissioners were cognisant of the whole transaction, and had ruled that advances out of Land Purchase Fund could be made for improvements in cases of sales direct from landlord to tenant; if any fraud upon the Act had been committed, it was by tenants and Commissioners, the one to get cheap money, the other improved security, the landlord did not come in at all except on the question of bonus; if the Commissioners had objected to added moneys being sanctioned, witness would have acquiesced, and thus hastened sale of property and avoided loss; question of bonus was based upon supposition that sales were within the zones, and that Commissioners could not discriminate between purchase money and advances for improvements, but full details had been asked for and given; terms of sale had been concluded three years before, but upon four separate occasions sale had been blocked through no fault of witness, 25517.—On last occasion some few tenants had made an unwarranted claim, which he refued to consider, 25517, 25519.—Witness's properties were all within the zones except one, so inspection might take place under the conditions of a property sold within the zones, 25520, 25526.—Tenor of Mr. Bailey's evidence was that if estate was within the zones Commissioners had not power to differentiate, if sum had been put down in purchasing agreement, between purchase-money and advances for improvements, 25521.—Evidence of tenants would be taken by the Commission if they desired it, 25527-8.

Fictitious Claims Put Forward by Tenants.

Tenants who put forward a fictitious and bogus claim were guilty of blackmailing, the case was before the Estates Commissioners, who had sent down a special inspector to go into the question, 25529, 25531. Claim was for flooding of their land and reduction in their purchasing agreement; it had not been made when estate was sold or agreement signed, but after three years claim was sent to Estates Commissioners, 25533-4.—They wanted to break through their purchasing agreements after having signed them, 25534, 25537-9.—Transaction was for over £100,000, which witness was supposed to have vitiated for the sake of increase in bonus of £200 or £300, 25536.—Last inspection of estate and inquiry had taken place nearly three years after deposit of agreement, 25577.—No flooding had occurred during that period, nor for many years, but flooding had been considered in fixing second term rents, and a reduction of 20 per cent. had been allowed, 25578-9.—Witness had not been asked to deposit any security against flooding, but he had not got the decision of the Commissioners, 25580.—Estates Commissioners were acting within their rights in making close inquiries, as, by recent rules, special reference was made to the upkeep and safeguarding of river and sea embankments, 25581.—Second term rent might vary according to development, but on instalment for sixty-eight and a half years, it was possibly a serious thing to have flooded land, 25583.

Sums Due for Arrears Added to Purchase Money. Practice was Legal.

Transaction referred to by Mr. Bailey was that certain sums due for arrears had been added to purchase money; the Master of the Rolls, and, on appeal, the Court of King's Bench, had decided that that was a legal course, and it had been the practice of the Commissioners up to that time, 25540-3.

CROSBIE, Mr. LINDSEY TALBOT—*continued.*

Agreement that a Certain Sum Should be Handed Back to Tenants as Advance for Improvements; Commissioners Had Ruled that such Advances were Legal.

Agreement had been made that certain money should be handed back to the tenants out of the advance for purchase-money, for improvements, etc., after it had been fully considered and sanctioned by the Commissioners, 25545.—The object was to enable tenants to get a little capital for drainage works, as all their money had been expended on hay-sheds; at first witness had refused request of tenants for advance, but a neighbouring estate had done it, and Estates Commissioners had ruled that such advances were legal, so consent had been given, on condition that Commissioners were cognisant of the whole proceeding, 25546, 25574.—Witness had agreed with his tenants for a certain fixed sum to be added to the purchase agreement, which was to be returned to tenants when money was provided, 25547.—It was a method of getting a cheap loan for sixty-eight years, and was a great advantage to them and improvement to the farms, as well as an advantage to the State in the improved security, 25548-9.—Purchase agreement had not been signed before added money was considered, this added money was considered between date of selling estate on terms agreed upon, and date of tenants signing purchase agreements, before agreements were deposited with Estates Commissioners, 25552-7.

Bonus Question.

Bonus question had not arisen at all during the trasaction, as the question the Commissioners had sent was whether they could make advances for improvements, 25559-60.—When purchase-money was deposited and distributed, Estates Commissioners were bound to pay a twelve per cent. bonus upon it, but not until then, as it was the last transaction of all, 25561-2.—Bonus was 12 per cent. upon the gross purchase oney, 25564.—Witness contended that in this transaction there was purchase money and added money, and upon the latter there could be no bonus, 25565, 25565A.—There was no power under the Act to specifically give a loan to tenants for improvements, 25566.—Therefore if loans for improvements were obtained it would have to be by treating it as part of the purchase-money, but witness had been careful to make it clear to the Commissioners that this loan was money added to the purchase-money, 25567, 25570.—If it were illegal there could be no legal consequences, and no bonus could be paid, 25568-59A.—Witness absolutely denied that he had tried to get bonus on a fictitious purchase amount, 25571-3.—He had not tried to claim a larger bonus than he was entitled to, 25576.

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See also p. 607.

Programmes of Land League, National League, and United Irish League.

Programme of Land League and National League were similar as regards land, 25387.—Agrarian policy of United Irish League was similar to that of Land League; wording of constitution of United Irish League, so far as it related to land; abolition of landlordism by means of a universal and compulsory system of sales of landlord's interest, tenant's property being excluded in assessment of valuing of this interest, together with reinstatement of tenants evicted in connection with the land war and restoration to legal status of tenancy of caretakers and future tenants whose rights were sacrificed by operation of Section 7 of Land Act of 1887; periodical distress and famine in the West to be ended by abolishing, on terms of just compensation, the grazier system, and restoring the people to occupation of lands in holdings of sufficient size and quality; National League (founded by Mr. Michael Davitt and supported by Mr. Parnell) programme was to protect the people from unjust or capricious exercise of privilege by landlords or any other class, to seek abolition of present land laws in Ireland by every constitutional means, and to substitute a system in accordance with social rights and interests of the people; both organisations aimed at creation of a peasant proprietary and more equitable distribution of grass or untenanted lands.

Other Agrarian Organisations existing in the Fifties.

Other agrarian organisations existed in the fifties, not conducted in daylight, known as Ribbonmen, Whiteboys, and Molly Maguires; sequel to clearances following Famine of 1846 and 1847; hopeless endeavours to compel men to give up lands from which people were evicted, some evictions made previous to passing of Encumbered Estates Act of 1849; greater number of clearances took place after 1849; no constitutional organisation then in Ireland, only method that of visiting houses by night to deter those who were helping the landlord; tracts laid down for grazing were dug up at night as a mark of indignation against the evictions; revenge taken on evictors and abettors, for which hundreds suffered penal servitude; no constitutional movement existed until founding of Land League on August 16th, 1879, in Mayo, few years before Tenants' Defence Association had been founded by Messrs. Harris and Kilmartin in County Galway; local character of organisations, efforts to make tenants combine not effectual, 25388-9. —Act of 1870 arose from Fenian organisation of 1865 and 1867, not an agrarian organisation, 25390-1.

Evictions following passing of Encumbered Estates Act.

Failure of potato crop in 1879, ad fall in price of cattle due to importation of American beef, made tenant-farmers realise necessity of keeping a grip on their holdings; passing of Encumbered Estates Act to founding of Land League, population of Ireland decreased by 2,500,000; evictions in three years following passing of this Act, according to Mulhall's dictionary of statistics, numbered 1,900,000 families, 950,000 people; Pollock clearances, 1,100 families evicted on portion of estate for purpose of concentrating holdings into vast grass ranches, 25391.—Date of Pollock clearances, 1853 to 1855, 25392-3.

Pollock Estate in County Galway, 25394.—Traces of old divisions of holdings still visible; not so great on Pollock Estate as on others; care taken to erase traces, 25395-6.

Land Agitation in 1880.

In November, 1879, at a tenant-farmers' meeting in Roscommon, Mr. Parnell offered the landlords twenty years' purchase on the poor law valuation; in 1880, at Kilkenny, Mr. Parnell said that landlordism could not survive in Ireland; no system of partnership between landlord and tenant could be obtained from the State; vast unpopulated tracts and ruined homes showed necessity of putting an end to system and initiating a system that would allow the land to be properly cultivated; he directed that no efforts should be wasted in propping up landlordism, but to work for the right of ownership; every other country had substituted ownership for feudal tenure; prosecutions followed speeches of a similar character delivered by Messrs. Parnell, Davitt, Dillon, and others; lengthy State trial in 1880, resulting in no conviction.

Land Act of 1881.

Land Act of 1881 attributed to results of agitation, preceded by Mr. Forster's Coercion Act; fashion in Ireland to precede remedial legislation by coercion; Irish representatives' speeches on second reading of the Bill all urged expropriation of landlords and substitution of a peasant proprietary; Mr. D. O'Conor said landlords differed in opinion, etc., from the majority, and country required an increase in occupying owners; Mr. J. Dillon was imprisoned for advocating rejection of Bill and introduction of a Bill conferring absolute ownership; suggestions made during Second Reading Debate in favour of emigration; facilities for emigration introduced into Bill; Mr. Parnell regretted adoption of principle of emigration instead of migration, suggested power for proposed Commission to purchase land in Ireland, believed that every man was required in Ireland for development of industrial resources, emigration should be a natural movement, as in continental countries; Mr. Parnell also said that condition of Irish labourers was wretched; he thought proposed Commission should have power to buy land and settle labourers upon it in districts where they might find employment; arrangements proposed for the Courts in the Bill, Mr. Parnell's opinion that it was extremely difficult to reconcile the respective interests, and any friction would destroy utility of proposed scheme; true solution of land question was to enable occupiers to become owners, 25397-9.—Mr. J. Redmond also objected to facilities for emigration provided in Bill; population decreased by 2,500,000 in twenty-eight years, 100,000 had emigrated in the previous year, 75 per cent. between ages of fifteen and thirty-five years; thousands of fertile acres in Ireland without a homestead, and thousands of acres of reclaimable land; Irish representatives accused of making extravagant demands; no attention paid to their representations at the time of the Bill.

Unchanging Character of Land League Programme.

Unchanging character of Land League programme could be judged by perusal of debates of amending Bills up to 1903, and now only partly secured by adopting Land League programme; hoped that present Commission would finally settle question; witness agreed with much of Mr. Finucane's evidence and with the generality of Messrs. Doran's and Bailey's evidence; the three would have no difficulty in settling the question finally, if they had the means and the co-operation of Irishmen; twenty-six or twenty-seven years wasted; cost of the strife between State, landlords and people in suffering, eviction, etc.; conclusive proof of unsuitability of Englishmen and English Parliament to deal with Irish questions afforded by repeated attempts to settle question; constant expenditure of public money to bolster up a system objected to by Ireland's representatives and leaving Ireland so unsettled that community had suffered by constant emigration; absolutely necessary to settle Land Question finally, not only by making present occupants of holdings the owners, but by bringing back to the land the descendants of those who had been driven off; programme of United Irish League comprised equitable distribution of grass lands or untenanted lands acquired by compulsory purchase where voluntary sales failed; acquisition of all tenanted lands by the same process.

Means of Securing Uniformity of Price.

Uniformity of price to be secured by conducting sales through Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, either body being allowed to fix prices; uniformity of price could not be carried out through direct sales; rents fixed much more favourably on some estates than on others; tenants hoodwinked into giving larger prices than they should by tenants with large holdings who expected improvements which the smaller tenant did not hope for.—Standard of purchase-price mentioned by Mr. Boyd, namely, twenty-three years' purchase of second term rents, was too high, especially for land in the West, 25399-400.

Bonus and Price Under Act of 1903.

Landlords received several sets of bonuses under Act of 1903; previous to the Act landlords in the West of Ireland would have been glad to sell at twenty years' purchase, or even eighteen years' purchase, 25401-3.—Financial arrangement under Act of 1903 substituting payment of 3¼ per cent. for sixty-eight years instead of 4 per cent. for forty-nine years, tenants agreeing to higher prices because annuity for repayment of loan was reduced, 25403, 25407-9, 25412-20, 25494-503.—Alteration in financial arrangement was fair equivalent to depression in price of Land Stock from £110 to £98 or £96, notwithstanding landlords' assertion that the 12 per cent. was to make up for the depreciation in Land Stock, 25403.—12 per cent. was the bonus, 25404, 25410.—Tenant encouraged to offer the highest price, 25405.—Increased number of years' purchase more than corresponded with depreciation in Land Stock, 25406.—Difference in price went entirely into the landlord's pocket, 25413, 25420.—Difference of more than three years in prices of land bought under the Ashbourne Act and those bought under the Act of 1903, 25420.—Proof of statement could be obtained by comparing prices received by solvent landlords before and after Act of 1903, difference of at least 20 per cent., 25421-2.—Land purchase would have been slower without the inflation of prices caused by Act of 1903, but it would not necessarily have stopped; difference between the 4 per cent. and the 3¼ per cent. sufficient in itself without any bonus, 25423-9.—Great stimulus to land purchase if simple measure giving the bonus to former Acts had been substituted for Land Act of 1903, 25431.—Third inducement to landlords was the power to buy back the demesne lands after selling, 25432.—Three bonuses received by landlords, bonus in financial arrangement, 12 per cent. bonus, and buying back after sale of demesne lands, 25432.—United Irish League did not accept Land Conference basis of settlement, net income on second term rents accepted as a basis for the calculation, 15 per cent. deduction for cost of collection and bad debts instead of the 10 per cent. mentioned by Mr. Boyd, fair basis for compulsory purchase of land outside congested districts, 25433-43, 25449.—Witness gave his own opinion, not that of United Irish League, 25444.

LAND CONFERENCE TERMS.

Land Conference undertook to give landlords their net income; unencumbered men would receive more than encumbered men; gains in one case would have to be devoted to reduction of rent in the other, 25445.—Land Conference offer 3¼ per cent. as the basis of capitalisation was accepted by the landlords at 3½ per cent., 25447-8.—Witness was speaking of untenanted land; Land Conference did not make any distinction, 25450-1.—Loss of at least 10 per cent. on bad debts; witness quite willing questions of the kind should be settled by inspection, 25453-5.—Proposal that 12 per cent. bonus should be largely devoted to settling on untenanted lands immigrants from congested districts and sons of tenant-farmers under the valuation of £12 or £15, 25456-8.

PRICE OF UNTENANTED LAND.

Price of untenanted land hitherto purchased was from 26½ to 27½ years' purchase on fair rents; new tenant started under higher rents and substantial portion of balance ought to be set aside to provide farm buildings, etc., 25459.—Impossibility of saying that twenty-three years' purchase was too high without knowing the particular conditions of the property; some land at twenty-three years' purchase of second term rents cheaper than other land at twenty years' purchase of second term rents, twenty-three years' purchase as a fixed standard for compulsory sale too high in many cases, 25460-2.

DIFFERENCE IN RENTS FIXED BY COMMISSIONERS.

Great difference in rents fixed by Commissioners, people who agitated got great reductions, and those who submitted quietly got less; inspection absolutely necessary to secure uniformity in price, 25462, 25472.—Second term rent of bad land was not proportionately lower than second term rent of good land, 25463.—Twenty-three years' purchase meant a reduction of 25 per cent., 25464.—Witness was speaking of averages, and meant between twenty and a-half and twenty-three years' purchase, 25466.—Five advantages given by Act of 1903, 12 per cent. bonus, power enabling owners of mortgaged estates to pay off mortgages, power to buy back demesnes, relief as regards legal expenses, arrangement for reducing the annuity from 4 per cent. to 3¼ per cent., 25467-71.—Inspection did not secure uniformity in rents fixed by Sub-Commission, Commissioners varied very much in capacity; system of fixing rents prior to 1903 certainly not the best; witness hoped that tribunal fos fixing purchase values would be more capable than Commissioners appointed to fix rent, 25473-7.

NEW TRIBUNAL REQUIRED TO FIX PURCHASE VALUES.

Some new tribunal would be required to settle purchase values, 25478.—Witness's criticism referred to Sub-Commission and not to Estates Commissioners' Inspectors, who were quite capable of fixing fair rents, 25478-84.—At any rate those who came to witness's district were capable, 25584.

DECREASE IN VERY SMALL HOLDINGS.

Clearances on Pollock Estate between 1852 and 1855 attributed to establishment of Encumbered Estates Court, but very small holdings had diminished instead of increasing; witness could not account for clearances not showing upon Census returns, but could easily find out; population of Roscommon was 300,000 in 1832, and was a little over 100,000 at present, 25485-92.—Census returns between 1851 and 1861 showed diminution in small holdings, 25586.—Power to sell the demesne and re-buy it was a bonus which was availed of a good deal, at any rate it was an advantage offered, 25504-8.—Reason for fixing twenty-three years' purchase, calculated that that price and the bonus would bring in the net income, 25509.—15 per cent. deduction from gross second term rents a fair method of arriving at net income, 20 per cent. for western estates, 25510-15.

SETTLEMENT OF EVICTED TENANTS BETWEEN 1850-5.

The settlement of evicted tenants between 1850 and 1855 had been various; some had emigrated, others had sought holdings on unreclaimed moors, the more feeble had entered the workhouse, 25584.—Defects of Act of 1903 could best be seen in its working, though framers of Act had tried to go a long way towards settlement of the question, 25586.

INSPECTION OF ESTATES.

Inspection of estates was always necessary in case of direct sales, no matter how good the estate was, for following reasons—first, to see how second term rents worked out compared with "fair" rents; secondly, the uneconomic holdings merely got a reduction in rent, which generally only amounted to an addition of not more than 5*s.* to 20*s.* a year to the income of the tenant, practically leaving his condition unchanged; thirdly, improvements were absolutely necessary before estates were handed over to the tenants, and Commissioners should see that estates not sold under section 6 required some improvements and were practically free from small holdings, 25586.—Witness suggested that in cases where estates had passed through without inspection they should still partake of the advantages they would have received had they been sold under the proper section; inspections as at present conducted related, not to improvements, but to boundaries, 25586.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED ON SANFORD AND CLEEVE ESTATES.—EVILS OF DIRECT SALES.

The Sanford and Cleeve Estates, especially, which were sold immediately after the passing of the Act of 1903, ought to have at least £10,000 and £1,000, respectively, spent on improvements, which would enable the tenants to make their own improvements; many holdings at present uneconomic could be materially enlarged if a thorough system of improvements and drainage could be carried out; the Commissioners had made a free grant of £1,000, and had agreed to give another £1,000; the reasons for the application were that these estates were among the first sold, and the Sanford Estate was dove-tailed into the Dillon and De Freyne Estates in the congested portion of it, and there ought to be uniformity of treatment, 25586.—Commissioners ought to know the law, and they should see that each class of estate was properly dealt with under the proper section, 25586-7.—Witness was present at the negotiations, and tried to make the best bargain he could; he had been led to believe that the Congested Districts Board was going to deal with the estate, 25588-9.—Tenants on most of the estates in Roscommon looked to witness for guidance and assistance, but he had made a mistake on one estate, though good terms had been obtained, as tenants bought at from eighteen and a-half to twenty-one years' purchase on first term rents, and received some thousands of acres of bog free and a half-year's rent added to the purchase-money; but witness would oppose a direct sale if same thing had to be done over again, 25590a.—Uneconomic holdings ought to be made economic before they were sold to the tenants, and estates should be bought under the proper section; the Sanford and Cleeve Estates had not been handed over to the tenants in the condition in which the Act of 1903 intended; improvement of holdings was far more important to tenant-farmers in Ireland than reduction in rent, 25591.—If direct sales were to be continued, witness suggested that as soon as arrangements to purchase were signed an inspector should be sent to the estate to report on number of small holdings, prospects of enlargement, and general improvements necessary before handing over particular estate, 25591.—Holders of good-sized holdings partook more of the advantages of sale than, as a rule, the small men; so it was reasonable that they should pay their share of the expenditure, if they purchased on the same terms as men who occupied uneconomic holdings, 25591.

Act of 1903 Benefited Landlords not Tenants.

Landlords had received numerous advantages under Act of 1903 compared with previous Land Purchase Acts; tenants, through alteration of the financial provisions of the Act, as compared with the Ashbourne Act, had contributed, so far, four years' rent increase of the purchase money to grease the wheels of land purchase; the falling off in the number of estates offered for sale was caused by the reduction in the price of Land Stock; since then tenants' contribution had more than made up deficiency; the landlord in addition, received twelve per cent. bonus; tenant had received practically nothing; he was in the position of the dog being helped to a bit of his own tail, 25591.

Evicted Tenants should be Restored and Holdings Provided for Exiles.

£200,000 had been set apart for the evicted tenants who suffered in the land war of 1879, 25591.—Commission should recommend that the British Treasury supply as many millions as would be necessary to bring the people who had been compelled to leave it back to the land; that would be the safest method of strengthening the Empire; let the foundations of a prosperous Ireland be raised by doing away with an unworkable partnership that existed between landlord and tenant, carrying out Mr. Finucane's scheme of taking necessary land from those who were holding large tracts of grass and not working them; prices paid for tenants' interest on some holdings, often four times their value, proved that there was a desire for land in Ireland, though statements to the contrary had been made; these fines were paid by men who had earned money in America and Australia, and sometimes in England; thousands of Irish exiles were anxious to return to Ireland, but there were plenty of young men in Ireland who could occupy untenanted land; their savings would have to be supplemented if they were to work the new holdings; a large sum invested in this manner would be a greater source of strength to the Empire than great expenditure on the army and navy, 25592.

Selection of Migrants.

Amount of untenanted land in Ireland was limited, so great care would have to be exercised in selecting the best and strongest men—strongest meaning with a strong family—to place upon the land, as every man with an uneconomic holding might not be the right one, 25593-8, 25625. Both migrants from other places and sons of tenants in the neighbourhood should be given land acquired by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 25599.—If both could not be satisfied, suitable heads of families should be given the preference, 25602.—In placing tenants from uneconomic holdings on untenanted lands, preference should be given to heads of families, first supplying those adjacent through a system of enlarging or by migration, 25649, 25721, 25735.—Claim of a son should come in when he contributed to working out the scheme of migration, where the giving up of the father's holding would help to supply the wants of four or five small holders, 25722-3.

Congestion in Non-Scheduled Areas.

In Castlerea Union there were some of the poorest inland districts to be found in the West of Ireland, but all were not scheduled, 25608.—Grass land was outside the scheduled area, 25610.—In grass lands there were small spots of congestion occupied by farmers, 25611-2.—Scheduled districts in Roscommon were misleading, because some large farms brought up the average; small holders' land was not sufficiently good to leave in grass, 25613-16.—People who lived in congested spots in non-scheduled areas had a prior claim to help and ought to be supplied with land in any scheme of migration, 25617.—In Roscommon the number of small holdings of from £2 to £5 valuation in the non-scheduled areas far exceeded the number in the scheduled areas, 25618.—If grazing lands were bought in non-scheduled area these people would have a prior claim to them because of their proximity and of their actual necessity, 25618, 25620.

Amount of Untenanted Land Available Sufficient to Settle Problem.

There was sufficient untenanted land in Ireland to settle the congested problem, 25621-2.—Reasons for this statement were, first, thousands of holdings in the West of Ireland might be made economic by a good system of drainage; secondly, non-residential, untenanted farms now used for grazing could be used; thirdly, large residential holdings could be carved down, especially those that were being allowed to deteriorate, 25623-4.—In County Roscommon there were over 100,000 acres of untenanted land, 25642.—Much was bog and rock land, but the people were on the rocks and the cattle on the plains, 25643.—Amount of untenanted land was no guide to amount of land available for settlement of small holders, especially in Mayo, or in any county where there was heather, bog, or bad land; amount of good land must be the basis, 25645.—Holdings of those who migrated would make economic holdings for those who remained, 25646.—Mr. Finucane's scheme included, in addition to untenanted land and non-residential holdings curtailment of demesnes and of residential holdings not worked by the occupier. By the time all these classes were dealt with the problem would be satisfactorily solved, and industries would have received such a stimulus that all would have ways of getting a living, 25649.

Selection of Migrants.

One qualification of an applicant should be that he was an industrious, temperate, thrifty man, 25626, 25677-8.—Witness was strong on the temperance question, and generally threw it in as a qualification, 25678.—Another qualification was that he should be a good farmer; if it were known that these qualifications were essential a spirit of industry would be created, 25627.—The farm from which he was taken would show whether a man was industrious and temperate; capital would be required either in money or sons who could help, 25628, 25632, 25680.—Minimum acreage of farm might be thirty acres, 25681.—People in the West of Ireland who were thrifty, sober, and industrious should be removed if the desire existed, 25634, 25636.—Men with large holdings in congested districts ought to be induced to move, in order that small holdings might be improved, 25636.—If farm of equal size were offered elsewhere and an additional farm for his eldest son such an inducement would probably be accepted, 25637.—The land he left would be most useful to the locality, and he would probably work his new farm well, 25638-25640.

Residential and Non-residential Holdings.

A non-residential holding meant a holding upon which the farmer did not live, but only used as grazing land, 25651.—An agricultural holding meant a

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farm which had a reasonable proportion under tillage, 25652.—If a farmer had two farms of 1000 acres each, bought under the Land Acts, but lived on one, while keeping both as grazing land, witness would define one as residential and the other as non-residential, 25654, 25660.—If a shanty were built on the second farm for son to live on, it would depend on how he worked the farm whether it could be called residential, 25657-62, 25667.—Non-residential holdings should first be broken up to see how far they would go when divided among congests, 25663.—Great care would have to be observed in order to avoid evasion of the law; a tribunal would have to be appointed to discern between what was a genuine residential farm and what was not, 25664-5.—Rules should be laid down, as that was safer than leaving it to the discretion of the tribunal, 25666.

Mixed Farming.

Mixed farming—tillage and grazing—was the proper kind of farming to adopt in Ireland; pasture land should be taxed and premiums offered for tillage, 25668-9.—It was a strong order for the State to dictate to any body of people, 25670.—But if the business principle were sound it might be done; on that principle England had instituted war against South Africa, 25671-25671A.—In the Irish Parliament the rule was that the man who tilled was not taxed as much as the man who did not till, and then Ireland was more prosperous than now, 25672-3.—Lands in Roscommon were deteriorating fast for want of cultivation, but in Rathcroghan about 1,000 acres were in the hands of the Congested Districts Board; this was green, fertile land, very different from the rest in those parts; the reason was that these particular spots were tilled from time to time, while the rest had not been broken up for sixty or seventy years, 25675A, 25676.

Economic Holdings.

Mr. Parnell's opinion had been that a man should pay £20 a year for twenty Irish acres; witness agreed with that, 25682-3.—£10 valuation might be taken as a rough standard of division; generally speaking, holdings below that were uneconomic and ought to be added to, 25689-91.

Untenanted Land and Congestion in Roscommon.

In Roscommon there was more untenanted land than appeared from the return, as untenanted land was put down as land in landlord's possession and set on the eleven months' system, 25693.—Untenanted land in Roscommon was, roughly speaking, sufficient to relieve congestion in Roscommon, 25696.—Probably 10,000 cases would have to be relieved; 5,000 would be migrated, leaving 5,000 to be relieved by 50,000 acres, 25697-8.—Though after deducting bog, mountain, and other land valued under 2*s*. 6*d*. there were only 47,000 acres available, leaving land short by 3,000 acres, 25699-25702.—But that would just about relieve Roscommon, 25703.

Estates dealt with in Roscommon.

The estates dealt with in Roscommon by Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board were the O'Grady, Young, Balfe, Irwin, O'Conor Don, M'Diarmuid, and Mrs. Clancy estates, 25707.—Not many new holdings had been formed as yet; Estates Commissioners had selected their tenants about equally from sons of tenants and migrants from congested districts, but Congested Districts Board had not done much, 25708-9.—About 100 holdings had been dealt with, 25711.—It was much easier to divide grass land among migrants who came to it than to re-arrange holdings of those left behind, 25712-25716.

Restrictions on Work of Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board was only supposed to give land to persons from congested areas, and that prevented Board from doing its work as well as it otherwise would, 25718.—Witness advocated leaving some estates adjoining uneconomic holdings alone until Bill was amended, so that they might be assisted, whether in congested district or not, 25719-20.—Congested Districts Board was concerned with providing larger holdings where present ones were too small, so that migration of sons did not come directly before them, 25725-6.—The only new men to receive new holdings before surrendering the old holdings were herds, 25727.

FITZGIBBON, Mr. J.—*continued.*

Methods of Board and Estates Commissioners.

Congested Districts Board worked admirably, and did not part with estates until they had improved them as much as possible. Estates Commissioners estimated amount of money necessary to expend on estate, and stopped when that was exhausted, even though slight extra expense might greatly improve the estate, 25729.—Board's method was unquestionably the right one, 25730.—They were not responsible for delays; there was a great deal of unavoidable red-tapeism, 25732.

Instruction for Migrants.

When migrants were settled a practical resident agricultural instructor ought to be placed in the centre of 400 or 500 new holdings created on untenanted land, with two labourers to assist him to cultivate a twenty-five acre holding, working with mixed farming according to advice of Agricultural Department or Congested Districts Board or County Committee, to show people how to till land and work it properly; instruction by lectures did not answer the purpose, as many small farmers were not intelligent enough to understand and carry out instructions, 25733.

Distribution of Grass Lands.—Priority of Claims.

If special precautions were not taken ultimately a great deal of land would pass into the hands of the sons of tenants rather than be held up for the relief of congestion, 25735.—Men should be moved from the bigger holdings in congested areas on to the grass lands; the small people were afraid of higher rents, 25738.—The desire for migration to grass lands was increasing, 25739.—The grass lands should be preserved for the poor of the congested areas, who might be willing to migrate to them, 25740-1.—This might be done by the public authority charged with relieving congestion trying to acquire in advance these tracts of land, 25742.—Meanwhile the lands were useful, as they allowed people to till their own land while grazing their cattle on them, and people who heard they were to be granted would have an acquaintance with them, 25741-3.—Delay would also enable Board to make a selection among their candidates, as the number offering would be larger and of a better class, 25744-7.

Obstacles in the Way of Migration.

One great obstacle in the way of migration was the want of turbary; this could be met by having peat industries, 25748-50.—A load of 25 cwt. of compressed peat could be drawn by one country horse, and that would answer the same purpose as five loads of peat, 25790.—Another objection was the parting with old associations, but that could be met by transplanting people from one neighbourhood to the same locality as far as possible, 25750.

Local Opposition to Migration.

The incoming of the migrants was sometimes objected to by the people of the neighbourhood, but was usually the result of want of tact and judgment, *e.g.*, men on the Rashleigh Estate were asked if they would take holdings on the Balfe estate and leave their own they went down to see the estate without any introduction, and the people told them to mind their own business; witness contended that people much nearer the Balfe estate, of the same class, ought first to be provided for, 25751.—People of the same class in a district ought not to be treated worse than migrants from a distance, 25752.—Congested Districts Board wanted further powers to take people of a poor class, who ought to be scheduled as congested, and include them as congested, 25755.

New Residential Grazing Farms should be treated in same way as Land let on Eleven Months' System.

New residential grazing farms should be acquired for the purpose of relieving congestion and treated in the same way as land let on the eleven months' system, 25756-7.—Distinction should be drawn between one sort of non-residential farm upon which a man depended for a livelihood and another non-residential farm owned by a man who worked his own home farm, which was ample for the needs of his livelihood, 25757.—There should be no hard and fast rule, as discrimination was very difficult, 25758-60.—Witness did not think it would be a hardship to take away farms from men who lived in the towns, and who had farms at some distance not worked as mixed farms they ought to pass to men who would increase the country's wealth, 25761.—Holders of large grazing farms were putting up buildings upon their non-residential grazing farms as a precautionary measure, 25762-4.

Authority to deal with Congestion.—Distribution of Work between Board and Commissioners proposed.

Two authorities in the country dealing with the land was not the best method, 25764.—The province of Connaught should be dealt with by one body, 25765.—If the work were handed over to the Congested Districts Board that body ought to enjoy the same powers as the Estates Commissioners, 25766.—The Congested Districts Board, from a business point of view, were the men of experience, and did their work excellently; they might be strengthened by having at least one man from each county on the Board, and in that way make the settlement of Connaught a national one, 25767.—Members might be either elected or nominated, 25792-3.—Witness advocated handing over Connaught to the Congested Districts Board and the other three provinces to the Estates Commissioners, as the Board would have as much as they could manage in Connaught, 25768-70.—Congested portions of Donegal and Kerry could be worked by Estates Commissioners, 25769-70.

Untenanted Land in Roscommon should be reserved for Roscommon.

Schemes of migration from other Connaught counties into Roscommon should not be tried, as, if things were to work well due regard must be paid to the sentiments of the people, 25771-2.—If the available grass land in Roscommon were handed over to migrants from other counties it would mean that congestion in Roscommon was not relieved, but occupiers of uneconomic holdings would have to be migrated elsewhere, 25773-5.—There was only enough land in Roscommon to look after Roscommon congestion, 25776.

Migration.—Big Tenants should be preferred as Migrants.

Congested Districts Board had refused to consider purchase of Begley property, because they had had trouble with their tenants about migrants, which seemed imprudent of them, 25779-80.—Migration and the work of the Board had to be carried out with the co-operation of the people, and friction should be avoided as much as possible, 25781.—Witness was in favour of compulsion, 25783.—Migrating a few large tenants was more economical than a larger number of small ones, 25786.—In Mr. Doran's report of 117 cases of migration only seven or eight were from holdings beyond £10 valuation, which showed that the big graziers were not migrating, 25787.—The reason probably was that the inducements offered by the Board were not presented to the larger tenants, 25788.—Professor Campbell's statement that the Irish peasant wished to escape from the land was the statement of a Scotchman who did not understand the conditions, 25789.—Witness did not agree with evidence given that it was not advisable to break up the very best lands, 25799.

Land available for Relief of Congestion.—Scheme of Distribution, etc.

Ireland had gone to decay through not being permitted to carve her own joint; three large and substantial joints necessary; number one joint consisted of all untenanted land in landlord's hands, known as land let on eleven months' system; number two joint comprised all non-residential holdings over £25 valuation, purchased under Act of 1903 or previous Acts, or that were held in fee-simple; number three joint consisted of large grass tracts attached to demesnes and used as grazing farms, land left to owner of mansion being curtailed to what might be considered the demesne proper; demesnes belonging to absentee landlords should also be curtailed; large residential holdings hitherto used for grazing purposes might be cut down to valuation of £100; each county should then be served with as much of the three joints as it contributed, resources of the county being exhausted before transfer of migrants from one county to another; great reluctance of peasant to leave native county; less objection to migrants by people in bordering counties when it was understood that nothing was left for migrant in own county; facilities should be afforded for reclamation of waste lands; reservation by the State for planting purposes proposed where found unsuitable for tillage; scheme suggested should be applied, not only to Connaught, but to the other provinces if a final settlement were desired; Ireland rich in resources if development was permitted; desirable to get rid of the idlers and give the workers a chance; expense of carrying out scheme was the difficulty; landlords had hitherto had the whole of the advantage, with exception of £200,000 for the tenants evicted since 1879; Mr. Boyd's proposal to pay the same in the case of encumbered and unencumbered estates would raise landlord's net income to 5 or 6 per cent., instead of 3½ per cent.; reasonable to form an auxiliary fund for re-settlement out of the differences between 3½ per cent. and the saving in reduction of mortgages, 25805-7, 25810, 25830, 25834.—Tenants would pay the same price whether estates were encumbered or unencumbered, 25808-9, 25811, 25833.—In calculating landlord's net income the sums paid in mortgages ought to be first deducted, so that at the end of the transaction the landlord would be in receipt of cash which, if invested at 3½ per cent., would leave him exactly the same income that he had before; assuming that the mortgages were 5 or 6 per cent., the total charges on an estate of £10,000 a year would not capitalise at the same amount as the estate of the unencumbered landlord; under existing system capitalisation took place upon the gross amount, and encumbered estates were not inquired into; inquiry necessary in view of a compulsory scheme; one system should be applicable both to voluntary and compulsory sales, 25812-32.—No danger of monotony in size of holdings under witness's scheme of taking non-residential holdings of over £25 valuation, 25835-6.—Tillage farms should be excluded from operation of compulsory purchase in cases where 20 per cent. of total area was worked as tillage, 25836-40.—

Compulsion should be extended to Tenant Purchasers.

Compulsory purchase should be extended to tenant purchasers under the Act of 1903, 25841-2.—Many tenants signed agreements out of court and obtained false qualification for purchase under the Ashbourne Act; a tenant-right had been created which was never contemplated either by the Act of 1881 or by any of the Purchase Acts, 25843-4.—Difficulty of dealing with the lands increased; necessary to buy interest of man who was in possession of the farm without paying for it, and also to pay off amount that farm was sold at, 25845.—Witness was speaking of tenanted land; compulsion would probably be needed in cases where the double interest existed, 25845-6.—Same thing applied in many instances to tenant purchaser under Act of 1903, and therefore he should be also subjected to compulsory purchase, 25847-9.—No breach of Parliamentary faith in breaking of covenant, which never ought to have been made; compensation proposed by purchase of tenant-right which had been created, and which did not previously exist, 25850-867.—Authority to settle amount of compensation would probably be appointed by the State, 25855-7.

FITZGIBBON, Mr. J.—*continued.*

Land Purchase Under the Ashbourne Act.

Questionable whether Land Commission should accept agreement settled out of court as coming within provisions of Act as to fixing of fair rents, 25865.—More land fetching twenty years' purchase sold under the Ashbourne Act than of the poorer land; avoidance of tenants who would not give more than fourteen or fifteen years' purchase, 25865-6.—Advantage to tenants as well as to landlords, 25868-9.—Purchase of land by men to whom the Ashbourne Act was never intended to apply, such as The O'Conor Don, 25869.—Effect of the Act was to introduce the class of tenant to which objection was taken, 25870-3.—Land sold under the Ashbourne Act at twenty-years' purchase was cheaper than the class of land for which tenants were willing to pay eighteen years' purchase; tactics of leading off with a very high price adopted; twenty years' purchase gladly given on hearing that Kildare was giving twenty-five to twenty-seven years' purchase, 25874-5.

Kind of Land Needed for Migration.

Witness agreed with Mr. Parnell's opinion on the sort of land requisite to carry out a migration scheme; land worth £1 an acre as rent, or £17 an acre at seventeen years' purchase; twenty years' purchase being required under compulsory expropriation, 25876-7.—Carlow and Roscommon were very different counties; great number of agriculturists in Carlow, but that was not the class of tenant to which witness was referring, 25877a-9.

Compulsory Purchase of Grass Lands.

Compulsory purchase should be applied to grass land in cases where negotiations could not be otherwise carried out, 25880.—There was a difference of opinion as to whether it should be applied to fattening land as well as to store cattle land; Professor Campbell's opinion that no class of land was too good for tillage, 25881.

Fattening Lands Should be Broken Up.

Meath graziers' opinion in favour of a system of mixed farming as the farming of the future, 25882.—Good cattle to be found on good land, and poor cattle on poor land; plenty of poor land in Connaught; necessary to send cattle to Meath to be fattened, 25583-5.—If all the fattening lands were taken away cattle could be fattened at home; small farmers not able to do so at present, but no reason why they should not; proposed in Mr. Doran's scheme that farm stations for demonstrating how cattle could be stall-fed in winter should be placed in centres among 400 or 500 farms of twenty-five, thirty, and fifty-acre class, 25886-86a.—The people had always been on bad land and the cattle on the plains; but, if the people were placed on good land the difference would soon be visible; village near Castlerea with holdings from nine to twenty acres on good land, prosperity of people, 25887-8.

Nature of Untenanted Land in Roscommon.

Witness thought that good land could be profitably broken up, 25889.—Not much untenanted land in Roscommon which was too poor to be broken up, although most of it was suitable for cattle and sheep, 25890-2.—Large amount of land in Roscommon which had hitherto been flooded, but which soon would be productive land, owing to drainage operations of Congested Districts Board, 25892.—No land in Roscommon to witness's knowledge that was suitable for sheep only, but there was a class of land with very little soil, and with a stiff clay at the bottom, 25891.

Circumstances of Sale of Grass Farm.

Good deal of land in Roscommon held under grass; quantity of grass land coming into market; purchasers under Act of 1903 selling their interest; farm of 250 acres of grass to be offered for sale by auction, 25893.—Owner died; but Act of 1903 gave perfect freedom to an annuity payer to sell farm by auction; farm sold subject to the annuity, 25893-8.—No opportunity should be lost by the State of securing and brought into the market; evil of not making provision for purchase illustrated by sale of a farm of about 150 statute acres; small holders round the farm had had it as an accommodation farm; farm lost to the people by deceit practised at auction sale; brother of widow of owner acting as agent for a butcher at Ballinasloe; disturbances followed, resulting in prosecutions, but no conviction, 25893, 25898-904, 25976-9.—Price at which the farm was actually sold, 25905.—Farm held under tenure created by the Ashbourne Act, annuity payable was about £60, but a considerable amount had been paid off; advance by the State was possibly £1,500, purchase having been made about ten years ago, 25906-16.—Farm was of greater value at time of sale than when bought; but value of untenanted land had not increased; farm in question was one of the best in County of Roscommon, 25917-26.

FITZGIBBON, Mr. J.—*continued.*

Farm Purchased by Witness and then Sold to Estates Commissioners.

Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board ought to be provided with funds for purchase of land, instance of sale of a farm of 300 acres which witness was obliged to purchase for £3,700 to prevent lands passing into unfriendly hands; witness sold farm to Estates Commissioners, and received 3½ per cent. on the money advanced, no loss, but no gain on transaction, 25926a-33, 25935-8.—Nine families were settled on the farm, with about twenty Irish acres each, 25934.—Tenants were sons of tenant-farmers whose holdings did not exceed £5 valuation; exactly the class of men to be planted where new men were required, 25938.—Reluctance of people to leave their own homes was extraordinary, 25939.—Financial position of the small holders, all had savings, the lowest being £50; one man was married, and had lived on less than an acre, wife kept fowls, and they had a couple of cows, and grazed them on the grazing land adjoining their holding, 25941-7.—New holdings were made of different sizes, according to quality of land; Estates Commissioners divide dthe holdings, but witness selected the tenants, 25498-9.—Witness bought far for less than Estates Commissioners were prepared to give, and was anxious that it should be sold at their previous figure, but they simply took over estate at such an amount as enabled them to lay out £20 for making of a new road, and to give £30 each to the tenants to assist in building of houses and erection of fences, 25950.—Estate was bought in July, 1906, and was taken over from witness in February, 1907, 25951-6.—Houses were not put up yet; tenants were engaged in making fences, 25957.—They lived two or three miles away in a congested village near Donomon, 25958.—All unmarried except one; but they had brothers able to help, 25959-60.

Class of House Built on Estate, etc.

The £30 grant would represent a house worth £100; Estates Commissioners satisfied with good thatched houses, 25962-3.—The tenants would be able to marry wives with fortunes of £150 or £200 each, 25961.—They were returned Americans who brought back savings, 25965-8.

Evils of Emigration.

Witness would like to stop the going to America and prevent the dreadful scenes at railway stations; if the land was good and was redistributed among the people the daughters could be provided with marriage portions without going abroad, 25971-3.—Widower looking out for a wife during the marrying season told witness he would rather have a "home-made" girl, 25973-5.—Inquiries into deposits in savings banks would show that the money had been largely earned abroad, 25980.

Compulsory Powers Needed for Tenanted and Untenanted Land.

Compulsory powers were often required in cases of ttnanted land, and were as essential as in purchase of untenanted land; witness knew of three poor estates in Castlerea Union which ought to be treated simultaneously with others purchased in same neighbourhood; if not, drainage on both sets of estates would have to be left undone, or else Congested Districts Board would be obliged to drain the estate which had not been purchased, 25980.—The three estates were the Brabazon, Wills-Sandford, and the Worthington, 25980.—The estates mentioned were unpurchased, and were in scheduled areas; possibly if landlords were now approached they might realise that it was desirable to sell; there were also several other small estates unpurchased, 25981.—No landlord in Ireland had absolutely refused to sell, it was a question of price; before deciding that compulsion was necessary it ought to be possible to show that price asked was so prohibitive that it amounted to a refusal to sell; compulsion could then be applied, and the price fixed could be the same as that fixed for a similar class of estates, 25982-4, 26016.

Over two years ago tenants desired to buy the Wills-Sandford Estate through the Congested Districts Board, 25985-7.

Negotiations for Sale of Wills-Sandford Estate.

Mr. Wills-Sandford asked Congested Districts Board whether they would buy an estate, later he stated his price as representing his net income, and gave permission to inspect the estate if it was first purchased, but not otherwise, 25988-97.—Witness advised tenants to go into Land Courts and get their rents reduced, which they did, so that existing net income did not correspond to net income, on which he wanted to sell his estate, 25998-9.—Witness did not know whether Mr. Wills-Sandford had been asked to show his estate books or state his net income, 26000-4. Part of witness's information had been obtained from a statement by the member for the division at a public meeting; he had also seen a copy of Mr. Wills-Sandford's letter to Congested Districts Board, 26005-6.—Price asked for Sandford Estate was 21½ years' purchase on existing rents; only the portion of the estate in which Mr. Wills-Sandford had a life interest was concerned, 26007.—No sale of the estate had taken place, 26008.

Estate Books as Means of Ascertaining Net Income.

Only way in which net income could be ascertained was by an examination of the estate books; negotiations would be in an advanced stage if that were done, but witness was not acquainted with the formalities between vendors and Congested Districts Board, 26009-13.—Land Purchase would be considerably expedited if landlords were willing to submit estate books in connection with negotiations; tenants would be willing to satisfy reasonable demands, 26014-5.—Witness was not aware that the Land Conference defined net income as second term rents, or its equivalent, less 10 per cent. reduction, without reference to estate books, 26022-3.

Landlords Unwilling to Sell Untenanted Grazing Land.

No landlord had absolutely refused to sell property, but the remark did not apply to untenanted grazing land, 26016-9.—Attempts made by some landlords to divide untenanted grazing land prior to approaching Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board; practice of selling ten or fifteen-acre holdings to highest bidder ought to be discountenanced, 26020.—Best procedure in public auctions was to sell untenanted portion and occupied portion as one transaction, 26021.

Board and Commissioners Should Secure as Much Untenanted Land as Possible, Even if they Had to Hold it for Four or Five Years.

Strong recommendations to Estate Commissioners and Congested Districts Board to secure all untenanted land offered at a reasonable price, 26025, 26103, 26106.—Most desirable farm of 700 or 800 acres within two miles of Castlerea; negotiations stopped pending report of Commission, in order to see who was going to be uppermost; the Government agency was responsible for the rupture of negotiations; but the land ought to be obtained; easy to settle afterwards who was to deal with it, 26025-34.—If Congested Districts Board were compelled to buy large tracts of untenanted land, and were to hold it for five or ten years, it could be usefully employed, and the people would show no great discontent, knowing that the land would evenually be theirs, 26034-8.—The people would not be contented if the lands were held for the avowed purpose of putting on them migrants from other counties, 26039.—Claims of Roscommon people should be first considered; but, if there were not a sufficient number of migrants in Roscommon there would be objections to migrants from other counties setting aside claims of sons of tenants, 26042-3.—Congested Districts Board would not have the land in their hands for anything like ten years; once the class of people in Roscommon who ought to be helped to the land had been provided for objection to migrants from other countries would be removed, 26053.—If Congested Districts Board were strengthened and made a national body, rather than a local one, all objections could be got over; in the interests of the tenants it was desired to settle, 26054. Desirable to hold part of the land for a certain number of years; planting would go on from time to time, after claims of local people had been considered, 26056-60.—Admission that the land would have to be held in Roscommon did not imply that there was an insufficient number of congests; not enough machinery to carve up entire County of Roscommon all at once, 26061-3.—Question of what was to be done with the land held for several years would be best left to the body entrusted with the entire solving of the question; a certain amount of discretionary power would be necessary, 26066-71.—More popular for Congested Districts Board to divide land amongst sons of tenants than to hold it until suitable migrants were found; probably Congested Districts Board would have to run counter to strong feeling in the district if they pursued any other policy, 26072-74.—Also a question which would be better left to the body who was to carry out the scheme; witness desired that Ireland should be allowed to carve her own joints, but he had said as much as was prudent at existing stage in working out of problem, 26074-8.

Distribution of Land—Priority of Claims.

No land in Roscommon should be given to anybody outside until it was certain that there was no son of a tenant or migrant who wanted the land, 26079-80. —Constitution of proposed responsible body, Congested Districts Board with one member from each county added to the Board, 26081.—First, the suitable heads of families should be satisfied, but witness was not prepared to go into particulars of what should be done next, 26082-7.—There would possibly be some surplus land for division in Roscommon after satisfying suitable congests, any amount of unreclaimed land which tenants would be glad to convert into economic holdings; considerable feeling against migration, 26088-9.—Means of mitigating the feeling by placing the responsibility upon several men in each county, selected by the Council, but not necessarily members; strong man in his own locality would be a suitable person, 26090-2.—There should not be any difference between one county and another, but people in one parish would sometimes object even to migrants from another parish; settlement of unit for migration should be left to the authority, 26093-9.—Sons of large farmers were not included in the description sons of tenants, 26100-2.—Witness had already outlined the machinery to be applied to lands acquired with State money, but was not prepared to indicate exact methods, 26104-12.—Relief of congestion was only part of the problem; the great question in Ireland was the cultivation of lands at present not thoroughly worked, and creation of a peasantry on plains from which forefathers were evictad, 26113, 26134.—Great care should be exercised in selecting a suitable class of men, and, other things being equal, heads of families should first be relieved, 26113-4.—Migrants from Donegal would never come to Roscommon, so witness felt safe in not making any objection; there might be objection to migrants from Galway or Mayo, but it could be overcome, 26115-7.

FITZGIBBON, Mr. J.—*continued.*

FITZGIBBON, Mr. J.—*continued.*

Origin of Land Conference.

Negotiations called the Kilmainham Treaty ended in release of prisoners through an arrangement to have Arrears Act of 1882 brought in; other negotiations took place between witness and a large land agent of Radical-Tory type, belonging to County Roscommon; to him and to Mr. Crosbie belonged the credit of conceiving the idea of the Land Conference in 1902; Land Conference would never have taken place but for Lord Dudley's idea that Ireland should be governed according to Irish ideas, and Sir Antony MacDonnell's appointment, 26121.—If Mr. Wyndham was also entitled to a share of the credit, witness would gladly concede it, 26122-3.

Interests Represented by Witness.

Witness represented not only interests of tenant-farmers, but everyone belonging to his organisation, in proposing the scheme of restoring the land to the people; Mr. Boyd represented a narrow-minded remnant that was daily getting smaller; witness's advice to them was to throw in their lot with the rest, and take a share in creating their country's prosperity, 26123.

Constitution of Royal Commission.

Existing Commission was a fair sample of England's best disposition towards Ireland; appointed for the purpose of finding out what was wrong, 26123, 26178.—Sir John Colomb had probably been selected for his moderating influence, and Mr. Bryce was very anxious to befriend Ireland, 26123.—Sir Antony MacDonnell was most anxious to serve his country, but his long absence had placed him under considerable disadvantage, his Indian experience rendering it difficult for him to adapt his ideas to the circumstances of his own country, 26124-5, 26380.

Depopulation of Ireland.

Existing population of Ireland a little more than four millions, and present conditions might be attributed to loss of more than half the population, and that half to a great extent the manhood of the country; only means of reversing the process was by selecting the best men and planting them on fertile soil, 26124.

Criticism of Evidence Before Commission.

Any good in the laws made for Ireland was generally lost in administration, 26126, 26178.—There were men in Ireland who had made statements before the Commission to which witness took exception; Sir Horace Plunkett, who had advised caution, was an able, nice gentleman, well-meaning, but a good deal out of the country; ability and education were not necessary for the understanding of the question; witness had been selected to give evidence because he had been through the whole campaign, from 1879 up to the present, and understood the question thoroughly, 25126.

Selection of Migrants.

Every holder of an uneconomic holding was not suitable for successful working of a farm in new country; about one in five would be the proportion for some time; the remaining four might be divided into two classes—two who do not wish to leave their holdings, and two who would probably be a failure if transplanted, such as an old couple whose children were settled elsewhere; the strongest should be the one to be transplanted, and his holding could be divided among the four left; the condition of the one would be materially improved, and of the four improved somewhat; the four holdings could be rendered economic by adding the reclaimed land adjoining, 26134-8.

Migratory Labour from Castlerea Union.

Witness had given evidence before the Commission on Distress for Want of Employment, in reference to the numbers who yearly left Castlerea Union in order to seek employment in England, 26139-42.—Statistics given referred to 1895: 885 labourers, 20 holders of land of 5 acres, 87 holders of 10 acres, 56 holders of 15 acres, 24 holders of 20 acres, 5 holders of 25 acres, 6 holders of 30 acres, and 4 holders of 40 acres; total of 1,087 males leaving Castlerea Union; 283 belonging to Mayo, and in Castlerea Union, also left Castlerea Station, 26142.—Figures were taken from Parliamentary Returns for 1895, 26142.—In many cases people were too poor to pay travelling expenses to England; obliged to pawn coats, and to depend on shopkeepers to give their families credit until they could send help from England; not always successful in finding employment in England; a bad season meant great loss and disappointment; poverty caused by want of sufficeint employment at home and from want of any employment, 26142.—In the case of holders of 40 acres, 35 of those would be unreclaimed land; poverty was chronic owing to poverty of soil, small size of holdings, and excess of population over what the land could bear; also to want of employment, 26142.—Employment might be provided by Congested Districts Board, 26142.—Statistics of migration given relating to Castlerea Union were not only applicable to neighbouring unions, but the figures were in some cases larger. Migrants when at home cultivated their own little holdings; they had practically nothing to do; if it were possible to get only half the wages at home they would not go to England; idleness was practically compulsory, holdings too small to permit of continual employment, and capital was small. Women often cultivated the holdings while the men were in England. Labour of migrants to England mostly confined to agricultural operations; there might be isolated cases of employment at gas-works or docks, but it was rare. Very small proportion of men stayed behind when it was time to return home—possibly one in three. There was no particular means of conveying information that work was obtainable; sometimes farmers in England wrote or sent travelling expenses, but in most cases the men simply risked it; vastly preferable to keep the men at home, but if they must go elsewhere to seek employment reliable information would be useful, 26143.—Witness was aware that Connemara men were not suitable for migration, 26143.—They had not been accustomed to work agricultural holdings, 26170-4.

Extended Powers for Congested Districts Board Proposed.

Congested Districts Board very useful; unfortunately powers were very limited; suggestion that power should be enlarged and area of operations extended; Board should especially devote itself to reclamation and drainage of waste land. Migration Department of the Board had been so successful that witness advocated a large extension of its operations, transfer of people from districts where land was inferior and holdings were small to the large unpopulated districts; for instance, in case of 200 tenants with five acres each, if ten tenants were transferred and five acres each added to the other acres, condition of the people would be improved; purchase of pasture land by Congested Districts Board whenever offered proposed, and sale in fifteen-acre lots to industrious tenants. Where tenants were located on good ground there was rarely such poverty as where the land was poor and the rents small. Working of the Ffrench Estate had been very successful; holdings were increased, and in some cases tenants were transferred, 26143.

Development of Industries.

If the fishing could not be improved it would be desirable to try and create an industry, 26144.—Hosiery industry had been most successful, one factory in Newtownards which began with eight, and now had 500 employees, 26144.—Secret of success was to get hold of the right man, no use without, 26146-7.—Flimsy excuse for not starting industries to say that animosity would be aroused against enterprises started wtih State capital, 26148-52.—Witness did not believe in State-aided industries, and would rather that Ireland was allowed to rest on her own resources, 26152.—Industries should be started if the one man could be found, and if he found that capital was necessary, then the State might make an advance, but it would not do for the State to work the factory, etc., itself, 26154-61.—Prosperous industries existing by means of private capital should not be interfered with, State aid warrantable only in absence of such industries or where there is no chance of injurious competition; not much danger, very often they were not the best men in a State-aided factory, 26162-9.—Test of suitability for migration was sobriety, industry, thrift, and capability, 26173-4.

LAND SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO IRISH VIEWS.

Ireland was entitled to carve her joints according to her own views; if it was done according to English views, it would unquestionably make hash of them, 26178, 26259-60.—Finding of Commission would be a half measure, due to the fact of having timorous men on the Commission; question required to be settled by capable men, and certain members of the Commission were trying to have an incapable body appointed, 26180-2.—Necessity of providing the three joints already detailed by witness; the parting between present owners and their lands would be sad, but not so sad as the partings at railway stations between emigrants and their parents; if there was to be a row, better have it at once instead of keeping it simmering for the next twenty-seven years as it had been since the Act of 1881, 26184-6.

MIGRATION.

Witness's views with regard to migration were exactly the same as they had been eleven years previously; his evidence given before the Commission was similar to that given before the Commission on Distress from Want of Employment, 26191-5.

AMALGAMATION OF BOARD AND COMMISSION QUESTION.

Not desirable to have an amalgamation of the Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board; they should do the same work, but not in the same provinces, and the work ought not to overlap, 26196.—If uniformity of price was to be the rule, it was necessary for one body to deal with one district; Estates Commissioners purchased the Balfe Estate, and Congested Districts Board bought adjoining estate at a lower price; tenants on Balfe Estate got better value than on the other estate, the rents were less than the others, 26118.—Also at Ballingar, two adjoining estates had been bought by the two bodies, and there was the same difference in price as between prices paid for the Clancy and Balfe Estates, value of land to be offered by Congested Districts Board being much the better, 26198.—Donegal, Cork, and Kerry were not in Connaught, but they were Connaught counties for the purpose of defining the congested area, 26200-3.—Congested Districts Board should have the same powers and privileges in dealing with land as the Estates Commissioners, such as the privilege of dealing with evicted tenants; friction had occurred between the two bodies over the grants to evicted tenants on the De Freyne Estate, 26203-6.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK OF LAND PURCHASE, ETC., BETWEEN BOARD AND COMMISSION PROPOSED.

Connaught counties and other congested counties should be worked exclusively by the Congested Districts Board, the Estates Commissioners doing similar work in the other three provinces, 26207.—Congested Districts Board should retain purchase powers over all the scheduled areas in Connaught, and also over all the non-scheduled part of any county within which there were scheduled areas, 26209-12.—Congested Districts Board should do the entire work in Connaught, Donegal, and Mayo, and leave Kerry and Cork to the Estates Commissioners, 26214-7, 26229.—Witness was not prepared to say how the congests in Donegal, Cork, Kerry, and Clare were to be dealt with, 26218-23, 26227-8.—Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners should have similar powers in dealing with congestion, 26230-3.—Witness did not suggest uniformity of treatment in Connaught, Cork, and Kerry; he would deal with circumstances according to requirements, 26235.

COMMON MEETING PLACE FOR THE THREE DEPARTMENTS PROPOSED.

The three Departments: Congested Districts Board, Estates Commissioners, and Department of Agriculture, should have a common meeting place and be at each other's disposal in the way of information, and supply of surplus land, 26208, 26236.—Meeting place of Congested Districts Board might from time to time be in the counties where they were operating; lack of continuous supervision placed direction of the machinery in the hands of officials of the Board, 26238-43.

RETENTION OF BOARD; QUESTION OF BOARD'S CONSTITUTION, ETC.

There were some members of Congested Districts Board who had never seen a congested district, one, at any rate, who had only taken a motor tour; everyone had confidence in the Board so long as Mr. Doran took part; he was capable and sympathetic, and had lived all his life among the class of people it was desired to help, 26244-50.—Continuous supervision was most essential; greater supervision and increased funds would be needed under the new arrangement; most imprudent to transfer officials of Congested Districts Board to Estates Commissioners, 26252.—Success of working of Congested Districts Board depended upon its constitution; if Congested Districts Board were done away with at present it would be giving the credti of those who had done the work to those who came in at the twelfth hour; it was necessary to retain men who had the confidence of the people and who could put down any trouble or friction, 26253.—United Irish League was decidedly in favour of retention of Congested Districts Board, 26254, 26259.—Witness's scheme would require more constant attention upon part of Board than was at present given, one day a week was sufficient; present satisfactory condition of Board might not always exist, but there were plenty of the same class of men in reserve, 26255-7.—Nothing had happened in relation to transactions of Congested Districts Board that would justify Parliament in objecting to its retention, or to possession of such great powers by an irresponsible body, 26258.

WORK OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Department of Agriculture ought to be in every province at the initial stages of the new homes; the Department had not done exactly the same class of work as Congested Districts Board, but it ought to have a certain amount of work laid out for itself, 26261-2, 26264.—Witness was in favour of principle of the Department, but was not satisfied with sentiment of individual members; Sir H. Plunkett was a little sensitive, and Professor Campbell said things incautiously, 26263.

ASSISTING TOWN TENANTS TO ACQUIRE HOUSES AND PLOTS.

Desirability of assisting town tenants connected with rural districts to acquire their houses and plots, the State taking the precaution that their advances were properly secured, 26266-73.

OBSTACLES TO MIGRATION; LACK OF TURBARY, ETC.

One cause why migrants were reluctant to move from districts where there was plenty of fuel was that in other districts fuel was scarce; establishment of compressed peat industry proposed, so that one load would be equivalent to five loads of uncompressed peat, 26274, 26285-7.—Congested Districts Board were considering the matter, and were simply waiting for the latest invention; industry had already passed beyond the experimental stage; witness understood it was working in Maryborough, 26275-82.—Another objection to removing was the high price of land in non-congested districts; the smaller the amount of land the new tenant gave up the higher the rent of the new holding, 26282.—Compressed peat industry ought to be carried out in all its details; Congested Districts Board could retain a certain amount of turbary and start an industry to supply compressed peat to estates on which there was no turbary, 26283-4, 26288-9, 26293.—Compressed peat sold at about 10*s.* a ton; industry would pay, and it would supply a want where fuel was scarce; trade contemplated for local purposes, but any surplus might be exported, 26290-2.—Two useful purposes would be served: fuel would be supplied where it was scarce, and employment would be given; surplus land, after meeting requirements of tenants, varied on various estates; Congested Districts Board were buying all the bogs they could, 26293-5.—Profit of industry should be earmarked for local expenditure if necessary, and should be dealt with by Congested Districts Board, 26298.—Congested Districts Board ought to initiate industries for people in position described, if there were not much risk of loss, 26296-7.—Absence of turbary was an obstacle which prevented desirable tenants removing from congested districts; establishment of peat compressing industry would be

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an inducement, 26299-301.—Areas otherwise suitable for purchase need not be rejected on account of distance of turbary; witness knew of prosperous small holdings, comfort due to good land, although tenants had to travel four or five miles for the turbary, 26301.—Value of land for grazing purposes was the same whether near a turf bog or not, not as valuable to the small farmer on area distant from turf, 26303. Willingness to migrate was increasing very much; Board was keeping the people back in order to have the pick of the tenants, 26303.

Mixed Farming Advocated; Crops to be Grown, Etc.

Witness was not in favour of compulsory migration; there was a great willingness, but they all looked for the nearest point to that they were proposing to leave, 26305-9.—Suitable migrant on a thirty-acre farm in Roscommon could make it profitable in the following way: the more tillage the better, large tracts of land in Roscommon had not been broken up for 100 years; feeding qualities of the land were under 30 per cent. of what they were thirty years ago, 26310.—By tillage, witness meant growing of feeding stuffs for cattle, 26311.—Ten acres of the farm should be tilled if possible, and produce should be consumed on the farm in feeding cattle, pigs, etc.; farmer should grow his own corn and get as much as he possibly could for his stock and family out of the land, 26312.—Potatoes, turnips, and mangold could be grown, also wheat where the land was suitable, 26313-4.—Very few farmers in Roscommon grew wheat; witness knew of one successful holding worked on the lines described, 26315.—Fruit might be added to the other crops, but not tobacco; crops grown should be either for farmers' own use or for use of their horses and cattle, 26316-9.—Barley was sometimes grown, generally near distilleries, not of much use in Roscommon, 26320.

Distribution of Land; Priority of Claims.

Witness's statement that Connemara men should not be migrated was based upon the evidence of those who knew them intimately; if it were possible to find in Connemara men of a suitable class, witness would be quite willing that they should come to Roscommon, and they would be helped if any of the joint was to spare, but witness was not willing that they should have a preference over the sons of tenants in Roscommon, 26323-47.—A certain class of tenants was meant, the sons of men who would facilitate migration by giving up, or inducing their father to give up their old holding, 26352.—Not possible to lay down hard and fast rules on the question; better to leave it to whatever authority was to carry out the scheme, 26353-5.

Holdings that Could be Made Economic.

Two out of every five holdings at present uneconomic could be made economic by a system of drainage and reclamation, 26358.

Land Suitable for Afforestation.

Large amount of land in some districts suited for no other purpose than planting trees; it was too poor for tillage, but reafforestation would provide employment, and perhaps change the climate, 26359-60.—Bogland was useful for tillage when drained and reclaimed, but the land described could scarcely be made crop-producing, 26360-1.—Proposal was limited to land held by large graziers let at a very low rate, 26365-8.—Large tracts of land of the kind spoken of had already been purchased by Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board; witness knew of an area of land in Roscommon which the owner would be glad to sell for any purpose, and which would be useful for planting, 26396-74.—Rent of the farm which witness had mentioned as being put up for auction must have been about £100 a year, annuity was about £80, 26376.

Time and Trouble Required to Solve Problem of Congestion.

Doctrine of the land for the people was a universal gospel, and witness hoped that object of the Commission was finally to settle the question; there was no difficulty to those who knew, but it would not do to rob Peter to pay Paul, as Sir Antony MacDonnell had proposed to do in taking a bit out of Roscommon to give it to Mayo, 26380.—Object of amalgamating Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners was to settle the question quickly, but the question could not be settled in a hurry; it required the greatest care and attention, and sympathetic officials were needed.

Amalgamation of Board and Commission Question.

Congested Districts Board had done well; Estates Commissioners had gone over much more ground, but their work was different, it was simply distributing holdings. Difficulty arose with estates like the De Freyne Estate, where holdings were held on the rundale system, one field belonging to one man and the next field belonging to a neighbour; work of Congested Board was to place holdings together, improve houses, carry out drainage, etc.; amalgamation with Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners at the present juncture would be giving the credit of the Board's work to a new set of men; work of the Board was evidence of what could be done by any Board in Ireland having the confidence of the people; presence of Dr. O'Donnell and Father Denis O'Hara on the Board was of itself sufficient to inspire the people with confidence; co-ordination between the two Departments was necessary, but overlapping was undesirable; with similar powers, each Department should deal with different parts of the country; alteration of constitution of Congested Districts Board would be against the wish of the people for whom it was intended. Caution in dealing out one joint at a time would probably destroy success of scheme outlined by witness; result would be the same as on the Dillon Estate, one set of congests would be helped and another set left unhelped.

Evils of Emigration.

Witness was anxious to keep the young men in the country and to prevent the terrible partings at railway stations between emigrants and their parents, the one hope being that of being able to return soon; witness had a book containing names of men living abroad who had saved money and were anxious to return home; there were also names of those who by thrift and industry at home had accumulated from £100 to £200; these were the men who should be planted on the land. Sole cause for regret in connection with Congested Districts Board was that they had not much greater powers and much more money; if number one joint only was supplied the men would give up all hope of ever getting land; from British point of view, desirable to have them for the army or police. Mr. Birrell had gone to Ireland, not to teach, but to learn, and witness advised the Commission to do the same, 26379-80.

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Trustee Securities, Highest Class.

Bank of England had only one firm of stockbrokers, 22336.—Highest class of trustee securities were Consols, at 86, yielding £2 18s.; other Government Stocks, such as Transvaal 3 per Cent. and Guaranteed $2\frac{3}{4}$ per Cent. Irish Stock, at about 87; other trustee securities were English Railway Debenture Stocks, $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{7}{8}$ per Cent., Indian Government and Railway Stocks, and English Railway Stocks, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent.; also Colonial Stock, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 22338-9.—Above-mentioned not all first-class, but all allowed under Trustee Act, 22340-2.—No security as good as English Government Stock, 22344.—Colonial Stock included Crown Colony Stock, 22345.—Which was not absolutely guaranteed, 22345a.

Investments Authorised Under Section 31 of Act of 1903.

Investments authorised under Section 31 of Act of 1903 included securities not allowed under Trustee Act, 22346, 22348.—Including out-of-the-way Irish securities, such as Baronial Guaranteed Railway Stocks, 22350-1.—Amount of such stock very small, 22351-5, 22375-6.—Absence of limit would not force up price, 22362.—Average return on securities under section ran up nearly to 4 per cent., 22356, 22359.—As a matter

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of fact, only trustee securities had been allowed up to the present, 22346.—Because there was a veto, 22349.—English Railway Ordinary Stock hardly desirable for trustee investment, because income was derived from profits of the year and must fluctuate, 22346, 22400.—Return, per cent., might reach 4½ per cent., 22347.

RATE OF INTEREST GIVEN BY VARIOUS CLASSES OF SECURITIES.

Summing up, first class of securities gave about 3 per cent., 22357.—Second class, 3¼ to 3½, 22358.—Securities under Section 51 nearly 4 per cent., 22359.—No difficulty in getting five to ten millions of Class No. 2 Stock, 22360-1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Foreign Railways not included in Section 51, 22365—nor allowed under Trustee Act, 22366.—Nor Colonial Railway Stock, 22367-9.—Some Colonial and Foreign Railways quite good, 22370.

TRUSTEE INVESTMENTS; AVERAGE YIELD, ETC.

Trustees could go outside Trustee Act only with approval of public trustee, 22371-3.—People invested in No. 1 Stock partly because it was more easily realisable, partly because many old people preferred Consols, 22377.—Fluctuations no greater in Class 2 than in Class 1, 22378.—Cheaper to invest in Consols, 22379.—Average yield of typical trustee securities other than Government Stock: 1901, £3 0*s.* 8*d.*; 1902, £3 1*s.* 0*d.*; 1903, £3 3*s.* 4*d.*; 1904, £3 6*s.* 5*d.*; 1905, £3 2*s.* 9*d.*; 1906, £3 4*s.* 10*d.*, 22380-1. All first-class securities fell during 1904, owing to Russian war, 22381-3.—At present first-class securities were about the lowest on record, 22385.—Yielding about £3 7*s.* 6*d.*, 22386.—Partly because much money was wanted, 22387.—Securities given were the very best of No. 2 Class, and, though lower than ever before, yielded barely 3½, 22388-97.

SOME SECURITIES MENTIONED NOT GOOD FOR TRUSTEES; RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

Some securities mentioned not good enough for trustees, and should be eliminated, 22417, 22418-9, 22425.—But no additional security was needed so long as there was the veto of public trustee, 22398-9, 22402.—Extension of range of investments would give public trustee a great responsibility, 22404.—Impossible to extend range of really safe investments, 22406. Irish letter said his permission was required for investment in anything outside trustee securities, but no list of the permitted outside investments was published, 22045.—There were ample trustee securities, 22407, 22428, 22479.

INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF FIRST-CLASS SECURITIES, AND INCREASED YIELD.

151 millions of Government Stock created during South African war; permission since 1900 to invest in Colonial Securities gave additional 236 millions; during last ten years there were available 115 millions of Corporation Stocks and Trustee Securities, 22479-80.—Interest higher than at any time during last twenty years, 22481, 22487.—War debt now yielded £2 18*s.* 1*d.*, 22483-4.—Increase in securities available to increase interest, 22485-6.—Transvaal Loan gave just over 3 per cent., 22488-9.—Colonial Stock would average 3⅜ per cent., 22491.—Municipal Stock perhaps a shilling more, 22492.—Trustees far better off than five or six years ago, 22493-6.

POWERS OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

Power of public trustee to limit interest an owner could get for sale; proceeds might to a certain extent affect price a vendor would accept, 22408-16.—If investments were limited to ordinary trustee securities public trustee would not be needed, 22423, 22425, 22430, 22437.—All securities fluctuated; no harm for a trustee to invest in any security whose interest was absolutely guaranteed, 22429.—Since a landlord who made up his mind to sell knew he would not get a farthing of the price for at least two years, and no one could tell what interest would be on a given security at that distance of time, the advice of public trustee could not really affect selling price, 22439-42.—No reason why an Irish landowner selling his land should not do as he liked with proceeds, so long as it was not settled property, 22431-6, 22505-6.

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IRISH LAND STOCK.

Land Stock raised under Irish Land Act so far had been £5,000,000, £6,000,000, and £7,000,000, and these had not appreciably affected money market, 22443, 22471.—It was only a transfer of securities, 22471-2.—Up to £10,200,000 might be issued, but it would always be easier to put £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 on the market, 22443, 22464-5.—Price of stock at present down to 86, 22444-6.—Price moved in sympathy with Consols, 22448-9, 22452-4.—Prices unduly depressed by expectation of new issue, 22450, 22463.—Would not be quite so high as Consols, 22453.—Partly because market for Consols was far greater, 22457-9.—Position which must continue till all land transfer transactions were completed, 22451, 22455-6.—Creation of large additional amount would not raise price, because it would have to be issued at lower price, 22460-1.—Whole amount of money not available for investment at psychological moment, 22473.—No prejudice against stock by reason of its name, 22466-9.—Bank would be warned of proposed new issue of stock, 22476-8.

OUTLOOK.

Impossible to say whether present state of things would last; outlook not very hopeful, 22497-9.—It must take time to change, and the longer the better for investors, 22501-3.—Not safe to base land policy on present conditions, 22500.

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WYNDHAM, RIGHT HON. G.

POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness became Chairman of Congested Districts Board by resolution of members, position of other members being co-equal with his own, subject to greater facilities of access to other departments, consequent on position as Chief Secretary, 22795-6.—Actions in Parliament by the Chief Secretary relating to the Board were as a member of the Board simply, and did not involve Ministerial responsibility, except in case of failing to maintain continuity of necessary legislation, 22797.

COMPULSORY POWERS NOT DESIRABLE, AND WOULD BE GRANTED WITH DIFFICULTY.

Compulsory powers were not a necessary condition of Board's effective action, 22798.—Witness thought the Board had not gone anything like as far as it could without resorting to compulsion; if there were compulsory powers there would be a temptation to short-cuts, 22818.—Friction would be created, and cost and delay increased, 22821, 22829, 22840.—The House of Commons would probably not give compulsory powers without appeal to a judge; neither would such powers make the transactions of the Board larger, 22840.—The Congested Districts Board had begun in an experimental way, and ultimately had thought it better to embrace a large area, and to be a landlord for some years; if compulsory powers were granted, the Board would have to receive a sanction for compulsion on particular estates, which would involve a quick re-sale, in witness's opinion very undesirable; the present Board, with only voluntary powers, and some financial assistance, would go faster than the Board with compulsory powers, 22840.—Difficulty of Board's getting into its hands land available for relief of congestion without compulsion had been met by a provision in the Act of 1903, forbidding creation of new tenancies, or sale of newly-created tenancies after a certain date, 22893.—Acts of 1901 and 1903 were intended to remove obstacles to effective action, but no legislation on such a subject could be final, 22799.

OBJECTS OF ACT OF 1903.

Objects of Act of 1903 were: (*a*) purchase of estates; (*b*) the cure of congestion throughout Ireland to be included in operations for purchase of estates, 22800.—This applied to the whole of Ireland, 22801-2.—In regard to congested districts objects were: (*a*) to enlarge credit for purchase, the Board being allowed access to the whole guarantee fund of county in which scheduled district was found, and credit value of fund doubled, 22800, 22802; (*b*) separate credit for acquiring untenanted land, interest on a million and a half of Irish Church Surplus Fund being used to form a guarantee fund for untenanted land, 22800, 22802; (*c*) working capital for improvements, £20,000 a year being added to Board's income, 22800, 22802; (*d*) greater administrative facilities, as when a property outside a congested district was acquired for benefit of the district, some part was allowed to be handed over for benefit of people in the locality, 22800, 22808.—Power was got to resume and develop for purpose of migration and enlargement of holdings, 22810.—Illustration: purchase by Board of three congested properties for £9,000, and untenanted land to the amount of £3,500; small people on the fringe capable of being dealt with for £500; £500 worth of property would be handed over to the Estates Commissioners, and the advance of £500 would fall on guarantee fund of county; thus property to the value of £12,000 would remain to Board, the sum being advanced to them on payment of annual interest of $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for five years or, pending sale, during which time some of the difference between interest and rent would be saved, if possible, 22811.

Two-fold Operations of Act of 1903.

Operations of Act, two-fold: (*a*) purchase of land; (*b*) execution of improvements, loss on either separately compensated, loss on price of land purchased by Estates Commissioners not to exceed 10 per cent., without calculating money spent on improvements, 22802-3.—Witness was speaking of congested districts estates, 22804.—Object was to prevent extravagant execution of works, and to secure assistance from people to be benefited, 22805, 22816.—Period during which Board could act as landlord was eight years, reduced to five, against witness's better judgment; five years not a sufficient time to deal with worst properties, 22816.—Such an estate in Erris, Stranorlar, and Lettermullen, 22817.

Work of Parish Committees.

No portion of increased grant to Board was available for Parish Committees, 22875.—Witness had put forward great advantage to Congested areas of developing Parish Committees, 22876.—It would be departing from the paternal character of the Board if it gave up that work, 22883.

Loss on Land Purchase.

Framers of Act of 1903 thought loss on purchase of land would not be on uneconomic holdings, but on untenanted land; assuming a loss of £1,000 on £12,000, Board would have to pay $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on that £1,000 for sixty-eight years, unless sum so lost were saved out of margin between rents received and interest due, 22811.—But in practice transactions were complete on sale to tenants, and losses on purchase of land or on works were totalled as so much lost to the income of the Board, 22815.—Purchase of untenanted land was contemplated from the first; that principle and principle of loss in connection with uneconomic land sanctioned by Government in 1901 and 1902, 22819.—Loss not desirable, but some loss must be contemplated, an aggregate loss of 10 per cent. being allowed for by Government, 22820-2, 22831.—Even outside Congested Districts, 22830.—Loss occurred because land was in such a bad condition; land in better condition if bought and improved might involve a gain, 22821-2, 22824, 22830.—Compulsion would involve a greater loss, 22821.—Question could not be restricted to untenanted land, because untenanted land was bought to remedy defects in other land, and loss must be attributed to whole area, 22823, 22831-3.—It would not be worth while to sell bad land unless it were improved, and it could not be improved without buying untenanted land, 22825.—Congested Districts Board had power to buy, administer, and sell a property as it pleased, but extravagance might involve curtailment of its powers, 22834.—As to portion of transaction on which loss occurred, witness referred to what was in the mind of the framers of the Act, not to anything in the Act itself, 22835-6.—Act had given a large income to Board to enable it to undertake transactions which involved loss; if, with a loss of £1,000 in income, it settled the question over a large area, it should have a good case in asking for more money, 22836.—In general purchases, loss on the price of land was kept distinct, 22802.—Estates Commissioners in purchasing land must state that it could be re-sold at a loss of ten per cent, 22802, 22855.

Increased Price of Land Under Act of 1903.

Enhanced prices spoken of in Act of 1903 preferred to prices given by a purchaser to the Board, 22802.—Increased price for land under Act of 1903 had no real bearing on the problem of congestion; the purchase of untenanted land in order to carry out large improvements was really a new problem, 22880.—Untenanted land was always at a high price in Ireland; the more that was paid the higher the instalments of settlers, 22881.—Untenanted land of best quality only in the market at a prohibitive price for agricultural purposes; if only good grass land was bought better for it to remain as common pasturage, 22881.—This would benefit the people materially, 22881-2.—It was mainly by buying grass land at a low grade that a settlement of question could be arrived at, 22818.

Class of Untenanted Land which should be Bought.

Very important to buy indifferent grass land, 22881.—Under Act of 1903 there was power to resume a tenancy in connection with migration; they should be able to get a grant for this purpose, 22873.—Purchase of untenanted land might be spread practically over $68\frac{1}{2}$ years, 22874.—To keep untenanted land available it was laid down that new tenancies could not be created after a certain date, and money would not be advanced for purchase of tenancies above a certain size, 22893.—State credit could not be used to sell untenanted land as large holdings, 22894, 22902.—Untenanted land could only be bought by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board for relief of congestion, 22901-2.—Witness was not aware that a number of small holdings were being created, but would consider it so much to the good, 22895, 22899A.—The ordinary law of supply and demand applied to price of untenanted land, 22917.

Position of Board and Commission Pending Sale to Tenants.

Congested Districts Board stood somewhat in position of ordinary landlord pending time of sale to tenant; that was the virtue of it, 22907.—Board and Estates Commissioners not exactly in this position, because they were released from some of provisions of Act of 1881, 22908.—Some of old power of landlords had been restored to Board, so that it might deal practically with properties, 22909.—It was in the position of landlord as far as rate-fixing went, 22910.—Not likely that many tenants by going into court and getting rents reduced would upset calculations of authority which had purchased land; hitherto Board had been able to carry tenantry with them, 22911.—Not within witness's knowledge that there was more objection to Estates Commissioners becoming landlords for a length of time than to Congested Districts Board; Congested Districts Board had the confidence of the people, 22914-5.—The Rent-fixing Department of the Land Commission was subordinate to the judicial tribunal, which was independent of any executive authority, 22916.

Cost of Improvements.

With regard to improvements, the cost was a separate matter; where the purchaser's improvement added to the price it was doubtfully contended that the amount could be advanced back to the reserve fund of the Estates Commissioners and to income account of Board, 22805.—The price was charged to the annuity, and was to be recovered from the annuity if it involved no loss, 22807-8.—The whole or part of the cost of improvements could be added to the price paid by purchasers from the Board, 22811.—Additional price in respect of improvements would be refunded to income account of Board; sums spent on improvements for which no additional price was received constituted a loss of income during holding of property, 22811.—Money borrowed for improvements from Board of Works involved loss of income and loss on the loan, accounts being cleared up on resale, 22811-4.

Single Authority Question—Possibilities of Clashing Between Board and Commission.

As to advisability of having one body or two, alternatives had been carefully considered before the Act was brought in, and it was felt better to leave Board to operate in places where it was known, and to face danger of clashing; both bodies were given access to County Guarantee Fund, but the Estates Commissioners could be directed not to buy untenanted land where there was danger of clashing, 22890, 22842-3.—Their procedure was more expeditious than that of the Board, 22841.—Object of putting them under control of Government was to avoid clashing and that the operations of land purchase might be directed where they were needed, 22844, 22850, 22890, 22900.—Section 2 of the Act contemplated various categories of persons to be assisted, but no priority was given to anyone; to reserve grass lands in Connaught for Board, and to exclude operations of Estates Commissioners would be too rigid a rule, 22845.—The Treasury and Government had decided to leave Board with increased facilities to deal with congestion in scheduled area, and to give Estates Commissioners facilities for dealing with it throughout Ireland, not operating much within Board's area, 22847-8.—This view would be in harmony with provisions of the Act, 22849.—Ample scope for energies of Estates Commissioners in dealing with congestion outside scheduled districts, as in glens of Antrim, Clare, and Tyrone, 22851-3.—Witness had in mind the possibility of clashing when Act of 1903 was passed; possibility of handing over whole of Ireland to Estates Commissioners had been considered, 22890. —It was found that both bodies could act without clashing, 22892.—The Government of the day must see that they did not clash, 22899, 22899a.—And taking away purchase powers of Congested Districts Board and giving them to new Department had been contemplated, but not for long, 22891.

Board Should be Continued, and its Funds Increased.

Witness thought operations of Board should be continued, 22837.—It had confidence of the people, and to that extent there was reason for leaving it, 22194.—In case of large transactions, witness would recommend House of Commons to continue Board, and give additional income, if required, 22838.—Did not see how necessary addition could be very large, 22839.—The Board had been pioneers, and provisions in Act of 1903 were based on their experience; witness would be sorry to abolish Board, even though true solution of congestion were yet to be found, 22853, 22880.—Board was unable to deal with land already acquired, their margin for improvements was so small; whereas the Estates Commissioners' loss of 10 per cent. on dealing with estates was met by their votes, 22861, 22863.—If Board could show that it was dealing with large areas it would have a good case to present to Parliament, 22854, 22866.—The Treasury said the Board, with its present income, must only buy £140,000 worth of property in each year; what lay behind this view was that a small number of estates should be bought in each year, dealt with, and resold; this was absolutely opposed to the true method, which was to buy a large amount of land and devote a certain number of years to putting it in order, 22854-5.—What the Board had to do was to say that in order to continue their work they required another £10,000 or £20,000 a year, 22862.—If they could represent their loss on land purchase as within a certain limit they would have a better case, 22855-6.—If a public loss were to be made it might as well be made by Board as by Estates Commissioners, 22864.

Treasury Representative to Attend Board's Meetings Suggested.

Witness suggested asking Treasury to appoint a representative to be present at Board's meetings, in order to assure the Treasury that Board would not exceed prescribed limit of loss, etc., 22856-60.—Loss would very likely exceed 8 per cent. in the future, 22859.—Treasury representative should attend as temporary member when land purchase problems and congestion were being discussed, 22867.—Would be a good informal method of giving Treasury information, to which additional grant would entitle them, 22868.—Would not be an infringement of Board's independence, 22877.—Witness was following precedent set when Sir Robert Holmes was given access to all parts of Irish administration, 22878.—Better to risk dependence than abolition, 22879.—Witness did not see why Treasury official should have more power if introduced as a member of the Board than he himself had as Chief Secretary, 22906.

Position and Objects of Board.

Witness was not aware of any stipulation to give more than £20,000 a year to Board when its agricultural work was handed over to new Department; idea was to concentrate Board's work on problem of congestion, and hand over other work to new Department, 22883.—Memorandum of 3rd October, 1903, represented a change in Board's objects, which were originally to improve industrial condition of people, not, as now, to buy and improve land, but from the start they had to consider all possible methods of dealing with congestion, rather than to prosecute any one object, 22888.—Witness depreciated waste, but thought more could be done to relieve congestion, and the Board was the best authority to carry out operations, 22817.—Its established position was to be relied on more than compulsory legislation, 22913.—Witness did not go so far as to say no fresh legislation was needed to carry out policy of Board; they ought to be able to pay for the tenant-right out of credit, and not out of income, 22912.—Act of 1903 not considered final on questions of finance, 22816.

Improvement of Social Life in Congested Districts the First Necessity—Board the Body Best Fitted to Effect this.

It was of little use to do anything until the social life in congested districts was improved, 22884.—Till then instruction in technicalities of agriculture would be positively dangerous in the very bad part, 22885.—Board's view had come to be that more good could be done for congested districts by giving them secure agricultural foundation than by attempting anything more ambitious, 22888.—Special relief should be given in worst cases of congestion, 22817.—If they had only touched fringe of congestion in West, it was because they had proceeded with many estates slowly and not with a few estates rapidly; system should be largely carried out by the people, who should understand they were contributing their share, 22869.—Purchase of estates had been more rapid, but disposal of property to tenants had not gone on at the same rate, 22870.—In dealing with worst cases they should come to an agreement with Government that there was to be a limit to loss, and that property might be held for a longer period than five years, 22871.—Properties could only be dealt with in this way, and witness thought Board was better able than any other Department to inculcate these views into minds of people who showed unwillingness to continue their farms without reductions, 22872.

Time Required.

Real relief would not be the matter of a short time; progress would be very slow unless great efforts were made, 22903-4.

Subvention in Relief of Taxation.

With regard to subvention in relief of taxation, witness thought that something in the nature of recommendations of Railway Commission should be given effect to, which would assist the Western districts, 22886.—Rates in several unions there were very high, 22887.—Inhabitants of scheduled areas were regarded as favoured people, 22919.

Definition of Congestion.

Definition of scheduled areas was accidental to relative prosperity of people inside and outside them, to a certain extent, 22920.—Wherever a line was drawn there was something just outside which might be included, 22921.

Development of Industries.

Development of industries in the West ought not to be abandoned, but amelioration of condition of agriculture the first consideration it was to be hoped Irish holders might pursue those in Switzerland, etc., by engaging in winter trades, but they had not done it yet, 22923.—Industries referred to were those of the cottage type, 22924.—Witness was not aware of any deleterious effect; some girls might overwork themselves in lace-making, 22928.—Did not share opinion that lace-making, etc., unfitted them for their station in life, 22928.—Large factories could not be started successfully under present economic conditions, 22925.

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BRENNAN, Mr. HENRY.

Question of Extension of Definition of Congestion.

Cliffoney North and Cliffoney South scheduled, but not Ross Inver East and Ross Inver West, 27373-4. Witness would like all Connaught to be scheduled, Ross Inver East and Ross Inver West were as poor as any scheduled areas, 27377, 27528-30, 27535.—Board did not schedule district if valuation per head exceeded 30*s.*, 27377, 27379-82—Extent of mountain land of inferior quality raised valuation in Ross Inver divisions, 27378.—Similarly circumstanced districts should also be scheduled, 27531-2.—Electoral division was smallest unit that should be scheduled, townland was too small, sometimes it had only sixteen inhabitants, 27533-5.—Board should take condition of people and extent of holdings into consideration, 27536.—Preferable to have some line of demarcation, 27537.—Possible to make one satisfactorily by definition, 27538.

Discretionary Power of Scheduling for a Representative Authority.

Witness did not altogether approve of Congested Districts Board, but authority dealing with question should have discretionary power of scheduling if it were a representative authority, 27547-8.—There should be a representative on the Congested Districts Board from every congested county in Ireland, 27550-2.

Necessity for Drainage of Flooded Area in Cliffoney North.

Drainage of flooded area in Cliffoney North, in townland of Bunduff, on Ashley estate was urgent, appeal already made to Board by the people 27382-4.—Seventeen tenants adjoining whose lands were flooded, road also flooded so that they had to trespass on fields to fetch doctor, or priest, etc.; drain through landlord's property, for which no compensation could be claimed, would relieve flooding; drain could be run into Atlantic, would cost little; landlord had been appealed to and said he would remedy it but had done nothing, 27384, 27386, 27406.—Area scheduled as congested, strong appeals had been made to witness, priest, and doctor, 27385, 27395, 27407.—Flood came from mountain, bog, and streams, tide did not affect the flooding, but stopped the outlet; only relief would be good open drain, piped and closed after a time; would benefit tenants and land for great distance, 27386-7.—A lock could be made to keep tide, and above suggestion could also be carried out, so witness was informed by people, he had not spoken to county surveyor, 27388-90, 27411.—People afraid to sue landlord for drainage as their rents were in arrears, so appealed to Board, 27390-1.—140 acres half covered by water, 71 acres suffered, 27392.—Eighteen people occupied holdings and were affected, 27393-4.—Board applied to two or three years ago on behalf of tenants, reply sent, 27397-9, 27413.—Nature of answer was that landlord made some objection, 27400-1, 27412.—He might have wanted swamp for birds, 27402-2A.—Chief tenant had been asked to come before Commission, 27404-5.—Witness had not applied personally to Board, 27409.—He drafted a memorial for the people which they signed, 27415.—Nothing more had been done, 27414,—Mullaghmore men not present, it was four miles from Grange, 27417-8.

Neglected Condition of Mullaghmore Harbour.—Alleged Expenditure by Congested Districts Board.

Mullaghmore Harbour, in Cliffoney North, required something done to it; it was the property of the landlord; length, 120 yards, breadth, 700 yards; vessels of any size would not get in, 27419-20.—Vessels of 100 or 120 tons went in with coal and kelp, 27421.—It was silted up and dry at neap tides, 12 feet deep at full tide, 27422-4, 27449-50.—Deep enough when first made, 27451.—Board, in Report for 1903, said they spent £348 on it; witness lived within a mile of it and had never seen anyone working though he must have had they been there, he had asked inhabitants of locality, and they had seen no one, 27425-7, 27428, 27434-7, 27441-3.—He disputed that money had been spent, 27429-30.—About three years ago breakwater was improved by cementing and concreting, 27431-2, 27438-40, 27443.—That was not expensive, it was 40 or 50 yards in length, and the work was done at the other end where the tide washed over it, 27444-6.—It might have cost £348, but not to witness's thinking, 27447-8.—Board did not consult local men in carrying out work in a locality, 27427.—Witness took deeper interest in Board in earlier days, it was becoming a second Commission of Estates now, 27433.—Cleaning of harbours should be done locally, no local hold of Mullaghmore harbour, it belonged to landlord, 27453-4.—He did not levy dues, 27455.—Sligo County Council contributed to maintenance of piers and harbours since Act of 1898, but not to the harbour in question, 27456-8.—Present owner never dredged harbour, late Lord Palmerston and Lord Mounttemple kept it in order, 27459.—Mr. Ashley had owned the property since about 1877, and had expended nothing on pier either before or after Act of 1881, 27460-3.

Kelp Industry in Mullaghmore.

Kelp industry had been successful and remunerative, hundreds of families used to gather seaweed and burn kelp, it had been monopolised by one buyer and had almost died out, 27464.—People had no encouragement and could not get market for kelp, £5 or £6 a ton formerly obtained, now £3 5*s.* was the highest price at end of season, 50*s.* and 30*s.*; not worth looking for at that price, iodine, etc., now got better and cheaper elsewhere and by other means than kelp, buyers fell off because it did not pay at the price, 27465-6.—Remedy suggested was for Board to give grant or seek to establish a market elsewhere, or to set up a kelp-making factory themselves, 27467.—If present buyers refused to purchase, substitutes would come from Spain or Cuba, 27469.—Complaint that kelp from Mullaghmore and Donegal was not as good as formerly, 27471-3.—Board could guarantee the article by sending inspector, but purchaser would still buy through his own man, 27474.—In either case he would only buy in expectation of profit, 27475.—Board might take up manufacture of iodine themselves, 27476-7.—Fall in price of kelp was general, 27482.—Good deal of Donegal kelp came to Mullaghmore Harbour, 27483.—Better seaweed at Mullaghmore, kelp fetched higher price there than in Donegal, 27484-5, 27492.—Price £3 5*s.* at beginning of season, 30*s.* or 20*s.* at end; people were disheartened and said it would not pay at less than £5 a ton, 27486-9.—In winter people had nothing else to do so made kelp, 27489.—Glasgow firm bought the kelp, 27490.—Makers ran it into a solid to sell, 27491.—May weed very good, great variety at Mullaghmore, 27493.

Desire of Mullaghmore Fishermen for a Curing House for Fish.

Curing house for fish where they could be opened and salted wanted at Mullaghmore; fishermen lost half their earnings because they had to return by 2 o'clock in the day to sell fish to local buyers; if they could stay till 4 or 5 o'clock and sell them or get them cured they would make more money, great take was from 2 to 5 o'clock, 27494-5, 27523.—Mackerel, haddock, whiting, and general fish caught in the daytime were spoken of, 27496.—Men went at 5 a.m. for mackerel and fished all day, 27497-8.—There were curing houses at Dunmore, 27498.—Matter had not been brought before Board or Fishery Branch of Department, 27499.—Want felt for a long time, 27500.—All fish sold fresh, buyers came from Bundoran and Sligo, and fish were sent away to different places, some in barrels, 27502-5.—Nothing done to the fish before putting them into barrels, 27506-9.—Witness lived in next village to Mullaghmore Harbour, and knew its ways well, 27510.—Idea was for Board to establish curing house and send man to teach people to cure and salt fish, 27511-2.—People not capable of curing now, and had no place to store fish, 27513.—Bundoran the nearest railway station, seven miles away, 27514-5.—Kelp vessel the only coaster that called, or a coal vessel; no regular trade, formerly a trade with Belfast, that failed, 27516.—Such vessels could be used when there was a big catch, 27517.—Cod fish most prevalent, 27518.—In January and February, 27519.—Board had never had curing station on coast, 27520.—Fish carted was herring, mackerel, cod, or ling, 27522.—Herring and some mackerel were night fishing, possibly no use in fishermen staying out during afternoon for them, 27525-7.

Expenditure by Congested Districts Board on Piers, Roads, etc.—Complaint that Sligo was neglected as compared with Donegal and Mayo.

Outlay of Congested Districts Board for years 1901-1903 in Mayo, £10,000, in Donegal, £11,000, under head of Peirs, Roads, and Bridges, in Sligo only, £640, 27553-9.—Parish Committees not referred to, 27560, 27564.—Twenty-two electoral divisions scheduled in Sligo, 27561, 27570.—Small amount spent in Sligo accounted for by neglect of Board because Sligo had no representative on it, 27562.—It might possibly be because Sligo was not so backward as other counties, but relief had often been asked for drainage and improvements to Raughly Pier, etc., some electoral divisions very poor and with low valuation, in Cliffony North only forty or fifty families with valuation over £4 out of 400; representatives of districts on Board necessary if congestion were to be relieved, 27563.—Witness a shopkeeper and therefore not on Parish Committee, 27565.—Difficult to get list of all the applications to Board, 27566.—Usual answer from Board "No money for any such purpose," 27567-9.—Witness thought some money should be spent on scheduled districts in Sligo, Board's money was Church suhplus of £45,000, and Sligo should have its share, 27570.—Scheduled divisions did not get their fair portion, 27571.—Tenants had purchased some property from Sir J. Gore-Booth, and there was work going on at Raughley, 2573-4.

Inishmurray School—Expenditure above Requirements.

Board had built a school in Inishmurray in Cliffoney South, eight or ten children attended now, school cost £618, could have been built for £200 or £220 sufficiently good for requirements, 27576, 27580.—(*Rev. Mr. Kenny*, twelve pupils at school, formerly thirty-five, people clearing out of Ireland, 27585).—£138 had been expended on the landing-place at Inishmurray for clearing away stones, County Council gave subsidy; £141 spent on Ballyconnell pier, 27576-9.

Migration.

Migration a remedy for congestion, 27585, 27611.—People in district willing to migrate, 27586-7.—Forty or fifty people would go to Meath or elsewhere if shown they would get twenty, or even ten acres of good land, at reasonable rent, and capital at reasonable interest to work with; better to buy up land in immediate neighbourhood before going to a distance, 27588-9, 27612.

Sons of tenants in neighbourhood of grass lands at Lissadell should have claim for settlement before migrants, 27652.—If there were enough land congests from a distance might be bought, 27653.—Sons of tenants had prior claim at Lissadell, because their fathers and grandfathers were evicted in 1846, 27654-8, 27663.—If it were not for that, wants of heads of families in neighbourhood should be first consulted, after that wants of heads of families at a distance, and finally the sons of tenants, 27660-4.

Cost of Equipment of New Holding.

Man with twenty acres of good land ought to get a horse and cart for £30 or £35, four cows for £60, ten sheep for £20, build a house for £200, and spend £10 on farming implements, total cost of equipment, £325, 27591-3, 27600.—Cow-shed, pig-stye, and outoffices would come afterwards, 27594.—Fences could be done by himself, 27601.—People in witness's locality good enough farmers to get on in plains of Boyle, 27595-6, 27598.—They could all use the spade, 27597.—Witness a business man, and made living by groceries, etc., 27599.—Money for equipment could be given as loan and annuity at 3¼ per cent. interest, 27602-4, 27620, 27625-7.—State could not be asked to equip a farm for every man in Ireland, 27605.—Witness was talking of settlement of tenants' sons, not of migration of whole families, 27606-11.—If man migrated, his old holding should be amalgamated with the next, 27612a.

Question of Compensation for Tenant-Right of old Holding and of State Loan for Equipment of New Holding.

He would have to give up his tenancy in order to get better holding, 27613.—And must be paid compensation for tenant-right, 27614-6.—Amount thus obtained could be deducted from money for equipment of new farm, 27617-8, 27621.—If he had money he would not want it from the State, those who got money in America bought land if they could get it, 27618-9a.—Those remaining at home had no money, 27619a.—Migrant probably had some stock on old holding, that would also lessen cost of equipment, 27622-4.—Money for equipment would be repaid to State, 27628-9.

Enlargement of Holdings—Land available on Lissadell Property.

No land for enlarging holdings on Ashley estate, untenanted land all bog and marsh, three or four thousand acres available on Sir J. Gore-Booth's property in parish of Lissadell, six or eight miles distant, 27630, 27651.—Sir Josslyn had sold to Estates Commission and got twenty-four and twenty-six years' purchase for tenanted land, 27631-2.—Estates Commissioners should not confirm sale till at least 2,000 or 3,000 acres of untenanted land at Lissadell were purchased by Board for migration purposes, 27633.—Sale carried through by Estates Commissioners, 27634.—Tenants consulted as to price, 27635-6.

Proposed Restriction on area of Demesnes, etc.

Legislation should be pushed forward that no landlord should hold more than 600 acres adjacent to demesne, and should cultivate at least a twelfth of the demesne and crop it, 27636-7.

Australian Land Settlement.

Squatters of Australia began with 640 acres, then 320, and came down to 100, and 50; in the sixties Government fenced and gave a hut, after eight years payment at 2*s*. 6*d*. an acre the land was theirs; to stop emigration something similar must be done in Ireland, population had dwindled from eight and a half millions to four and a half, and if it continued at same rate only twelve people would be left in seventy years, 27637.—Recent legislation in Australia had object of compulsorily resuming possession of great grass areas for closer settlement 27640.—Agricultural programme of United Irish League founded on Australian legislation, 27641-2.

Land Purchase.—Defaulting Annuitants in Kildare County and County of Longford, Causes of Failure to pay Instalments.

In Kildare and Longford the County Councils would have to furnish amount of instalments that those who had purchased had failed to pay, County Kildare now threatened by notice from Local Government Board with stoppage of £8,000 out of grant in relief of poor rate, 27642.—There were two causes, one non-payment of instalments, the other downfall of Land Stocks; Land Stocks had fallen 15 per cent., principal tenants were required to pay notwithstanding magnanimous Bill of 1903, 27643.—Twenty processes at present, if men got nothing they would come back on Council, who must strike a rate, 27644.—Hardship that tenants should be compelled to make up loss on flotation of stock at its present price, 27645.—Great mistake of the Bill was that the poor tenant had to pay for it, 27646.—Before bargain was concluded by Board or Estates Commissioners, County Councils should meet

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once or twice and understand price of an estate, because they were the ultimate security, 27647-8.—Not many sales in County Sligo since Act of 1903, 27649.—Lissadell and Hazlewood the only ones witness knew of, 27650.

HARTE, Mr. BERNARD.

Condition of Lissadell Electoral Divisions—Fishery Development hindered by lack of Appliances and Landing-Places—Turbary Difficulties, etc.

Witness lived at Grange, 27666.—Lissadell North and West were congested and scheduled, Lissadell East was not scheduled, all three were in Sligo Union, 27668-72.—Congested Districts Board had never expended money on piers or roads or assistance with boats and nets in any of these divisions; fishing principal industry, could not be successfully developed for lack of landing slips and appliances; slips at Milk Harbour and Streeda suggested; in Lissadell North several roads required repair, Board's engineers visited them and reported on bad condition, nothing further done; tenants all on small holdings, formerly existed by kelp industry, its price now did not repay expenses, as it had to be carted fourteen miles to Mullaghmore; no bogs in these divisions, tenants went ten to twelve miles for turf, small bog on Captain Jones's estate, no tenant allowed to cut turf there who had been twice served notice for fair rent, although they had usual existing right of cutting turf for years; Parish Committees did much good with their grant of £150 yearly, enabled poor to make houses habitable, and grant should be increased, 27672.

Agricultural Bank.

Two years ago small Committee started a bank to help people purchase cattle, 27672, 27693.—Bank financed by £100 from Congested Districts Board and money borrowed from Sligo banks on security of Committee; advances made at same rate of interest plus clerical expenses, 27672-5.—Bank still in existence, 27673.—Security assigned to the Sligo banks extended to £1,000, 27676-7.—Sligo banks would not advance to individuals, 27678.—300 shareholders in bank, 27679.—Working Committee appointed by shareholders who pledged their security, 27680, 27686.—Advances were made up to the full extent of the £1,000 credit, 27681.—Increased credit never desired, if money could be borrowed at cheaper rate from Board it could be lent cheaper, 3 or 3¼ per cent. charged by Board on the £100, 6 per cent. charged by Sligo banks, 27682.—The 6 per cent. varied with the bank interest, 27683-4.—Bank charged 6 or 6½ per cent., 27685.—No bad debts made yet, 27687.—7 or 8 per cent. charged on small accounts of £5 or £10, 27688-9.—It used not to be so high, 27690.—Insufficient stock for land when bank started, it was hoped that operations in that line would be finished in time, 27694-5.—Supervision of loans to see that money was used for right purpose, 27697-8.—No bulls bought, only cattle and pigs, 27700.—Limit an industrial one, 27701.—Assistance might be given to buy horse, but horned cattle were more wanted in the neighbourhood, 27702-3, 27711.—Fair amount of tilling among small farmers, mostly spade work, 27704-5.—Holdings and fields too small to plough, 27706-9.—Draining and sub-soiling done in winter, 27710.—Bank limited to loan of £10 for stock by legal rules, 27712-3.—Nothing to prevent bank extending the field of its operations if it could afford to pledge credit, 27714.—Commercial fruit-growing would not be successful, many small farmers had an apple tree or two, 27715-7.

Complaints in connection with Building of Landing-Place at Knocklane by Congested Districts Board.

Lissadell West still more congested than Lissadell North, fishing principal means of subsistence, 27691, 27717.—Want of harbours; Board was building landing-slip off Knocklane assisted by grant from Sligo County Council of £100, 27717, 27719, 27731.—Witness and Mr. M'Hugh, M.P., heard complaint that people were not given employment, and visited place; fishermen all said pier would be useless in stormy weather, owing to spot it was built in, 27717, 27733, 27768, 27771-2.—Board's engineer choose site, not where tenants wanted it, 27718, 27733.—County Surveyor was not consulted and no local men were present when site was selected, nor were they apprised of work being put in hand; witness walked over to it two or three months ago and made enquiries, it was then too late to object, as it was half built, 27720-9, 27769.—No dissatisfaction expressed when it was begun, 27770.—Pier cost £500, 27730.—It was arranged between Board and County Council, 27732.—Resolution sent from County Council that fishermen needed pier, Board said they would erect it and give £400 if Council gave £100, 27733, 27736.—County would maintain pier when finished, 27734-5.—County had a surveyor, he was not notified when Board's engineer came down and no plans were submitted, so nothing was known of what was being done, 27737-46.—County named the place Knocklane, but not the exact spot, pier would have been more useful fifty yards further in sheltered spot, 27747.—County Council left matter in Board's hands but would gladly have sent representative to accompany engineer to inspect site, 27749.—Views of local body, especially views of fishermen, should be ascertained before making marine works, 27750-1, 27755.—Mr. Green had been over coast, fishermen were there when site was selected and objected to it, 27752-3.—When a public body like Board had inspected site and heard views of the people, their own engineer would naturally select exact site, but he should meet the people half-way, 27756.—Impossible to find out county surveyor's opinion as he had retired, 27757.—Fisherman a better authority on piers than county surveyor, he would look at it from fisherman's point of view; engineer had to carry it out, 27758-61.—Knocklane Pier would not have been as expensive in more suitable place, thirty or forty yards along the coast made a great difference, the fishermen could then land in stormy weather; engineer should be guided by his judgment, but unfortunately in this case it was against the views of the fishermen, 27766.—As much employment could not be given by the work as was expected, it was not stone but concrete work, and had to be allowed to set for a certain time before going on, 27767-8.—People used to bring in their boats at about the place where the present pier was erected, it was a sheltered place, with big overhanging cliff, big stones had to be cleared away; pier not exactly at same spot, 27773-5.—Witness had seen pier, 27776.—In present place it was long enough to be of use, 27777.—Same length ample for other place, 27778.—Not much difference in depth of water in the two places, 27781.—Both dry at low water, 27782.—Knocklane seven miles from Grange, 27783.

Application to Congested Districts Board for Curing Station at Raughly—Defective Landing Accommodation.

Poor accommodation in way of boats and nets; applications had been made to Board for curing station at Raughly, 27785-6.—Mullaghmore twenty or thirty miles north-west, 27786.—Pier at Raughly, 27718, 27748, 27786.—Useless pier, not long enough, filled up by sand yearly and cleaned at expense of County Council, built by Grand Jury; Raughly people hampered by want of market for fish, men could not go out in stormy weather as there was no landing stage, 27786.

Condition of Roads.

Roads in Lissadell West more neglected than anywhere, 27786.—A pity Board only gave grants for new roads, one should be given for repairing road at Cloonagh, Sir J. Gore-Booth had offered grant of £30; road passed through most congested districts in Ireland, 27787, 27800.—The neglected roads were made in 1847 to give employment to people, and were never taken over by county or kept up, 27788-92, 27795.—People paid rates, 27793.—County Council had too many roads in district and did no repairs to roads mentioned, 27794.—They simply took up roads handed over by Grand Jury, these had not been handed over, 27795.—People threw odd heaps of stones down occasionally, these were only repairs since Famine, HARTE, Mr. BERNARD.—*continued.*

27796-27800.—Point should be stretched in their favour, they were works of public utility, county did not like too much taxation, 27797-9.—Road to pier a county road, 27800.—Board were making a road to Knocklane Pier, through the Gethins Estate, 27801-2.

Condition of Lissadell West—Congested Districts Board had only just begun operations on Estate purchased.

Holdings in Lissadell West very uneconomic, people very poor, enlargement of holdings and construction of roads would improve their condition, 27807.—If tenants migrated their holdings could be used to enlarge others, 27808.—No accommodation works on estate, not long since it was vested, 27809-10.—Great dissatisfaction caused by delay in vesting, 27811-2.—Land and grazing farm, Board striping what was habitable, 27813.—Soil sandy, 27814.—Half could be broken up for tillage, 27815.—No indications of new holdings as yet, 27817.—This was witness's only experience of Board's working, 27822.

Allocation of Congested Districts Board Funds.

Sligo should get its fair share of Board's money, 27818-9.—Board's funds should be allotted to counties in certain proportions, reserving a considerable amount for very congested areas, 27820.—Witness had no experience of working of Estates Commissioners, sale of Gore-Booth property was not yet sanctioned, 27823.

Sligo was not represented on Board, which was the reason why Sligo was neglected; representations for appointment of Dr. Clancy frequently made; no vacancy for him, 27807.—Plenty of grazing land available on Gore-Booth property, 27802-4, 27807.—All Connaught should be scheduled so as to be able to migrate people from different districts, 27807.

KELLY, Rev. MICHAEL.

Migration.

Much congestion in Grange, valuation low, only 5*s*. in some places, people must be migrated and their holdings divided amongst remaining ones, 20 farmers in locality had agreed to give up holdings and go elsewhere, 27830-2.—Witness had asked heads of families, the young men agreed, too, 27833-5.—Sixty families in Mullaghmore, something must be done for them, fishing might be improved, 40 families in Magherow lived by fishing alone, average valuation of district, including grass lands, 5*s*., 27835-6.—Gethin Estate in Lissadell West had been bought, that was a large farm, including its valuation only 5*s*., some tenants must be transferred to give economic holdings, 27837.

Poverty of District.—Horses and Cattle Bought on Six Months' Credit.

Extreme poverty in district, twelve years' arrears of rent on Colville-Jones estate, fifteen in Inishmurray Island, credit system so largely in vogue a proof of poverty, common for farmers to go to auctions to buy cattle or horse, auctioneer paid farmer who sold, purchaser paid auctioneer's fees and interest on money, and got cow on credit for six months, 27837-45.—Purchaser thought it better to do that than to have no beast on farm, 27846.—If a person bought cow at £10 he paid auctioneer's fees of 5 per cent., 7 or 8 per cent. interest on money, and was lent beast for six months, 27847.—Payment usually made at end of six months, seizures rare, 27848.—Such a gamble kept people in perpetual poverty, 27849.—Money came from friends in America, Scotland, and England, and from proceeds of stock sold at fairs, 27850-1.—The system was common in Collooney and Cliffoney, 27852.

Land Available for Migration and for Relief of Congestion in the District.

Three farms of Mr. Ashley's at Cliffoney available for migration, also Mr. Jones's estate, he had twenty-one tenants, and offered to sell to Board some time ago, his valuation of the farm was £1,753, and of house and demesne £175, 27852.—Large portions of estate kept for meadow land, meadow sold and cattle placed on the rest, 27853.—Small holders who now used that grazing could increase their farms by getting portion of it, 27854.—Large strand in district flooded, could be reclaimed if river bed were sunk, 27854, 27860.—No fishing rights in district, 27856.—100 acres was submerged frequently on Mr. Jones's estate, 27857-9.—And could be reclaimed from sea, 27861.

Direct Sale of Barry Estate Without Improvements.—Need for Re-arrangement of Holdings.

Board could improve tenants' holdings on Mr. Barry's estate, it was sold sometime ago, sale sanctioned by Estates Commissioners, price 23½ years on second term rents, half of the tenants were residential, holdings were in rundale, houses in a cluster, estate should be improved, 27861.—Witness supposed it could not be done now, 27862.—Bargain made between landlord and tenants, 27863-4.—Tenants had much trouble with the strips of land, they were in the courts very often, 27865.—It would be possible to re-arrange holdings, 27857.—Estate sold two years ago, 27867.—Solicitor in Ballyshannon negotiated sale, witness not consulted, 27868-9.—Estates Commissioners' aid had not been recently invoked, 27870.—No negotiations between Commissioners and those advising tenants, 27872.—Holdings should be striped and houses removed, insanitary to have them in cluster, 27873-4.—Vesting orders had been completed, 27877.—If holdings were re-adjusted some tenants would be satisfied, and some would not, 27878.

Kelp Industry.

400 or 500 tons of kelp shipped yearly from Mullaghmore, made from drift weed and cut weed, cut weed used for making carbonate of soda, drift weed for iodine, agent of company who bought kelp told witness price could be increased 25 per cent. by using proper weed and keeping it free of sand and stones, people burned kelp too quickly, Board should teach them to burn it properly by appointing an inspector, 27879-84, 27887-93.—Inspector would have authority by law, 27885-6.—Printed instructions would not be of much use, 27888.—Higher price in Sligo than in Donegal, did not show it was made in best way, 27889-90.—Manufacture of kelp could be increased, supply sent to Scotland going down, 27891.—Iodine was the principal product, but there was a new method of making iodine now, 27892.—cut weed should not be used for iodine, 27893-5.

Lace-Making—Appeal for Re-establishment of Lace School at Grange.

Lace-making started in district in 1896 on small scale, it flourished greatly, and in 1902 Board had great school, and sent supplies to Irish Lace Depôt, Grafton street; Hibernian Lace Company in O'Connell street bought £300 or £400 worth from school, teachers got orders from Congested Districts Board not to supply company, lady in charge of school transferred her services to the Hibernian Lace Company, Board sent no agent, and this girl attracted the pupils away; Board stopped school, 27896, 27928.—Board should re-establish it, Grange people took great interest in lace industry, £3,261 paid for lace in 1906, 27896.—£2,000 of that in village of Grange, girls of district industrious, large numbers engaged in Dublin and elsewhere, at present they could not qualify as teachers, vacancy for teachers at Rosse's Point, 8 or 9 girls in locality wanted appointment, but were not qualified, drawing and designing should be taught as well as lace-making to enable them to qualify as teachers, 27897-8, 27911-2, 27929-31.—Girls would attend if they had that prospect, 27932, 27935.—School deserted because those subjects were not taught, 27933.—Lace-making prospering in people's homes, 27898, 27918.—£2,000 a year added to their earnings, 27919-20.—Withdrawal of school had been arranged by Mr. Walker and parish priest, 27899.—Parish priest had since died, 27900.—School had been the finest of all the schools, 27901.—26 teachers employed in Ireland from this district,

KELLY, Rev. MICHAEL—*continued.*

27902.—A splendid opening for girls, they got £1 a week, 27903.—Housework done by mother and other sisters, girls making lace were capable of all the housework they had to do, 27904-5.—Best lace-maker emigrated at the time of the crisis in 1903, but on the whole they remained at home, 27906-7.—Witness thought Mr. Walker would send back teachers if asked, 27910.—The girl who was such a good lace maker was in America doing other work, she would have been a competent teacher if she had had a certificate, 27914-7.—Return of sales to Hibernian Lace Company was—£535 15*s.* in 1900, £1,102 in 1901, £2,801 19*s.* 3*d.* in 1902, £2,994 17*s.* 11*d.* in 1903, £1,691 16*s.* 10*d.* in 1904, £3,460 16*s.* 2*d.* in 1905, £3,261 3*s.* 4*d.* in 1906; in area from Grange to Ballyshannon, two-thirds in Grange, 27921-2.—Return of sales to Irish Lace Depôt in April, 1906, £104; May, £109; June, £161; September, £113; October, £91; November, £117; December, £94; January, 1907, £126; February, £155; March, £170, 27923.—500 families working, two girls on an average to a house, that is 1,000 girls in Grange district, 27924-7.—Board's grant to lace school was about £1,000, 27934.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Board had done little for fisheries on coast from Ballyshannon to Sligo, Magherow and Mullaghmore important fishing stations, 60 herring boats near Grange 10 years ago, none now, there used to be a landing place at Luchan, 27936-9.—In Lissadell West 30 fishing boats, 13 trawlers, boats made £70 or £80 a year, trawlers £2 a day, Board should supply large boats and an instructor for deep-sea fishing, 27940-5.—Witness meant deck boats of 50 or 60 feet keel, 27943-4.—Fishermen did not know where to go themselves, 27946-7.—Coast shallow, 27948, 27954.—Harbour at Mullaghmore wanted sinking to admit larger boats, 27949-51.—It was dry at low tide and silted up, 27952-3.

ISLAND OF INISHMURRAY—DECLINE IN POPULATION—LARGER BOATS AND EXTENSION OF LANDING PLACE NEEDED.

Population declining on island of Inishmurray, only 13 families where there were 16 a few years ago, 35 children used to attend school, now 12; men emigrated, little fishing done now, three skilled crews five years ago, hardly one now, they had not big enough boats and no landing place, Board built landing place at a cost of £146, useless when wind blew from east, but could be extended and an "L" turned on it, slip should also be built, men now resorted to manufacture of spirits, 27954-9.—Much land on island rocky and useless, people who left sold their land to friends, 27960-1.—Only two people on island made decent livelihood, rest extremely poor, addition of land would not help them, 27962.—North and west of island stormswept, landing was safe only on southern side, 27963.

SCHOOL BUILT BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

School was built by Board, and cost a good deal, because it was expensive to bring material from mainland, cargo of cement cost £1, 27964-5.—No teacher's residence or second room, 27966-7.—No priest there, it was in the parish of Ahamlish, difficult for priest or teacher to get across, 27968-72.—People sold dried fish in Grange, 27973-5.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

Crossing took an hour on an ordinary day, pulling all the time, 27976.—One badly-kept road on island, houses all the other side, 27977.—"Our Franciscan Sisters of Loughglynn" had offered to promote industries in Grange if encouraged, 27978.—Offer made to Dr. Clancy, 27979. (*Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell*—Dr. Clancy had made an arrangement with Department, 27981.)

L'ESTRANGE, Mr. HENRY.

CLASSIFICATION OF LAND IN COUNTY SLIGO ACCORDING TO ITS NATURE AND WORKING.

On land managed by witness there was a good deal unsuitable for tillage, of rocky nature and too low-lying for drainage, 27991-2.—It was solid rock, limestone coming shallow to surface, 27993-4.—Remarkable tillage efforts made among rocks, but it was all spade labour and unprofitable, 27996.—Witness was speaking of both tenanted and untenanted land, 27998.—Two kinds, one so rocky it could not profitably be tilled; the other possible to till, but requiring so much labour as to render it also unprofitable, 27999.—There were a few places where tillage would be better than present system of grazing; parts of these in healthy condition now; would revert to original condition if not cared for, 28000-1, 28056-60.—Parts had been formerly tilled, 28001, 28014.—This applied to all sorts of boggy land, 28002-3.—Boggy soil often yielded rich crops if well looked after, 28004.—No reason why it should not be profitably tilled, 28005.—Required more attention than other tillage land; a good deal of it all over West of Ireland was only kept from reverting to original state by industry of people; a good deal was used for rough grazing because labour for tilling was not forthcoming, 28006-7.—A. B. and C. mentioned by witness included as much tenanted as untenanted land; it was grazed as being better than tilling, 28008-13, 28015.—Necessity had caused the change in this class of land from tillage to grazing, 28016.—Men did not like hard work on mountains, and they had generally enough of a different class of land, and had allowed the land mentioned to revert, because they thought it unprofitable to till, 28017-8.—The men were not lazy, but where they had comparatively easily-worked land they used the suitable land in preference to the other, 28038-55, 28067, 28074.—Nothing in the land itself to make it unprofitable, 28019, 28037.—Land described as "hungry" land would need a great deal put into it to keep it up; it would not pay to do it, 28020-1.—Looking well after land meant putting in capital as well as energy of an active man, 28022.—Manures needed, &c., 28023-4.—Proper system of manure more likely to yield good crop, 28026.—Putting beasts in houses and using manure a better method than the system of grazing, 28027.—Would require enormous capital to get sufficient stock, 28028-30.—Stall-feeding of animals kept at present would effect a small improvement, 28031.—Capital only wanted for improvement on large scale, 28032.—Supposing there were thirty acres of such land it must be manured to make it fit to carry stock, and would take years of gradual progress before it became a fairly mixed farm, 28033-6.—Large extent of grass land not capable of tillage, 28061, 28073.—That should be available for giving profit rent to owners of estates, 28062.—Tillage had advantage over grazing in that it employed the whole family of small occupiers and also artisans in district, whereas grazing gave little employment, 28063-6.—Sixteen or twenty acres fairly good land enough for small occupier to live on, 28075, 28086.—Rent would be 15*s.* or 14*s.* per acre, 28088.

WANT OF AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN THE DISTRICT.

Want of practical instruction in locality, 28068.—Might explain tendency to allow land to revert, 28072.—Should be an advantage if practical agriculturists were put in district by such a body as the Board to show methods of tillage, improving stock, &c., 28069-70.—People willing to take up suggested improvements, 28071.

MIGRATION.

Migration must play very large part in solution of congestion problem, 28082-3.—Possibility of obtaining grass lands first condition of any migration scheme, 28084.—Difficult to get land unless it were surrounded by farms of at least thirty acres or immediately outside demesne land; smallish men would consider only fifteen or twenty acres economic, and would expect increase if untenanted land were near them, 28085.—Fairly large occupiers might claim some of the land to be striped for their sons and might consider that they should be preferred to strangers, 28089-92.

Attitude of Residents towards Strangers—Phibbs Property.

People resented introduction of strangers into locality; even if their own holdings were economic, they thought available land should be used to enlarge them; a really large farmer might not, but ordinary small holders would, and would probably make it very hot for the stranger; the feeling varied in different parts, 28075-9.—Difficult to say whether with education opinion would change, 28080-1. People on Major Phibbs' property gave witness to understand they would object to migration of strangers, because there were lands there that were in hands; no case of actual resentment against strangers, 28093-7, 28101.—Phibbs property not in scheduled area, 28098-9.—Tenants had bought it; lands in hand sold to Estates Commissioners, 28100.—Would be wrong to bring them if tenants were in need, but they were not, 28103.—If tenants were as poor as those in scheduled areas they should have preference over anyone from those areas, 28104-5.—Migrants from a distance should have prior claim over sons of tenants on economic holdings in neighbourhood, 28106-7.—Not much justification for resentment against strangers, as tenants were on economic holdings, 28109-10.—£8 or £9 approximate average rent on Phibbs' property, 28112.—Uneconomic holding was one a person could not live fairly comfortably on, and keep his family and meet his debts; size would depend on quality of soil, 28113-5.—About ninety holdings on Phibbs' estate, 28116.—Fifty or sixty of them were economic, forty uneconomic, 28117-9.—Approximately 400 acres of grazing, 28121.—Not unreasonable for forty occupiers of uneconomic holdings to resent incoming of strangers while they themselves stood in need, 28122-3.

Land available in County Sligo for Relief of Congestion.

Sufficient grazing land could readily be obtained without compulsion in County Sligo to relieve congestion in that county, provided fair purchase price was given for it, 28125-6.—Land referred to could be tilled right away, and would improve under tillage, 28127, 28129.—It would pay to cultivate in the second year, 28128.—A man would probably till only three or four acres at a time and keep the rest in grass; by treating it in that way a new farm would pay from the start, 28130-1.—Witness had had no actual experience, but did not doubt it could be done, 28132-3.—The man would either meadow the grass or use it for agistment purposes for grazing, 28134.

Landlords willing to sell—Question of Compulsory Powers.

There were enough landlords willing to sell at a fair price, 28135, 28138.—No likelihood of anyone asking ridiculously high prices or refusing to sell on any terms, 28136.—Witness's clients had told him that they would sell unless land were inside or worked in conjunction with demesne, 28137.—Compulsion was the only way to deal with it if it did, 28140-1.—If exhorbitant prices were asked the case could be dealt with by arbitration, 28142-5.—Fair price would be arrived at on the basis of valuation in the same way as income tax, 28146-7, 28152-3, 28163-4.—Landlord paid tax on income on poor law valuation, 28165-6.—It would apply more generally to land in landlord's own hands, but might be based on income derived from land for eleven months, 28148.—Landlord got more for an eleven months' letting, but it was not as certain, 28149-50.—And he had also to pay taxes and repairing of fences; net income would be the basis, 28151-2, 28181.—Landlords willing as a rule to sell at fair price although there might be cases where they would not sell at any price, 28154.—There were cases where land was more valuable to landlord than to anyone else, as he worked it in connection with other land; for example, an outlying farm might be worked in conjunction with demesne, 28155-7.—He might then ask a price higher than the actual value, 28156.—Such a case might be stated for arbitrators and price awarded accordingly, 28158.—Court of Arbitration might justly find value something more than one and a third on basis of income tax allowed, 28159.—If tenants were willing to give fair price for tenanted holdings, and money were forthcoming, there would be no need for compulsion; Act had worked well; there would be plenty of land if money were available; land purchase should go on smoothly, 28162.

Sale and Purchase in County Sligo.

Witness managed fifteen properties in County Sligo, 28167-8.—Tenants had approached him with view to purchase, 28169.—He had sold some properties, 28170, 28174.—Fair price ascertained by considering how gross price invested in trust securities would compare with net income, 28171.—Tenants had approached witness with regard to some of the other properties; fair price not the obstacle, 28175-6.—No difficulty in transferring property if tenants gave fair price, 28177.—Management and legal expenses of owners would have to be deducted, 28178.—If grass part of an estate were sold to the Board, tenants would refuse to buy the tenanted portion, 28179A-80.

Landlords' Improvements in County Sligo—Effect of Act of 1881, &c.

Witness had the management of property in Sligo, which was better than the average, 27984.—Markree his principal agency; landlords in County Sligo had spent considerable sums on improvements before and since Act of 1881, chiefly before, 27985-9.—During last twenty years landlords had effected improvements in making roads, reclaiming bogs, planting timber, building cottages, and making loans to tenants, 27988-9.—On one estate managed by witness, owner expended several thousand pounds of late years improving tenants' holdings and buildings, drains, loans to tenants, &c. A considerable amount had been expended since Act of 1881, 28182-3.—Witness meant out-of-pocket expenditure as well as loans; also expenditure on road-making, 28184-6.—Bogs had been drained to supply turbary, and roads made to bogs; nominal charge for turbary made; less than that made by Commissioners, 28187-91.—No case since 1881, where landlord spent money on improvements except in form of loan asked for by tenant, 28192-5A.—Five per cent. charged; borrowers could pay at any time they liked, £5 or £10, 28196.—Loans always made through Estate Office, 28198.—Owner did not lose by transaction, but it was a generous act, 28197, 28198A-9.—Roads made absolutely to benefit tenant, not only to bogs but to holdings; the late Colonel Cooper had spent money on roads since 1881, some had been taken over by county, he got no return for outlay, 28201-3.—County Council responsible for roads, large number made by landlords in old days and taken over by Grand Jury, 28204-5.—Some roads had been made to houses since fair rents were fixed, they were made in 1895, not for one tenant, but for the benefit of a group, 28207-9.—Act of 1881 did have effect of drying up sources from which money was spent on holdings, 28210.—Before that landlords spent much on improving tenants' holdings, 28211.—From 1873 to 1906 Colonel Cooper spent over £31,000 on road-making, tree-planting, and drainage, 28213-5.—Large amount spent on buildings for tenants and labourers' cottages, 28217.—Trees were planted on outlying mountains not on tenants' holdings, 28218, 28220-1.—Benefited tenants only by employing labour, 28222.—Loans for building purposes included in the £31,000, 28219.—Labourers' cottages were put up; all the building was an investment bringing good percentage, 5 per cent. in cases of loans, 28223-5.—Year 1881 important, because under Act of 1881 tenant got credit in fixing of rent for improvements made prior to that, 28226.—After passing of Act landlords had no guarantee that they would get credit for improvements if they spent money on land, 28233-4.—They had not sufficient confidence in the people fixing the fair rents, so did not spend money, 28230, 28235.—The change of policy was not due to resentment, but to the fixing of judicial rents, 28227-9.—The £31,000 spent by Colonel Cooper was

L'ESTRANGE, Mr. HENRY—*continued.*

all an investment except the grants for roads and expenditure for benefit of the people, 28236-7.—Between 1880 and 1898 £1,900 was spent on roads, 28238.—On fixing of fair rents evidence was given to show who made road so that it was an investment to a certain degree, 28239-40.—For houses owner borrowed money at 5 per cent., and lent to tenants at same rate, 28241-2.—Roads benefited tenants more than landlord as an investment, 28243.—When landlords were improving, planting, &c., before 1881 they employed labour, they had an estate staff, 28245.—Act of 1881 reduced this expenditure and the number of artizans employed, 28246-52.

Decrease in employment of Artizan and Labouring Classes in Rural Districts subsequent to 1881.

Money was sometimes borrowed from Board of Works at 6 per cent., 28253-4.—Money could be got at 5 per cent., and tenant was liable to be charged 6 per cent., but rarely was so charged, 28256.—More spent out of landlord's private income than was borrowed from Board of Works, 28257-9.—In cases on Colonel Cooper's property interest charged was never more than 5 per cent., 28260-3.—Board of Works charge for loan was 1 per cent. for sinking fund, 5 per cent. interest, 28264-7.—About £10,000 of the £31,000 was borrowed from Board of Works, if tenant failed to pay landlord was responsible to Board of Works, 28268-74.

E-planting had been Successful.

Land where trees were planted was poor, and used for mountain grazing, 28276.—In some cases in owner's possession, in others compensation was paid for tenant right, 28277.—Plantations successful, revenue trifling as yet, timber only now getting saleable, the plantations were on out-of-the-way places, and it was difficult to name a price, 28279-80.—They would pay when grown, if convenient to market, 28281, 28283.—There had been considerable annual outlay keeping them in order, also expense of fencing, but very little labour in addition, 28284-5.—There was a little local sale for thinnings, but not in out of the way districts, 28286.—Trees were principally larch, 28287.—Situation of plantations to a great extent on side of hill away from sea, generally with a southern aspect, 28288-9.—Still possible under present conditions of tenant right, &c., to plant estates in the same way as Colonel Cooper had done; had been done to a less extent for shooting purposes, 28290-2.—Witness had always compensated tenants, there might be opposition if planting were done on a large scale, 28293.—Not more difficult for Government or Board to do it than for private owner, 28294.—If reafforestation were carried out near roads there was prospect of early success, 28295.

Punctual payment of Rent in County Sligo—Phibbs Estate was the only one under witness's management on which there were arrears.

Rents paid punctually in Sligo, although holdings were small, no ground for apprehension about payment of annuities, 28296-8.—Ten to fifteen years arrears in Inishmurray, but it was exceptional, 28299.—Rents paid punctually before 1881, 28302.—Security for State for annuities even in places with arrears owing to reduced amounts, 28303.—Great accumulation of arrears, perhaps, showed land was incapable of paying rent; witness had no experience of that class of land, 28304.—Mismanagement might be a cause, 28305.—Major Phibbs' estate the only one on which witness had any difficulty in getting rent, 28307.—Rents well paid before Act of 1881, but not so since, 28307-9.—There were arrears in 1881, 28310.—The Commission had dealt with them, 28311.—No reason for rents being less well paid since Act of 1881, it was the other way, 28313-4.—Tenants on this estate got into slip-shod way of paying rent, difficult to get them back into old way of paying, 28315, 28323.—Landlord could not recover arrears beyond two years by process of ejectment, 28316.—Tenants on Phibbs' estate twice took landlord into court, 28317-8.—Amount payable after fixing of rent less than before 1881, 28319.—In spite of that tenants less punctual in paying, partly owing to death of owner and estate changing hands, 28320-2.—Tenants were proceeded against in ordinary way; chiefly owing to Land League that rents were badly paid; it was a combination against payment, 28324-6.

Documents put in by Mr. Henry L'Estrange.

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GORE-BOOTH, Sir JOSSLYN.

Voluntary Striping of Grazing Farm on Witness's Estate.

In 1901 witness was asked to stripe grazing farm of 153 acres, and agreed, provided he did not lose by it, his terms were thought fair, and the striping was carried out, the land was divided on basis that landlord was to receive the average net income of the five years previous, less expenses, and rough rules embodied in agreement, witness was offered larger sums in fines from farmers whose holdings he did not consider required enlargement, second term rents not up to average of five years' grazing, so people were asked to pay fines, 28328-30, 28389.—Fines were about £30 per head to make up difference, 28330.—Local banks and parish priest helped tenants to raise fines, fines were long since paid off, and tenants had done well, one holding had been equally divided between two adjoining tenants, and the tenant who sold was provided with new farm at Streamstown, paying the fine with the money he got for tenant-right, he had already built slated house on new farm. —28331, 28339-42.—No money lost by transaction, tenants materially and morally better for it, 28331.—It was carried out on same lines as work of Congested Districts Board, and land was striped among neighbouring holdings, 28332.—New tenants remained tenants, they were not peasant proprietors, 28333.—They were judicial tenants, 28334.—It was the only attempt at striping made by witness, he had never been asked to stripe another farm, 28336.—It was a grazing farm adjacent to the people's holdings, so long as he got his income witness did not care what happened to it, 28337-8, 28407.—Grazing land could be striped without loss to anyone, except in certain cases in congested areas, Board charged fines in many cases, Land Commission charged no fines, 28348.—Witness did not sell the land because Act of 1903 had not come in, 28392.

Price of Grazing Land.

Much grazing land would be immediately available for enlargement of holdings if prices offered were fair, many large graziers would give up their judicial tenancies if they got fair compensation; following cases actually happened on witness's estate:—Case 1—Area 147a. poor law valuation £105, net income £145, price as valued by witness's valuer, £3,368, £2,100 offered by Land Commission, tenant's interest in this holding bought by Sir H. Gore-Booth for £953 at request of adjoining tenants, in order to give them accommodation land, 28343-4.—Return on sum offered by Land Commission would be £84 at 4 per cent., as against average net income of £145, 28345.—Average income 1⅓ times poor law valuation and a little more, 28346. Case 2—Area 243a., poor law valuation £183, net income £122, price as valued by witness's valuer, £3,314, this, together with mountain land of £85 valuation, was offered to Land Commission, who offered £1,739 for the whole. Case 3—354a., £250 poor law valuation, first term rent £240, landlord's interest at 21½ years' purchase as agreed with tenants £5,169; price offered by Land Commission £5,635, leaving for tenant's interest £466, or less than two years' purchase; Mr. Bryce had stated

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in House of Commons that prices paid by Board varied from 28 years' purchase to 29 years' purchase of annual value, 28346-7.—Instances given were adduced to show that price offered was not a fair one, 28351.—It looked as though compulsion meant compelling landlords to take the unfair price, 28352.—If witness had not taken price offered in first case sale would not have been sanctioned, it was indirect compulsion, average price paid by Board for six years was 27½ years 'purchase, 28353-4.—In this case only 14½ paid, 28355.—Witness not afraid of compulsion if it were fair, direct compulsion might conceivably be fairer than indirect, 28356-7.—Tenanted land had been sold at 21½ years' purchase of first term rents, 24½ of second term rents, 28359.

Co-operation Movement.

North Sligo was a good dairy country, and co-operative creameries were a success, as their audited accounts showed, every farmer within reach supplied milk, and was a member, creameries were owned by the farmers themselves, only assistance received was the teaching from the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, the people found capital and worked creameries through committees of farmers elected by themselves, possibilities of co-operation enormous, I.A.O.S. had insufficient funds to carry on active propaganda, 28348.—Sir H. Plunkett said in his memorandum that what was now needed was a policy the aim of which was not only to inculcate principles of self-help and reliance, but to make these principles vital and operative through broadly-conceived scheme for improving conditions of people, 28360.

Landlord's Improvements.

Statement that no landlord in Ireland spent money on estates was inaccurate; witness had spent money on improvements since 1881, 28360-2.—He had joined Board in their first scheme, and done one-third of drainage work in order to help the people, 28362-3.—He gave the money as a neighbour, not from an estate point of view, 28364-6.—He had also given tenants lime, timber, etc., 28366.—He only succeeded in 1900, 28367.—Few of his tenants had been in the Land Courts, 28369.

Land Available for Purchase on Gore-Booth Estate.

Witness had offered to sell to Estates Commissioners, not to Board, 28370, 28372-3.—He still had large quantities of land, if price were right he would take it, 28371, 28373.—Lands available were those mentioned, 147, 243, 354 acres, and 894 acres of mountain, 28374.—Lands not scheduled, 28375.—Witness had 3,000 acres of demesne land which he worked himself and would not be willing to sell, 28377-9.—the 1,300 acres he would sell, 28380.—He worked demesne energetically, 28381.—No wall round demesne, 28383.—It was tenanted in old times, 28384. 28402.—Marks of tillage no longer there, 28386.—The fact that it was formerly occupied would be no inducement to re-people the land with tenants, 28388.—Witness would object to disposing of any land worked as part of his business, 28403-4, 28408.—It had not occurred to witness to offer lands to Congested Districts Board, though they could buy in non-congested area, 28395.—Cases 2 and 3 not closed yet, 28394.—Genuine grazing farms witness was willing to sell were outside demesne, 28396-8.—Only about 2,000 acres really demesne, great deal of that under timber, 28399-400.—Some under grass, some tilled, a larger portion tilled every year, 28401.—Land had been developed since witness succeeded in 1900, 28405.—He began to break it up for tillage then, 28406.—More under grass before, it employed more labour now, 28409.—Actual demesne not scheduled, scheduled areas on coast, 28411.—Congested district near, 28412.—(*Mr. Cooper —A small portion of the demesne was in scheduled area*, 28411).—Exclusion of grass land of demesne would not bring the valuation per head within the 30*s.* limit, 28413-6.—Possession of land not essential, so long as it was worked energetically, just as good if another man worked it, 28418-20.—Tenants on witness's land not evicted, passages were paid to America, 28422.—Witness employed a considerable amount of labour of various kinds on his land, 28423-4.—He thought if tenants had the land there would be less labour employed, 28421, 28425.—Labourers would have no employment unless they too got land, and would leave the country, 28426-7.

Documents put in by Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth.

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MEEHAN, Mr. PATRICK.

Farm belonging to witness's father was 20 acres in extent, valuation £20, 28429-30, 28462.—Land in Board's hands, works begun, 28431-3.

Witness appeared for Magherow Branch of United Irish League, which comprised electoral divisions of Lissadell East, West, and a portion of Lissadell North, no untenanted land in latter division so far as it extended to witness's parish, road accommodation needed in Lissadell West, Carrigans, Ballyconnell, Kilmacannon, Aughagad, and Cloonelly, inspection of estates in process of being sold was desirable before State advanced purchase money.

Gore-Booth Property.—Acreage and Valuation of Untenanted Land Compared with Valuation of Tenants.

Sale of Gore-Booth property was concluded at an advanced price, because tenants in arrears wanted immediate relief, tenants on that property proposed to memorialise Estates Commissioners, but some refused to sign for fear sale should be arrested and landlord press for arrears; there were 206 acres belonging to Sir J. Gore-Booth at a valuation of £149; while there were 216 families under £10 valuation, portion of which had been evicted since 1873; Sir J. Gore-Booth had 1,121 acres untenanted land in Lissadell East, valuation £845 4*s.*, while there were 67 families under £10 valuation, same owner had 77 acres in Lissadell North, valuation £3 19*s.*, in Lissadell West there were 373 acres of untenanted land, valuation £98 5*s.*, in possession of Congested Districts Board, 28434.

Fisheries.

Fishing might be improved by erection of suitable landing places and improvement of boats, 28434.—Boatslip at Knocklane being constructed was more an obstruction than anything else, 28435-6.—Witness not a fisherman, men wanted it 30 or 40 yards further West, 28437.—Not much fishing off coast now, 28438.—30 or 40 small boats, 13 steam trawlers, 24839.—From Raughley, 24840.—They fished for flat fish, 24841.

Migration.

Seven tenants evicted from grass lands, 24842.—Would be willing to pay fair price for additions to holdings if bought over by State, 28443-5.—Witness was in a congested district, would migrate willingly anywhere in Ireland, 28446, 28450-1.—He thought the others would, too, 28447-9.—Two more in family besides himself, also a father and mother, he was the eldest son, 28452-4.—Whole family would not be afraid to go, though they might not wish it, 28455-6.—A farm of £30 would attract them, 28453.—Witness would like a farm in some other part of Ireland, 28459-60.—Magherow a very poor district, 28461, 28464.

QUILTY, Mr. JOHN GEORGE.

Logan's Estate.—Condition of Tenants on Uneconomic Holdings.—Negotiations for Sale at a Standstill.

Majority of tenancies uneconomic on Logan's estate, a typical Western estate, tenants of such estates were the backbone of Irish agrarian agitation, Logan's estate consisted of 500 acres, mostly reclaimed bog, there were 32 tenants with holdings 2 to 100 acres in size, total rental £240, turf was formerly cut

QUILTY, Mr. JOHN GEORGE—*continued.*

and saved on estate, rent was charged as estate was brought into cultivation, or raised, sometimes small holdings were confiscated and given to favourites, in 1864 rents were raised all round, tenants were ejected and reinstated at increase, landlord was an absentee, but estate bailiff came from Dublin once a year to receive rents, tenants were processed at once if they failed to pay, they had been treated harshly in the past, and disliked landlordism, 27 years ago Drumcliffe Branch of Land League was started by tenants, treasurer appointed and 17*s.* collected at once, first branch of League in County Sligo, estate was well watered, but needed drainage, money was borrowed by tenants from Board of Works for that purpose, tenants said Board robbed them, tenants and farmers should be assisted in reclaiming, they were industrious and compelled to add to their incomes by extern labour, the men would be model farmers if they had good farms, producing milk for local creamery was the principal industry, all land was in pasture except what was necessary for vegetables for home consumption, children emigrated as soon as old enough, one son remaining on farm, if he were not married when his parents died he sold out and went too, no turbary on estate, light and fuel cost £7 per tenant, 27 out of the 32 holdings were uneconomic, witness considered every holding rented at less than £10 uneconomic, Farmer's income on such an estate where creamery system was adopted depended on number of cows he could keep, grass being poor milk was poor, £6 a season for milk considered good from one cow, calf sold in September for £4, 30*s.* paid for bran, meal, etc., to feed cow after calving, 10*s.* to feed calf, net profit on cow and calf £8, number of cows kept limited by size and quality of farm, farmer might also have one or two tons hay for sale and two or three pigs, profit on pigs light, only £1 a head, hay this year inferior, sold at £1 a ton, most farmers had no pigs or hay, in a severe winter they were compelled to buy hay, farmer keeping three cows would have net profit of £24, £4 for extras sold off farm, total income £28, out of that he paid £6 10*s.* for rent, £1 rates, £7 fuel and light, £2 10*s.* seed and special manures, £11 left for food and clothing, impossible to live without extern labour and assistance from children abroad, death of cow meant loss of one-third profit, and would take at least ten years to recover from; Thomas Mitchell married in 1860 a girl with farm of 20 acres on Logan estate, he brought £90 earned in the United States, which he spent on reclaiming, etc., he found work of earning money in United tSates less hard than trying to make both ends meet on farm, he was now poorer than when he started, his children had to leave the country, original rent £8, raised to £10, reduced in 1884 to £8, and in 1893 to present figure, £6 10*s.*, in 1884 he borrowed £50 from Board of Works for drainage, Board gave him £47 10*s.*, charged him 10*s.* and 6*s.* afterwards for expenses, and for the last 22 years he had paid £3 5*s.* per annum, a total of £72 6*s.*, such estates should be scheduled; after passing of Wyndham's Act the agent of Logan's estate negotiated for sale to tenants, price could not be agreed on, tenants refused to give what landlord asked, sale must be effected by compulsion and inspection, nine years ago tenants on "Coolbeg Estate" bought under the Ashbourne Act at 17 years' purchase, it was a similar estate to Mr. Logan's, and the tenants thought they should buy at same price, no arrears on this estate, 28466.

Lissadell Estate.

Lissadell Estate bought at 21½ and 24½ years' purchase (Wyndham Act), landlord, Sir J. Gore-Booth, took interest in tenants, and wiped out arrears of rent, 24 processes served on tenants for non-payment of interest on purchase money, tenants memorialising Estates Commissioners not to sanction sale, bad security for purchase money advanced on uneconomic holdings, Coolbeg tenants paid instalments without hitch because they had extern employment, Lissadell tenants were beginning to fail because they could not get it; 50 years ago, before advent of Sir J. Gore-Booth and his father, the tenants on best part of property were ejected, getting seven-acre holdings of unreclaimed waste at 24*s.* 6*d.* an acre instead, commonage formerly free, was divided, and tenants paid rent of £5 5s. for their portion; these tenants of Barnrobin must fail to pay purchase instalments, as holdings were uneconomic, and there was no extern labour, they expected ultimately to get farms from Sir J. Gore-Booth's ranch land, 23 and 26 years' purchase really paid, as arrears were added to purchase price.

Landlord refused to sell on Hippisley estate, landlords of other estates would sell part, tenants would not agree unless all were sold, part of Wynne estate omitted in sale, as tenants would not give 27 years' purchase for bog land, 28466.

Emigration.

Tenants of Logan estate had sent 28 children abroad, principally to United States, the rest would go, assistance from America a necessity, relations in America paid the passage, no use to try and deflect emigration to Canada, all their relations were in United States, and the rest joined them, best thing to do was to stop emigration, it would cease if there were employment at home, emigrants attributed their exile to landlordism, 28466.

Butter Production as a Farm Industry.

Butter production the only farm industry in North Sligo, principally on creamery co-operative system, practically no tillage, which was the cause of emigration, 28466.—Creameries really good, but did away with tillage, 28466-7.—Doubtful if there was better produce in milk from mixed farm than from a grass farm, 28468.—Land would not grow roots, cows fed on a little hay in winter, but practically starved, after they calved they got a little extra stuff, 28469-71.—District should not depend on one industry, people would starve if American flour, meal, and bacon were stopped, majority of reclaimed bog farms incapable of wheat growing, wheat land of Connaught locked up in grazing ranches, flax formerly cultivated, might be revived, linseed meal imported from Russia; some poultry kept by farmers' wives, but the men did not like them because cattle would not eat grass the poultry had soiled, 28471.

Compulsory Tillage.

Untenanted land should be tilled, if tenants did not till it in ten years it should be taken up by compulsion, and compensation should be given; one-third should be tilled, but the people would not do it unless compelled, 28471-7.

Fishing.

Better and larger boats and gear for deep-sea fishing required, boat sent to Raughley by Congested Districts Board at wrong season, it stayed a week, and never came back, 28477.

Piers Needed.

Pier needed at Rosse's Point, pier at Streeda would be in a central position and would be used by Inishmurray islanders; one should also be built at north-east corner of Inishmurray and engineer should consult fishermen before beginning construction, 28477.

Evictions in Inishmurray.—Condition of Islanders.

Notices of eviction served on three islanders of Inishmurray for non-payment of rent, island was 1 mile long, ½ mile wide, oval in shape, and boggy in the centre, there were no trees or shrubs, only short hard grass, main land was eight miles away, population 80, there was so much salt that potato blight was unknown, but the potato plant was often poisoned as well as the microbe, landing was possible only in very calm weather, therefore no rates could be collected, police and gunboat would be sent to carry out evictions at ratepayers' expense, landlord should evict them himself, as he was the only gainer, he was one of those who refused to sell to tenants, 28477.

Cottages Industries.

Children of peasants should be taught cottage industries, such as decorating gift boxes with fancy shells, making ornaments, etc., from bog oak; formerly baskets, chairs, cradles, etc., were made from

QUILTY, Mr. JOHN GEORGE—*continued.*

osier rods by cottiers, also earthen crocks, pots, etc., by a family called Irvine, door-mats were made from bent grass, and flannel manufactured at home, formerly sold in the street in Sligo; all these had disappeared; plenty of heather, but no bees; Congested Districts Board should protect such industries and find a market for produce, peasantry greatly praised, crochet-knitting industry recently introduced, 28477.

Kelp-Making.

Kelp-making next in importance to fishery, price of 3*s.* a cwt. last season, barely paid to burn it, half a dozen agents divided the coast, and gave what they liked, people beginning to adulterate kelp, 28477.

Untenanted Land.

There were 10,600 acres of untenanted land north of Sligo borough boundary, the greater part arable, should be utilised for migration and enlargement of holdings, farmers wanted it, but none had been surrendered except Ballyconnell Bent, employment should be given by compelling a portion of it to be tilled annually, might be done in the same way as settlers in Canada were required to plant one-fourth of additional land they acquired, migrants receiving farms should also be compelled to till one-third, and large residential farms might come under the same rule; land constantly used for grazing deteriorated, market in England for roots and vegetables, roots could in any case be used to stall-feed the cattle which at present went to England in a half-finished condition; untenanted land under 10*s.* an acre should not be neglected, Canadian law of planting one-fourth with trees could be applied, Ireland almost denuded of woods, shopkeepers and people with money would then be less greedy for land, there would be stoppage of extensive emigration, and greater prosperity in the country; establishing of farmers in ranches surrendered, and paying of compensation should be done by Government money, Government had spent £20,000,000 on West Indian slaves, it would be seen whether the Irish peasant was as much thought about, 28477.

Suggestions.

Suggestions for solution of problem of congestion, emigration, and famine were: (1) Compulsory purchase, at least in Connaught, (2) creating labour by compulsory tillage, (3) scheduling Connacht, Donegal, Clare, and Kerry, (4) establishing cottage industries, (5) migration and enlargement of holdings, (6) cheap transit and building of railways where required, 28477.

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ROONEY, Mr. P. J.

Scheduling of Ross Inver West Proposed.

Size of witness's farm was 71 acres, greater portion was on the side of a mountain, valuation £31 11*s.*, £11 1*s.* 11*d.* paid half-yearly to Estates Commissioners, being 3½ per cent. on purchase money agreed on, farm was being sold, but sale was not completed, it was on Sir J. Gore-Booth's estate, and was not scheduled, 28481.—It was worked in grass and tillage, 28482.—Two English acres tillage, 28483.—Not scheduled on account of grazing portion, but should be scheduled, 28484-5.—Whole division should be scheduled, people poorer than in some scheduled areas, 28486-7.—Outside grazing portions witness thought valuation was not as much as 30*s.* a head, 900 or 1,000 acres in grazing portions, people very poor, 28488-9.—If division were scheduled grazing should be divided among the people, 28490.

Flooding of Duff River.

Duff River did damage by flooding, banks being eaten away on both sides, people needed assistance to repair damage, tree planting of no use, banks must be rebuilt, the mischief was getting worse every year, 28490-8.

Bad Roads.

District badly off for roads, no turf could be cut for 9 or 10 months if season were wet, 28499.

ROONEY, Mr. P. J.—*continued.*

—Sligo District Council had been told, but they had hardly passed any new works for last six years on account of rates being too high, 28500-2.—District Council would help district if it were scheduled, 28503.—Scheduling wanted in order to get help from Congested Districts Board, 28504.—Witness's farm not close to grazing lands, 28505.

GALLAGHER, Mr. DANIEL, and Mr. WILLIAM DUFFY.

Necessity of Cleaning Mullaghmore Harbour.

Witnesses came from Mullaghmore, Mr. Gallagher a pilot in Mullaghmore and Donegal Bay, 28506-7.—He fished at Mullaghmore, and kept a two-ton boat drawing 1½ft. of water, 28508-11.—25 Greencastle boats there, 26ft. keel, 28512-3.—He fished in Donegal Bay as far as Teelin for mackerel, herring, flat fish, and cod during winter season, 28514-6.—Had done poorly lately, could not fish on Friday and Saturday, as no buyers came.—(*Mr. Duffy*—Boats hauled up on Thursday evening or they would be broken, 28517-8).—(*Mr. Gallagher*—Harbour rough, 28518.—Filled with stones and gravel, 28518-9.—Splendid harbour, but required cleaning, 28520, 28535.—Fishing interfered with by harbour being practically useless, 28521.—Schooners came there, also coasting vessels from Liverpool and Glasgow, 28523.—No harbour dues, it was the private property of Mr. Ashley, built by Lord Palmerston, 28524-6.—Witness had lived there all his life, and could remember 40 years back, and had never known of any effort to clean it, 28527-9.—It was always dry at low tide, 28530.—It had silted up 6ft. since he began to fish, 28531.—In winter the tide carried in stones and gravel from the bay, 28532-3.—Breakwater required dredging, 28534.—Priest had been spoken to, and witness believed he had written about it, 28538-9).—(*Mr. Brennan*—Mr. Bryce promised something should be done, 28540).—(*Mr. Gallagher*—A little pointing was all witness saw done, 28541, 28544.—No protection to harbour for breakwater to be pointed, 28544-5).—(*Mr. Duffy*—No more than 6*s.* worth had been put on it).—(*Mr. Gallagher*—Vessel broke down jetty and it was repaired, 28542-3.—Mr. Green had been there, but fishermen had not spoken to him, 28547-51.—Curing station badly needed, hundreds of cargoes of fish lost through want of it, 28535-6, 28552.—Mackerel, herring, and cod would be cured, 28533).

SCOTT, Dr. HENRY MARK.

His district comprised parishes of Castleconnor and Kilglass, electoral divisions of Rathmacurky, Castleconnor East and West, Castleconnor East was scheduled, 28554-5.

Maintenance of Roads.

Employment should be provided for the people at home to prevent emigration, 28556, 28596.—Majority of the people were very poor, direct labour on roads would employ sons of small holders, man with two sons earning 10*s.* a week would be in more comfortable position than at present, 28556.—Men should be employed direct by County Council, not by contract, contract a sweating system, 28557-8.—By it a man took a contract for a mile or two for maintaining and keeping road in order, employing men at wages of 7*s.* or 8*s.* a week, and making as much profit as possible, 28559-60, 28604.—Middleman should be got rid of, he was usually a man with a holding of 40 to 60 acres, and could live on his land, 28561, 28572.—Employment of direct labour not allowed except in a few counties, Local Government Board's permission had not been asked, 28562-3.—Roads in one county in Scotland maintained by direct labour, wages £1 a week, yet difference in cost of maintaining roads was very small, 28564.—Direct labour would not only give employment but would also provide better roads, 28565-6.—Election of County Councils greatly in hands of class that took contracts, though they were in a minority when the whole county was considered, they worked with sweated labour, and wished to keep contract system, witness

SCOTT, DR. HENRY MARK—*continued.*

wanted to provide for permanent labourer and small farmers' sons, 28567-72.—Contractors were required to be men with capital, and had to have security, so that surveyor could compel them to do work, with direct labour men would earn £10 to £14, and remain at home, 28573.—It might be a slightly more expensive system, a few superintendents would be needed, 28560, 28574.—Grand Juries put roads under contracts, and employed no direct labour, 28575-6.—Middleman's profits would be saved, owners of vehicles who were ratepayers would also be spared expense of wear and tear, 28577-9.—Matter was one for decision of County Council, witness would compel them to have direct labour, 28580.—County Councils were elected, every man had a vote, 28581-2.—Fewer landholders with valuation over £10 than under, but they had numbers of relations, it was a family affair, smaller men not instructed as to what was best for themselves, many thousands a year collected in rates, best value should be got for it, right to benefit labourer as the man who did the work, 28583-5.—Ignoring of popular Government not advocated, if higher authority pointed out that direct labour was best for small landholders the County Councils would do it, it was advocated for purpose of giving labourer a chance, 28586-8.—It had never been suggested in Sligo, if it was put before them the people would insist on it as in Athlone, 28589-90.—It would not raise the rates much, public money should be spent for good of greatest number, 28591-2.—Small farmer who took contract and did work himself not to be interfered with, 28593-4.—Roads not well enough kept for money spent on them, 28595.—One to four miles of road in contract, great benefit to have roads in West of Ireland properly kept up, 28596.—Contractors both worked themselves and employed labour, 28597.—Wages not good, double would be paid for direct labour, a man would not take contract without profit, 28598-9.—Roads kept about the same now as under the Grand Juries, mileage was increased, 28601-2.—Labourers would be paid 10*s.* to 14*s.* for direct labour, 28603.

O'NEILL, MR. M.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS IN KILGLASS PARISH.

Rathmacurky Electoral Division was scheduled, 28607.—Several sales had taken place under Act of 1903 in Kilglass parish, tenants not yet declared purchasers, but expected to be, and paid interest on purchase money, condition of the people would be bad if nothing were done to give them more land, majority could not live on what they had, land was inferior and there was not enough, men industrious, yet men with big families sometimes went to America to earn living and pay rent, 28608.—Majority of holdings between 5 and 15 acres, 28609.

CAMPBELL ESTATE.—DIRECT SALE TO TENANTS.—NECESSITY FOR ENLARGEMENT AND STRIPING OF HOLDINGS.

Campbell Estate was in Rathmacurky Electoral Division, in Union of Dromore West, majority of rents were £4 to £5, some £3, some £10, on Rathmacurky portion of estate the people lived in a village with land in rundale, there were 19 tenants and 3 economic holdings, the rest were miserable, valuation 15*s.* to £4, 28610, 28658.—The people entered into purchase agreements without consideration, could not meet annuities if money from America were withdrawn, 28611.—They all got money from America or Scotland to pay rents, 28612.—They purchased at 7*s.* in the pound off, but that made little difference, 28651.—The estate was four miles from Dromore West, 28653.—Reason for the poverty was the want of grass land, no compulsion in Act to enable Estates Commissioners to purchase it, it was suggested to landlord to sell through Board or Estates Commission, but he refused, and preferred to sell direct to tenants, 28654-6.—There were some arrears, tenants owing one or two years were charged one year's rent, 28657.—Nothing could be done unless Estates Commissioners or similar body striped estate, it could not be done voluntarily, present holdings not worth striping, it would not suit unless more land were available, better to have the holdings solid, the tenants might allow the Board to do it if they got

O'NEILL, MR. M.—*continued.*

more land, 28657-67.—Difficult to stripe land after sale unless more were added, 28668-70.—Plenty of grass farms in parish in next electoral division, holdings could be enlarged without lifting them, 28671-5.—Colonel Campbell had two estates in Kilglass parish, Frankfort Estate was all grass farms held by non-residents, recently sold to these tenants, 300 acres sold last November, 28675-6.—Seven judicial tenants on 300 acres, each had economic holdings elsewhere, 28677-8. They preferred working land in grass to tillage, they had forty acres on an average, one man had 61 acres, and 71 in an adjoining townland and a residential holding beside, he lived a mile or two away, 28679-82.—Valuation of the 300 acres was £120 to £125, 28684.

HALE ESTATE.

Twelve tenants in one village, all below £4 valuation, got £108 between them every year from America, 28612-4.—Formerly there were migratory labourers, now everyone but old people had gone to America, they went there rather than to England or Scotland, 28615-6.—The estate was all together, there were two villages, a portion of the estate in Castleconnor was purchased by the Board 8 years ago, 28617.—Little land bought for enlarging, 3 holdings were made from made from 80 acres, two tenants migrated, and their holdings were divided among six persons with very small holdings of 3 or 4 acres, 28618.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS.—WORK OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

26 other tenants had uneconomic holdings, Board had done good work on estate, made roads, etc., want of land prevented people getting benefit, 28636, 28638-9.—Estate bought three years ago, vested year or year and a half ago, 28637.—Estate in two portions separated by river, both sides of river tenanted, 28640-2.—Grass land five or six miles from tenanted land at Knockagower, no demesne on estate, 28643-6.—Three men migrated from Culleens to Knockagower, land left was divided among others, no one at present leaving one place held land in another, 28646-8.—Two houses built so far, one more to be built, 28646.—People would prefer to get plots if land were near home, they paid £3 to £5 for con-acre, grass lands connected by road at a limit of four or five miles could be used for tillage, etc., 28619-27, 28650.—People with no land went a long way for con-acre, but it did not pay for the labour, only gave a little more produce, 28625-9.—Middlemen let out con-acre, people cultivated their own land to last extent before taking con-acre, 28630-1—A large profit was made by letting in con-acre, 28632.—The plots were taken for two years or for five, corn crop taken off first and then potatoes, 28633-4.—Artificial manures used, 28635.

ORME ESTATE, DUKE ESTATE, AND RASHLEIGH ESTATE.

Orme Estate, Duke Estate, and Rashleigh Estate were sold direct to tenants, tenants were let off a few shillings, and a year's rent was added to the purchase price, so they embraced the chance of purchase in a bad season, 28656, 28684-5.—No rundale, some non-residential farms were sold with the others, majority were small uneconomic holdings, 28686-90.—No houses on the grass lands, herds were the only people making living out of them, 28691-2.—Some grass lands on Rashleigh, Orme, and Duke Estates, on Rashleigh Estate a few tenants had large farms, in Carranduff there were ten farms rented under £10, one over it, three valued under £10, eight over it, same system of rent and valuation all over division, people poor, it ought to be scheduled, 28693.—No grass lands available for enlargement on Rashleigh Estate, 28695.—Plenty near it, 28696.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS PRIOR TO SALE.

Effort should be made to enlarge holdings before sale, 28697.—Better for the country to have a number of prosperous small farmers than a few large graziers, they would make more out of the land, and be more prosperous, prosperous people made a prosperous State, 28698.—Tillage paid better than grass if judiciously worked, 28699, 28701, 28704.—If a tenant had capital he could fatten cattle, whereas now they were sold as stores at only half the amount, 28701.

Witness's Farm in Culleens.

Witness had a small farm over 30 acres, a great part of which was unreclaimed, 28700, 28702.—Valuation £3, 28703.—The whole of it was tilled in five-course rotation, some fields being left out for grazing and meadow, 28705.—Rent low, 28706.—£10 an acre would be required to reclaim it, 28708.—Unreclaimed portion was not tilled, it was half the farm, 28709-10.—All the 15 acres under tillage were reclaimed, 28711-2.—By witness and his father, 28713.—Small tenants had enough capital to carry on tillage, 28714-5.—Witness's farm was in Culleens, 28716.—He could not live on it if he left it in grass, it would grow rushes and heather inside ten years, 28717.—The potatoes were not a good crop, twice as much could be taken off better land, 28718.—Witness kept five or six cattle and one horse, could keep more if he had the means, rough land could not be managed without horse, 28719-20.—Holding cultivated by spade and not large enough to keep horse would be uneconomic, 28721-2.—Beasts were sold at 1½ to 2 years old, land not good enough to grow crops to fatten them, 28723-5.—Witness had no help on farm except hired man occasionally, he had a wife, one child, and a mother, he could not make a living with larger family, 28746-50.—He took no holidays, and worked from 6.30 or 7.0 a.m. to 10 or 12 o'clock at night, most farmers did the same, they were very industrious, 28751-6.—He had to manage carefully, most people in locality had to trust to shopkeepers sometimes, 28748.—If farms were larger farmers would till them if they got something to start with, but it was difficult to make an up-hill fight, getting credit for everything, and paying £20 to £100 for it, 28757.—Witness's case typical, he sold stock at year or year and a half at local fairs, 28803-4.—Local graziers bought it and strangers, too, they reaped profits while they reared stock, 28805.—Witness found it a struggle to live, 28806.—He had to go into debt, and was uncertain whether he could meet it, 28806.

Question of Industries in Dromore West.

No creamery in Dromore West, no industry at all, except a little sale of turf, which hardly paid 1*s.* a day, 28726.—No reason for not having creamery, it would answer in district, farmers made butter at present, and sold it for 6*d.* a pound to local traders, 28727-9, 28731-2.—Housing accommodation bad, 28730.—Capitalists afraid to invest money in industries, those started failed, people not enough advanced to start co-operative industries, 28731.—Boot factory started in Ballina by Father Quin and others, failed for want of capital, with no one to foster industries they generally fell through, 28735-9.—No creamery had been a failure, 28734.—Board had not started anything, 28737.—Failure of an industry like the Ballina industry made capitalists refrain from starting industries, 28741.

Cottage Dairies and Creameries.

Cottage dairies attached to houses would be an improvement, and would meet the people's wants better than a creamery if market were found for butter, market would come if fostered, poor people starting an industry on their own responsibility had not much chance, 28743-5.—Cottage dairies would be more suitable than creameries because grass lands were in centre of district and tenant's land up towards mountains, distance great to a creamery in grass lands, so profit would not be much on account of loss of labour, 28758.—Roads bad in mountains, 28760.—Creamery butter fetched a better price, 28761.—Tenants kept two cows as a rule, and had to buy turnips, etc., in winter, 28762.—Better to have co-operative scheme than individual dairies, 28763.—In one case within witness's knowledge where there were three cows and a dairy the owners exhibited at fairs and obtained fancy prices, such a system would be remunerative, 28764.—Cottage dairies involved no change of system, it only improved the butter, 28765.—Small holders would make double, 28766.—With two cows churning could be done twice a week, three cows necessary, 28767-8.—Butter sold in rolls to local shops, no competition, same price of 6*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb. everywhere, price of good butter reduced by the bad quality of much that was offered, best butter went to market and got the highest price, 28769-76.—Quality of butter varied from different houses, 28773.—Creamery butter would be more uniform, 28778.—Better price would be obtained if difficulty of distance could be got over, 28779.—Cows would not have to be fed in winter to keep up milk supply for creameries, 28780.—There was a tendency in the case of creameries to send all the milk to creamery, leaving none for family, skim milk from creamery was of little value as food, 28781.

Amount of Capital Necessary to Start Migrants on New Holdings.

Fifty pounds might be necessary to start tenant on new holding, it depended on circumstances, 28782.—Houses already built on Hale Estate, out-offices small, no accommodation for pigs, 28783-5.—One tenant was offered £30 free grant and £25 loan if he would build a house, good scheme to improve condition of tenants if each got loan of £25 payable on same terms as purchase loans, 28786.—£50 to £70 wanted to stock farm of fifteen acres if tenant had no money, 28787.—He would not like to go too deeply into debt, 28788.—Two milch cows could be bought for £20, a horse for £10 to £15, £10 would be needed for farm implements, £4 for pigs, £100 would be wanted to stock farm if tenant had no stock of his own, 28788-91.—Farms varied, on one of £5 or £6 rent stock would be four or five cattle, one horse, and pigs, almost everyone had plough and harrow, 28792-4.—Such a tenant could not start on larger farm with stock he had already possessed, there would be larger calls to meet, 28795.—He might get extra capital needed at first by letting balance of land, better if he had his own cattle and laboured land himself, 28796-8.—A man could be successfully migrated if he got loan on same terms as purchase loan, men did not want to take more than they could meet, men who were not industrious would not take loan, 28799.—Good arrangement to delay premiums repayable on advances for two or three years, 28800-2.

Howley Estate.

The land was inferior, mostly bog and reclaimed moor, and living could not be made out of the holdings, tenants agreed to purchase if sufficient grass lands were added to make holdings economic, after terms were arranged tenants murmured and appealed to Estates Commissioners to interfere, result was certain grass lands were sold for distribution, but not enough, tenants' first agreement fell through, final agreement signed with Estates Commissioners, 28807-8, 28812.—The estate was in Rathmacurky division, 28809.—A mile or two from Campbell and Hale Estates, 50 tenants on Howley Estate, 32 got holdings enlarged, they received four or seven acres, those of fairly high valuation from £5 got increases, those from £5 to £3 got nothing, the small occupiers should have had first claim, 28810-11, 28814.—Maria Kennedy got 6 acres, Phil Atkinson, with two acres, got nothing, he lived on bog and had no valuation, 28813.—All the grazing land was not yet divided, but sale was completed, some of the tenants refused to sign agreements, they were decreed and forced to sign by Estates Commissioners, except one, a certain section of Land Act was put in force against him, and he also was decreed, 28815-7, 28820.—Estates Commissioners bought remaining grass land of 365 acres, and had held it three years, apparently they did not propose to re-arrange it, 28817-20.

Roads.

Roads needed in mountains of Dromore West, 28821.

Harbour Required at Poulaheeny

Harbour recommended at Poulaheeny, splendid natural harbour, 300 or 400 families under £5 or £6 valuation would benefit, they were fishermen who could not live on the land, they had signed a memorial which witness handed in, 28821-2.

MITCHELL, Mr. WILLIAM.

Uneconomic Holdings in Parishes of Templeboy, Skreen, &c.

In parishes of Templeboy, North and South, Skreen and Dromore East and West, there were twenty-nine holdings not exceeding £20 valuation, 128 under £15, 142 under £10, 178 under £5; holdings above £20 were not taken into account; there were 2,175 acres untenanted land in same parishes, valuation £736 12*s*.; on Camcuil, a property under consideration of sale to the Congested Districts Board, there were thirteen tenants with uneconomic holdings; a shopkeeper had purchased over their heads; something should be done for the poor people; eight tenants on valuation of £10 15*s*., 28826-8.

Compulsory Acquisition of Grass Lands—Mr. King's Ranch at Templeboy.

Rural district should be scheduled and the grazing farms acquired and divided, especially the ranch of Templeboy belonging to H. A. King. Mr. King had lived in Australia for fifty years, a bailiff or herd took in grazing for him, there were no houses on the land, the tenants had been evicted in 1848 or 1849, he had no other grass land and no dairy, graziers had had the land and could not get rent fixed because it was grass land, so gave it up, it comprised 335 acres, valuation £227 5*s*., 28829, 28833-5, 28841-6. The land should be divided, but compulsion was necssary, and should apply to tenants as well as to landlords, Ballygrenan was four miles from Dromore West, in applying compulsion person and circumstances of land should not be considered, only whether it were required, 28829-32, 28836-8.—Tenants evicted from Mr. King's estate had emigrated or were living on the mountains, descendants could be found, 28829, 28846.—There was other suitable grass land in Templeboy, 28847-8.

Effect of breaking up Grass Land on Cattle Trade.

Breaking up of grass lands would affect cattle trade by increasing the number of stores, market for stores would not be greater in Ireland, 28849-50.—Men could fatten their own stores if they had more land, 28851.—Witness was a farmer, he bought stores and reared them, 28853.—Mixed farming got more out of land, 28854.—Tenants had not the land to fatten beasts at present, 28855.—Best market for stores was England and Scotland, a market would always be found, there might be diminution of market at first, but that would right itself, 28856, 28859-61.—Making the most of what the country would produce was the best way of doing it good, 28861.—Witness had two holdings, one 120 Irish acres, the other forty-four statute acres, he lived on the latter and had purchased it under the Act, 28857.—He kept stock till it was three years old, 28858.—Eight acres was worked in tillage on the small farm, on the other farm there was no tillage except what the herd tilled, 28862-7.—His son was soon going to the other farm, when it would be no longer a grass farm, 28868.—He did not want any additional grass land himself, 28868.—If it were for the good of the country he would relinquish his grass land, 28869.—A fair price should be paid for grass land, which Government should fix, 28870-1.—If compulsion were exercised no one ought to lose but the State, should there be profit the State should get it, 28872-5.

ROUSE, Mr. W.

Land Act inoperative in Dromore District—Compulsory Purchase advocated.

Land Act had not worked at all in Dromore, twelve or fourteen landlords in parish of Easkey and only two sales had been effected, demands of landlords considered exorbitant, 28878.—Landlords more disposed to sell to Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners than to tenants, 28879.—In most cases tenants had tried to purchase, 28882.—Witness's reason for wishing to have compulsion was to be able to get land at a price more nearly approximate to tenants' offer, 28884.—Compulsion should be applied to tenanted as well as untenanted land, 28885.—Only about five millions a year available for land purchase, 28886.—Parts of the district were already scheduled as congested, but there were even smaller holdings and lower valuations in unscheduled portions, 28888.

Condition of unscheduled portions of district.

In Ballymeny townland there were fifty-five tenants, and three-fourths were under £5 valuation, 28889.—Population of Ballymeny was 275, each person would get 1 acre, 3 roods to live on, 28890.—Some assistance should be given by Congested Districts Board to such small valuations, 28892.—Aid was given if a place was scheduled, 28894.—There might be a Parish Committee, there was one at Rathmacurkey and Easkey, 28895.—There was another townland called Rathlea containing eighty tenants, more than half under £5 valuation, some living on two and a half acres of land; a third property contained about 50 tenants, about half living on farms of a valuation of £5 and under, very little grazing land in Rathlea, that might be split up, perhaps 300 or 400 acres, 28896.

Industries Needed.

The place was very much lacking in industries, if something could be done to foster industries and give people some little employment it would be a great improvement 28897.—Only industry at present existing was kelp-making, and that was almost valueless, 28898.—Lace-making might be encouraged, 28899.—Unlimited market for lace, 28901-2.—No lace-making in neighbouring scheduled area, 28909.—If started there the people in witness's area would benefit, 28910.—Great number of young girls in locality had practically no employment except to emigrate, 28900, 28904-5.

Fishing Industry hampered by bad Pier Accommodation—Improvement of Natural Harbour between Rathlea and Poulaheeny.

Fishing industry rather poor owing to very bad accommodation, there were some piers, but they were practically of no use; one very central point, particularly good for fishing midway between Rathlea and Poulhaheeny had a fairly good natural harbour which with some expenditure could be made a beautiful pier and landing place for boats, 28906.—District not scheduled, that was why witness referred to these places having such wretchedly small holdings, 28907.—They ought to be scheduled, 28908.

M'NULTY, Rev. PATRICK.

Evictions from King's Farm.

Witness's district and Tiereragh generally, should be an agricultural district, development of agriculture and apportionment of people to the land should be facilitated; coming into the district in July, 1869, on Bianconi's car witness heard from driver how eighteen years ago he had seen one morning twenty-six families asleep on the roadside, having been evicted the day before from King's farm, saucepans and things were scattered about the road, in the evening people had all disappeared. Witness had heard that there were 355 acres of land on that farm, from 1869, and probably for twenty years before, it was a grass farm from which these people had been evicted, and it had remained ever since in hands of landlord, children of these families should have been sent back to that land, 28913.—No tenants now on land, 28981-2.—People took in cattle at so much a head, for a long time it was in the hands of one tenant, 28933.—Managed by the landlord now 28984.

Question of Purchase of King's Farm.

Witness not aware that any attempt had been made to buy farm from Mr. King, or whether he were willing to sell it, 28914-5.—Whole decision as to sale rested with landlord, tenants could do nothing, 28916.—In many places in Ireland local people had suggested to landlords sales which had been carried through, witness had been concerned in a very large sale, as far as tenants were concerned there was no solicitor at all, sale carried through by solicitors having carriage of sale, 28917.—Mr. King's property was managed by firm of Dublin solicitors, 28918, 28982.—No suggestion of purchase had been made to solicitors, only purchasers would be Estates Commissioners, 28919.—Witness not aware if attention of Estates Commissioners had been drawn to fact that this land might be available, 28922.—It was not a scheduled area, 28923.—Congested Districts Board could buy land outside a scheduled area, 28924.—Small occupiers all round about obliged to send children to America just when they were grown up, painful instances where young men and girls had been obliged to go away, 28925.

Other Grass Lands available in District.

There were other grass lands, about 200 acres, available at Carrowcullen, 28926-7, 28930.—No resident tenants, it had been sed exclusively for grass for some years, but in years gone by had been used entirely for agricultural purposes, 28931.—There should be some authority vested in Estates Commissioners which would extend agriculture and keep people from being driven out of the country, 28934-5, 28938, 28941.

Compulsory Purchase and Compulsory Tillage.

Landlord of those lands was not getting £1 a year as a judicial rent, tenants occupying these districts could get £4 and £5 an acre for it by operation of law, 28936.—If landlords would not sell the land they would have to buy it compulsorily from the judicial tenants, no other way as far as witness was concerned, 28940.—Witness was prepared to apply compulsion not only to landlords but to tenants, 28941.—The land was naturally intended for tillage, but people had to go to America because they had no employment, 28943, 28945-6.—Witness wished that there should be moderate-sized holdings on which people could live, then they could remain at home and have as many cattle as there were in district at present, 28944.—Objection to such an extent of grass land was that tillage was pushed out of the country, 28945.—A man who tilled 100 or even 50 acres must give a good deal of employment, at present farms afforded no employment, no one living on them, 28947.—Ten or twelve acres of land was quite sufficient to maintain a family; family living on ten acres would be better for the State than four or five, or ten bullocks, 28448.—People driven from the place where nature intended them to live to the slums of the mountain by extension of grazing farms, 28950.—If witness had a farm of 100 acres he would resent State laying down conditions on which to farm, but at same time would submit to justice, 28951-5.—State ought to have power of resuming or taking up these lands and should encourage young men to remain at home, if the fathers' holding could be increased by a few acres, witness knew several cases where families could remain together, at present they only left behind the old and infirm, 28953.

Tillage on a small scale might pay where tillage on a large scale would not.

A man living on a small holding could work for two hours or a single hour, but a man having a large farm was obliged to employ labour for the day, 28954.—In the case of the large farm it could be taken up and given to tenants in reasonable holdings, they need not be very large, small holdings of this good land worth a whole district to a poor man for supporting his family, 28955.—Tillage on a small scale very different from tillage on a large scale, 28956-7.—Owing to climate and seasons, man employing many labourers might find on occasions that he could neither dismiss them or keep them working, 28958-9.—Facilities for purchase should be given to tenants who tilled, then to tenants of same class, and then to residents, 28961-3.—State had an obvious advantage from tillage system, 28964.—Irish race was degenerating owing to strong, able men leaving the country, 28965.—Practical encouragement was given to tillage by the State in Australia, 28966.—Same sort of thing needed in Ireland, 28967.

Small Occupiers obliged to till in order to live.

Small occupiers could not take to grazing, they must till the land, in order to live on it, 28968-9.—Very little stall-feeding done in Ireland, grass taken off and cattle allowed to eat it, some who had grazing lands would not even cut the meadow for purpose of feeding cattle during winter, they would leave a field of meadow standing, and if winter was very bad would let cattle on it to save labour, 28970.

Agricultural Instruction.

County Council had employed an agricultural instructor, 28971.—Intelligence of people awakened a good deal, but not much practical result, 28972.—Some men who had land were quite capable of carrying out any system pointed out to them, they should be encouraged to make their holdings demonstrations in the locality, very little good cultivation practically, 28973.

Extent to which condition of farmers could be improved without enlargement of holdings—Class of land in neighbourhood.

Room for improvement in rotation of crops and in drainage and improving homesteads, 28974-6.—Land in this part of district required simple cultivation, and drainage would be of great service, it was good land as a rule, but some portions would never pay for cultivation, 28977.—Land from here to Ballina was cut-away bog reclaimed, 28978.—Such land would not pay for hired labour, it was only that people had to be doing something, 28979.—Comparatively good outlet for tenant's labour once his improvements were secured to himself, 28980.

Decline of Fishing Industry—Training necessary for its Revival—Plenty of Fish.

This part of the country bordered on the sea, splendid fishing ground, but no accommodation, there used to be a number of boats along the coast, none at all now; in Portavad on Ballysodare Bay, where there was a nice safe harbour, there were forty boats, when cathedral at Ballina was being built, in 1828, a great deal of stone was quarried in Dromard, and taken in boats up River Moy to ground where cathedral was built, that was before the Famine, 28986.—In 1845, twice as many men were engaged in the fishing on the Irish coast as now, plenty of fish in the bay if there were only proper means of capturing them, 28987.—Plenty of fishing in Sligo Bay, boats came from Isle of Man, but there were no local boats, 28989.—Fishing required very special training, men must be accustomed to it and to the sea, 28990.—Population declined, and industry dwindled at time of Famine, 28991.—Industry never recovered, witness had received letters from people whose parents had had boats and who imagined there was some property to settle, for twenty miles along the coast fishing business was entirely killed, 28992.—Witness had hoped that people would take to the sea again and that it would receive its due share of attention along with agriculture, 28992.—There used to be immense catches of herring, 28994.—Herrings still there, 28955.—About three years ago there had been doubt about it, men came over from the other side of County Sligo, the Donegal side, and fished with other boats, they found they were driving through shoals of fish, people commenced by selling them at 50*s.* per 1,000, and ended at 7*s.* 6*d.* per 1,000, when buyers got what they wanted they did not go further, 28996.—Congested Districts Board had made seventy-four loans amounting to £626 16*s.* 10*d.* for small boats in Sligo, there were a few in witness's own locality, 28997.—They extended from Ballysodare to Dromore West, about twenty-five miles of coast line, 28998.—Training was absolutely necessary before fleet could be greatly enlarged, people would not go at present into a boat and stay at fishing as they would if properly trained, 28999.—Any application had been freely acceded to, 29000.—Boats had come from other parts of the West of Ireland, from Isle of Man, and even from French coast to fish in Sligo Bay, 29001.—Witness was not aware that Donegal boats ever came, 29003-4.

M'NULTY, Rev. PATRICK—*continued.*

Absence of means of Locomotion.

People were put to considerable inconvenience for want of locomotion, not the slightest public means of transit except a one-horse car, people marketing their produce lost three days by the journey to Sligo and back, they had to start at two or three o'clock in morning and had to stand in the market, and come home the following night, terrible inconvenience and danger to life, witness had heard of three or four accidents, 29005.—The new railway would do a great deal of good, 29006.

GILLIGAN, Mr. P. J.

Condition of holdings in Aughris—Earnings sent from America—Purchase and re-striping of holdings.

Twenty-nine tenants on townland of Aughris, sixteen tenancies in rundale, three tenants had holdings of eight different plots, witness had five plots, over a mile between some of these plots, 29008.—People wanted Congested Districts Board to buy, 29009.—Landlord had been approached and had offered them 5*s.* on first term rents, and 3*s.* 6*d.* on second term rents, 29010.—Average bid was 6*s.* for the whole townland, it was in trustees' hands at the time, and they could not improve their offer, there was a place where crops had been destroyed by spray from the sea, people could not live on the land but for money they got from their children in America, 29011.—Sons went to America, nothing for them to do at Aughris, very often witness got £30 or £40 annually from his family in America, 29012-3.—Very difficult thing to purchase land in rundale as it was at present, there was a grass farm at Garraduff of eighty acres, if there was any addition to holdings, people would feel inclined to purchase, 29016, 29029.—Rundale not increasing, 29019.—Better if Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners would buy the land and re-stripe it, 29020.

Fishing Industry.

They had a small pier at Aughris, before it was erected there had been a very good salmon fishery, £18 to £21 made per man for three years in succession, paying all expenses of fishing gear, 29014.—Then came a failure for eighteen or twenty years, year after year it declined, fishing for nothing at all at the finish, then the people ran short of boats, 29021.—Witness got his boat from Killala, 29022.—People always bought their own boats, 29023.—Witness had a share in two boats until the last few years, 29024.—Any amount of herring still about the bay, but people had neither boats nor nets, 29025, 29030-1.—Herrings came in every year, witness had never seen better signs than during last two years, 29032.—There were boats to hire quite convenient, but it was not convenient to get out on the bay except on a very calm day, 29033-4.—A few young fellows could be got to go out, but witness did not believe they could continue, 29035.

MELVIN, Mr. T. P.

Negotiations for sale of Mr. King's Farms at Templeboy.

Ranch at Templeboy, property of Mr. King, of Australia, had been in the hands of a firm of Dublin solicitors, there were negotiations for sale, solicitors made an offer; some of the tenants resided in Dromore West, and some in Templeboy, they refused to buy unless Ballygrenagh and other ranches for farms were subdivided among them and sale fell through, 29039, 29041-2, 29044.—Mr. King had tenanted land as well, 29040.—Solicitors made no offer of untenanted land, not much trouble about price if they got lands for 5*s.* in the pound immediate reduction, 29045.—Only a question of splitting up these lands, witness was not

MELVIN, Mr. T. P.—*continued*

a tenant on that property, but had been appointed to represent tenants before Commission, 29046.

Garryduff Farm derelict—Hostile attitude of people.

There was a farm at Garryduff owned by Mr. Beatty, of Inniscrone, lying derelict, no man would bid for it, 29047, 29049.—People would not send their cattle there to graze, 29052, 29055-8, 29077.—Close beside it were about forty small holdings under £5 valuation, 29048.—Mr. Beatty had tried to sell by auction, but people were opposed to this sale inasmuch as they expected it to be carried through the Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners in accordance with Mr. Wyndham's Act, 29053.—Farm had been a sort of accommodation farm to tenants in the line of grazing, there was a herd who managed the farm, took in their cattle, and received the grazing money or rent, 29059.—Up to twelve months ago small occupiers on margin sent their cattle to graze, paying so much a head, 29057-8. Land was sometimes overstocked, 29060.—Then it was proposed to sell the two divisions in two plots, when the people would have been excluded, 29061, 29063.—Sale was abortive, 29062.—If it had been carried through land would have passed permanently into private hands, 29064.—And possibility of having holdings enlarged would have disappeared, 29065-6.—People intervened in time and appointed men to speak to Mr. Beatty, 29067.—Strangers buying would have been made uncomfortable, 29068-9.—Mr. Beatty, seeing that auction fell through, did not press sale to surrounding people, but Estates Commissioners had since sent a man to examine the land and see what it would be worth, 29070-1.—If Estates Commissioners bought it they would make the land available, and people would be satisfied, 29073.—Not known whether sale would take place, 29074.—During period of uncertainty surrounding men had left the land severely alone, 29075-7.

Amount of Grazing Land in Ballygrenagh.

Very little heard about grazing ranches in Tireragh, whole barony of Tireragh could be classified as one grazing ranch, 29078.—There were 1,100 acres, including rough sides of mountains, in Ballygrenagh, it had been stated that there were only 300 acres, none of it tenanted land, one portion was claimed, but the man would not go into court, which proved there was no proper tenant, 29079.—If he were a tenant he would be entitled to get fair rent fixed, 29084.—There were 600 acres of good land, 29080.—And a lot of rough pasture, very suitable for small farmers along mountain side, 29082.—Some of the land not suitable for tillage, but would come in conveniently for the people of southern Templeboy district, it was not tenanted when Wyndham Act was passed, 29083.

O'NEILL, Mr. J.

Tenants in Caminil—Refusal to acknowledge new Landlord—Tenants willing to purchase holdings provided they got some grass land.

Witness's landlord was at present Mr. Cuffe, before 1902 it was Mrs. Grace Middrie, then Messrs. Fenton and Lyons acted as agents, auction was held of house, furniture, and farm implements in May, 1902, Mr. James L. Cuffe, of Aclare, took place for grazing purposes immediately after, in the beginning of 1904 agents wrote to tenants offering their own holdings for sale, tenants would not accept terms, as grass lands had been reserved, and finally said they would abide by decision of Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, Board replied that they were attending to matter, all went well till some time in 1905, when tenants were told by agents that Mr. James L. Cuffe was their landlord, and that all rents from 29th September would be due to him, form sent to tenants to fill up acknowledging Mr. Cuffe as landlord, which they refused to sign, 29086.—Tenants did not know the law, 29096.—They were decreed for rent as result of refusal, 29097.—They had not been asked to sign form before purchasing, 29097A.—There were thirteen tenants, nine had land with total valua-

O'NEILL, Mr. J.—*continued.*

tion of less than £11, on these nine holdings there were forty-five people, 29086.—The people did not buy direct from landlord, because they wished to get addition to holdings, 29087.—There was a good deal of grass land which belonged to Mrs. Niddrie, which Mr. Cuffe had bought, 29088-9.—There was a mansion-house used as a police hut at present, 29090.—It could be used in a different way—a doctor had applied for loan to get a mansion-house built, it would be very suitable for him, 29099.—If public board intervened it would be important to have means of disposing of mansion-house, it would take away a good deal of purchase money and instalments could be met more easily, 29100.—Mr. Cuffe had more grass lands there, 29091.—He had cattle of his own, 29092.—No use to try to buy from Mr. Cuffe, it would make no difference to a man with a 5*s.* valuation, 29094.—Tenants would be willing to buy holdings if they got some grass as well, 29095.

MARLEY, Mr. PATRICK.

Conditions of Life on Witness's Farm.

Farm of fifteen acres bought from Sir Malby Crofton in 1847, 29102-3.—Tenant-right had been bought, 29104.—Very hard to live on small spot, poor men paying very dear for it, 29106.—Witness kept a few cows and tilled part of holding, 29107.—He got oats, roots, meadow, potatoes, turnips, and mangolds, 29108.—About three acres under tillage, 29109.—The rest was grazed, 29110.—Witness kept two two-year-olds, two cows, and a couple of calves and a horse he could not feed more, 29111-3.—He had three sons with him and two daughters, the rest were in America, 29115-6.—They could not live on holding if it were not for America, 29117-8.—One son helped with farming, the others were at school, 29119-20.—He could manage farm himself with assistance, and they had to get in men according to the work, 29121.—If they got an enlarged holding the younger sons would be kept at home to help, witness's family was young at present, but when they got older and saw that they could not live at home they would go away, 29122.—If there were anything in the line of these ranches going witness ought to get a division so as to keep his sons at home and stop emigration, 29125-7a.—Landless man could not be more in need than the man who already had a patch, but the head of a family whose holding required enlargement should have a prior claim to witness's son so long as the son was youthful and could go abroad, 29128-30.

ROBINSON, Mr. RICHARD ST. GEORGE.

Size of an Economic Holding.

In Sligo, if land were divided for enlarging holdings, enough should be given to rear three or four cows and their calves till year-olds, with sufficient meadow and tillage for a man to work with own family; area required would depend on quality; holding with a valuation of £12 or over would be economic, but the more a man got the better, 29131-2.

Reasons for sale of Cattle as year-olds.

Calves sold as year-olds because they fetched high price then, 29133.—Few farmers fattened; they could if they went in for tillage, but that did not pay, 29134-6.—Tillage might pay with dairying; cattle could not be fattened without tillage or artificial feeding, 29137.—No reason why it should not be done, 29138.—More profit in selling year-olds than two-year-olds, 29140.—£8 2*s.* 6*d.* paid for yearling; good two-year-old bought for £11; only £3 difference for an extra year's keep; £4 necessary to repay outlay, etc.; £12 must be paid for two-year-old in order to make a profit, 29144-51.—Two-year-olds £1 5*s.* dearer this year than for many years past, 29146.—Beef from Canada and the Argentine probably four years old, 29141, 29143.—In England and Scotland 1½-year-olds put into stalls and came out as two-year-olds fat, 29142.—Average price of yearling £7 to £8, 29145, 29204.—Good ones fetched up to £9 5*s.*, 29204.—Average price of two-year-olds, £10 10*s.* to £11, 29204.

ROBINSON, Mr. RICHARD ST. G.—*continued.*

New Lettings.

Few new lettings made by Board in Sligo; none by Estates Commissioners; if new occupier had not enough capital to stock farm he would be driven temporarily to sub-letting, 29151-2.

Migrants.

Migration of strangers from a distance would be resented by occupiers in neighbourhood, 29153.—Some of whom were on uneconomic holdings, 29155.—Grass lands proposed for sale were mostly in hands of judicial tenants, 29156.—Dealing with tenants a delicate matter, 29157.—Best for public authority to first enlarge uneconomic holdings in neighbourhood, 29159.—Residents would still object because they wanted the grass lands for themselves, 29160, 29164.—In discussing sale with tenants witness had made clear that owner could not guarantee what Estates Commissioners would do with land, 29153, 29161-2.—Not unnatural for tenants to take all precautions to prevent introduction of strangers, 29163.—Tenants on estate in Galway recently sold to Estates Commissioners would not have agreed to buy if 73 tenants on congested estate in same townland had been included, 29165.—Tenants in congested districts would not migrate to a distance; migrant would require house, offices, fencing and capital to stock farm, total cost would be about £300, 29165, 29166-73.—Twenty per cent. of the people would have enough agricultural knowledge to work new farms if land were same quality.

Restrictions proposed on right of Selling Tenant Interest.

Migrant should not be allowed to sell his tenant's interest till he had been five years in occupation; he got interest free and there was nothing to prevent him selling it and making profit, 29165, 29174-6.

Land available for Migration purposes.

Sufficient land could be obtained by voluntary purchase at fair price; estate of 2,400 acres of good arable land, excluding bog and rough land, being offered within next few months; would not be sold if Estates Commissioners did not give fair price, 29165, 29177-8.—All in Sligo except 400 acres, 29179.—All grass land, 29180.

Price that should be given for Land.

Basis of price of land should be 1½ times the valuation with option to owner to make appeal; it was fair in some cases, in others did not cover value of land, 29181, 29214.—Owner should then get capital sum which, if invested at 3½ per cent., would yield net income; net receipts often not a fair basis for selling value; owner sometimes employed labour, for sake of giving employment, in making permanent improvements, or he might have insufficient capital to keep land fully stocked; lastly, but not least, many lands were boycotted, 29214.—Some on properties for which witness was land agent, 29218.

Compulsory Powers unnecessary, but if granted there should be a Court of Appeal.

Compulsory powers quite unnecessary, if granted there should be independent Court of Appeal; in no case should fixing of price be left to Estates Commissioners or Board, 29181.

"Backstairs" Compulsion.

Estates Commissioners as it was unfairly used great deal of "backstairs compulsion," 29181, 29195, 29342.—They wrote to one estate saying, "I am also asked to suggest that if evicted tenant is reinstated it may facilitate in arranging terms for the sale of estates to the tenants," that was a disgraceful suggestion, 29182-6.—As a fact estate in question was demesne land offered for net income of what tenant farmers

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paid, which was less than the owners made out of it, 29187.—Paragraph did not refer to price, it should never have been written, 29189-91, 29193-4.—Owners willing to sell at fair price without such a paragraph, 29194.

Boycotting and Agitation at the mere mention of Compulsory Sale.

Compulsory powers would lead to boycotting and agitation, mere mention of it had done so already in County Sligo and adjoining county, 29195.—Negotiations for sale to tenants would stop if grass lands were compulsorily taken for migrants, 29196.—Mr. Bryce, in his speech introducing present Commission, referred to compulsion, saying Commission would lead up to it; since then one of the quietest districts in the country had been very disturbed, 29195, 29197-200.—County Sligo had always been quiet except a small portion of it, 29201.—It was affected by speech; thought Commission was leading to compulsion and wanted to force owners' hands, 29202-3.—If there were proper Court of Appeal witness would submit to compulsion though he would not like to part with his estate, 29204.—Compulsion should not be given at all, it was a greater evil than congestion, 29313-6.—Plenty of land to be got without it, 29317.—Landlord had a right to his own property, 29318-9, 29324, 29328-31.—Different thing taking land by compulsion for railways; owners were well paid, 29320-1, 29325.—Living was certainly more important than quick transit, but cases were not parallel, 29323, 29325.—According to Estates Commissioners present valuation owner would get nothing for occupation interest; owner must be compensated, 29327, 29329.—Though compulsion might be right in New Zealand and Australia it was not necessarily so in Ireland; there was an element of compulsion in Labourers' Act; no one knew yet how it would work, 29332-6.—Witness's view not modified by fact that Board had already certain compulsory powers, 29337-9.—If occupying tenant were compulsorily expropriated he was very well paid, 29341.

Effect on Cattle Trade on breaking up of Grass Lands.

Breaking up of grazing land would be disastrous to cattle trade; small farmers would not feed cattle to two and a half years or older; area of holdings too limited and artificial food necessary which they could not afford, and which would be unprofitable; tendency would be to raise more young cattle for sale at year to year and a half, when they fetched better price in proportion; existence of creameries fostered this practice; if large graziers were banished there would be no market; Twenty-two graziers in County Sligo who fed 3,500 to 4,000 cattle a year and 3,300 sheep mostly bought in local markets; during four leading fairs in Collooney last year two banks paid out over £62,400, chiefly to dealers; small local men brought cash in hand, so that the £62,400 did not represent anything like the total amount which really changed hands 29204-6, 29208-10.—A few two-year-olds were exported and some 1½-year-olds, 29212.—Graziers bought year-olds, 1½ and 2¾-year-olds; small cattle on mountains seldom sold under 2½ to 3 years, exclusively bought by graziers, 29213.—Small farmers did not breed sheep, except in one barony, so that cutting up grazing land would mean reduction in number and price of sheep, 29213.

Breaking up of all Grass Lands would eventually increase Congestion.

Agricultural farm to keep a family must be at least twenty acres (Irish) fairly good land of mixed quality, to carry five cows and their calves, giving three acres to tillage; many occupiers of holdings of £15 to £20 valuation, but only useful in one line, would find it difficult to get on without assistance of large farms close by, while holders of smaller farms of general quality could make good living; thirty to fifty acres of hilly, stiff clayey soil the most uneconomic of all farms; holders on poor, wet farms added to income by using grazing facilities on larger grass farms; grazing rates regulated by market price of stock; this system by winter feeding added much to value and production of home farm; owners of large farms anxious to let grazing; it involved less risk and

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capital; occasional grass farms therefore necessary and useful to small holders; large grass farms stocked by owners themselves caused sharp local demand for young stock not fit for shipping; producers of young stores would suffer without that demand; no use talking of home fattening on poor, small farms; where large farms were divided care should be taken to leave large grass farms; occasional grass farm helped to relieve congestion; many grass lands unfit for holdings; doubtful if peasantry of uniform holdings would prosper; best attempts to relieve congestion in that way would fail; large grass farms would never pay and would deteriorate if broken up and put into hands of small holders; migration which might relieve congestion in one part would increase it in another; with better education and commercial prospects no young Irishman of ability would settle on a few acres while better conditions offered abroad; better to aid and encourage industrious people, leaving lazy and idle to learn from them; State was always providing for latter and driving capital and energy out of the country, 29336.

Importation of Canadian Cattle.

Importation of Canadian cattle, etc., should be strongly opposed owing to risk of disease, and because it might lower market value of young stock and finished cattle; it would also increase demand for grass lands, and therefore letting value of grass land must be taken account of in estimating price of land, 29213.

Tillage did not pay so well as Grass Farming.

Tillage not so paying as grass farming, 29213.—Tendency for small farmers to till as little as possible; they would not increase quantity of tillage with increased holdings, 29206.—Figures of a leading firm of corn merchants and millers showed how production of oats had fallen off in Sligo; in 1883-4, 5,096 tons of oats purchased; in 1884-5, 3,927 tons; 1885-6, 3,148 tons; 1905-6, 365 tons; export of oats showed same decrease; total exports of Sligo Steam Navigation Co., 1884, 10,157 tons; 1885, 7,522½ tons; 1886, 7,886; 1899, 605 tons; 1900, 40 tons; 1904, 60 tons; 1905, 56½ tons; 1906, 18 tons, 29213-4.

Rents on Small Holdings well paid, except on certain Estates where Political Agitators were at work.

Small rents well paid, except where political agitators tried to get tenants to refuse to pay, 29218-9, 29287-9.—Small holding was as good security to the State for purchase as the large holding, 29250-2.—Some of the rent came from America, 29253.—Agitation pretty bad in some places; it went in rings; took place on some estates witness managed, 29221-5.—Tenants had refused to pay rents; no steps taken yet; it was hoped they would have the sense to pay; they usually paid in November, 29227-35..—Tenants had not bought because they wanted to fix their own price, 29236-7.—Refusal to pay rent had occurred on four adjoining estates in Connaught, one of the four in witness's hands, 29242-5.—Agitators told tenants not to buy unless they got land at certain price, 29246-7.—Landlords offered liberal terms, 29248.—Tenants would have dealt with them straight off, 29249.—No rent nor taxes nor rates paid in Inishmurray, that was hardly an estate, 29254-5.—Holdings very small; making poteen chief industry, 29256.—It was seven miles from mainland and they could see police coming; magistrate could not try them till they were caught, 29257-8.—Land bad and light; no harbour for fishermen to land, 29259-61.

Increase of Income and Powers of Congested Districts Board suggested.

Congested Districts Board did excellent work; no Government department could do as well, 29261, 29272-4, 29290.—Board had very competent staff, 29274-5, 29250-1, 29297.—It would be a public blunder to abolish the Board, 29261, 29290.—Income and powers should be largely increased and work of Parish Committees improved and extended, 29261, 29310.—Success partly due to popularity of officers, 29276.—The Board should have power to deal with tenants adjoining estates purchased, not only with migrants, difficulty in dealing with migrants as well as in purchasing land, 29311-2.

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Suggestions as to authority for maintenance of Drainage in Connaught.

Drainage system throughout Connaught should be taken charge of by Board; new proprietors unlikely to strike maintenance rate; they had refused in Dromore district in 1903, 29261.—Up to passing of Land Purchase Acts cost of maintaining arterial drainage schemes borne by landlords; work now lying derelict, 29262-3.—1,000 acres of drainage done in Dromore in the "forties"; since then when damage was done there was a Drainage Board which entrusted contractor with work and struck rate to pay cost of repairs, 29264.—Drainage Board consisted of landed proprietors constituted under Act of Parliament, 29265-7.—After Purchase Acts Board of Works wrote to witness to call meetings of proprietors, which he did; tenants who purchased refused to have anything to say to it; County Council could be called on to take over drainage, 29268.—Board would carry out work better, and if necessary should be given compulsory powers to strike rate, 29269-70, 29279.—It was necessary work and would not interfere with Board's popularity, 29271, 29277.—County Councils had enough to do to keep roads in order, 29278.—Best way would be for Board to have power to compel County Council to strike rate for drainage purposes and then for the County Council to hand it over to the Board to see work was properly done, 29282.—Necessary to have some authority to take place of landowners, 29283, 29286.—In cases of subsidiary drainage arrangement formerly made with tenants was that each should do his portion, 29234.—After Act of 1881 landlord had not power to make tenants fulfil agreements. 29285.

Congested Districts Board preferred to Estates Commissioners.

Witness would rather deal with Congested Districts Board than with Estates Commissioners, 29292.—He had sold one estate to Board and thirteen to Estates Commissioners, or at least sold them direct; four or five in process of sale; only three of above inspected and portion of one conveyed, and that was to Board, 29293.—Two bodies doing same work must clash; they never competed to witness's knowledge; Board not doing much in Sligo, 29294-5.—Easier to come to terms with man who knew his business; many of Estates Commissioners did not, 29299-300.—Opinion based on knowledge of their prices; no danger of their being extravagant; everyone found difficulty in agreeing with them as regards price, 29301-4.—Witness had little knowledge of Estates Commissioners' work; his opinion was founded on what he had heard from others, 29306-9.

Landlords' Improvements.

Letter from Major O'Hara, Lieutenant of the County, in which he said—On his property in former times a staff of men was kept and estate steward, who made and kept up roads and fences on tenants' holdings; steward advised as to best use to be made of farm; many roads still kept up; tree planting always done by landlord; orchards planted; money borrowed for drainage still being repaid; houses built for tenants in many cases; in parts where holdings were small; field kept for accommodation to graze young stock; when there was talk of sale of property tenants warned owner to keep land in his own hands for their use, 29343.—Work done chiefly by Major O'Hara's granduncle and father, 29344.—Lord Harlech also did a good deal, and many landlords spent money making roads and drains, 29345.—Witness's firm did not manage Lord Harlech's estate, but he knew it well, 29345.—Firm paid £520 a year to Board of Works for different estates, 29347.—Expenditure on Major O'Hara's estate not repayable; money spent on roads to bogs and drains repaid landlord to certain extent, 29348.—Farm with accommodation road worth more than one without; most of the money not repayable, 29349.

Documents put in by Mr. R. St. G. Robinson.

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M'LOUGHLIN, Mr. J.

County Sligo.—Statistics of Population, Area, Valuation, &c.

Population of Sligo in 1841, 180,886, in 1901, 84,083, area of county, 452,356 acres, 74,508 under tillage, 237,536 acres pasture, 76,078 acres plantations, 120,819 acres waste, 11,815 acres under water, 13,491 agricultural holdings in County Sligo, mean valuation £13, in 1906 total rateable value £214,216. emigrants from May 1st, 1851, to December 31st, 1905, numbered 79,829, in 1905, 792, in 1900, 1,544, 29352.—1899 a bad year, and depression caused more emigration, 29353-4.—In 1905 migratory labourers, 169 landholders, 725 not landholders, 899 went to England and Scotland, 17 to other parts of Ireland, 29354.

Total Number and Sizes of Agricultural Holdings—Expenditure on Poor Relief, &c.

Of 13,491 agricultural holdings in Sligo 3,511 under £4, 5,605 £4 to £10, 1,817 £10 to £15, 860 £15 to £20, 704 £20 to £30, 472 £30 to £50, 320 £50 to £100, 201 over £100, 896 holdings not exceeding one acre in 1905, 1,422 1 to 5 acres, 5 to 15 acres 5,492, 15 to 30 acres 4,495, 30 to 50 acres 1,574, 50 to 100 acres 782, 100 to 200 acres 302, 200 to 500 acres 123, above 500 acres 37, 29361.—Expenditure on poor relief year ending September, 1905—Sligo Union 1*s.* 7¾*d.* in the £1, Tobercurry Union 1*s.* 10½*d.* in the £, average number of persons in workhouse, 1905—Sligo 448, Tobercurry 103, 29361.

Number of Holdings Sold Under Act of 1903 and under Previous Acts.

Nineteen estates sold in County Sligo from 1st November, 1903, to 31st March, 1906, 8 in congested districts, 29354, 29357.—536 purchasers, 800 holdings, including 278 in congested districts, 29357.—800 purchasers under Act of 1903, as against 1,200 under previous Acts, not encouraging, 29358, 29360.—99 per cent. of tenant farmers anxious to buy at reasonable price, 29359-60.—Purchase operations accelerated under Act of 1903, 29361.

Amount of Untenanted Land in South Sligo.—Decline of Population in Certain Districts.

Ballintogher East Electoral Division included 1,252 acres untenanted land, owner W. J. Griffiths, valuation £135 in townland of Kilkerry, population of Kilkerry fell fell from 241 in 1881 to 183 in 1901, was in Sligo Union, near Dromahair, 29361-2.—In townland of Sleshwood 374 acres untenanted, owner Mr. O. Wynne, valuation £25 10s., Mr. Wynne had £15,000 advanced by Estates Commissioners for sale of demesne at Hazlewood, he had not sold whole of property, had number of grazing farms, 29362-3.—Ballintogher West Electoral Division, included 1,913 acres untenanted land, exclusive of 194 acres, Castledargan mansion house and demesne occupied by Mr. Hosie, 29364-8.—Ballinakill Electoral Division included 522 acres untenanted land, valuation £211, population fell from 5,712 in 1881 to 4,359 in 1901, demesne of Castle Neno not included, 29368-9.—Ballisodare East Electoral Division included 377 acres untenanted land, valuation £266, rich land used for grazing, population 888 in 1881, in 1901 677, 29369.—Ballisodare West Electoral Division included 694 acres untenanted land, mostly occupied by Mr. C. K. O'Hara, 100 acres held in Streamstown by Mr. A. Sim, there was a strong rumour that he was ready to sell at a reasonable price, 29369-77.—Population fell from 850 in 1881 to 712 in 1901, 29377.—Bricklieve Electoral Division included 411 acres untenanted land, valuation £323, owners Sir J. Gore-Booth and Mr. Creighton, Sir J. Gore-Booth lived 20 miles away, population in 1881 668, in 1901 499, 29377-81.—Collooney Electoral Division included 2,505 acres untenanted land in occupation of Mr. Cooper, excluding Markree demesne, valuation £927, considerable portion consisted of game preserves, public excluded from touching it, 29381-5, 29389.—There was a deerpark as well, 29386-8.—Demesne comprised 497 acres, valuation £400, 29392.—Hares, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, etc., on game preserves, 29393.—Population of Collooney, 2,018 in 1881, 1,287 in 1901, 29393-5.—No evictions on estate of 2,505 acres, population had no prospects, so emigrated, 29396.—Game preserves were there when population was high, 29397. Drumfin Electoral Division included 385 acres untenanted land, population 937 in 1881, 792 in 1901, land not mountain, 29411-3.—Kilmackowen Electoral Division included 365 acres untenanted land, valuation £371, population 1,709 in 1881, 1,363 in 1901, 29413.—Knocknarea Electoral Division included 953 acres untenanted land, excluding demesne of Mr. J. F. Walker, valuation £738, population 1,207 in 1881, 978 in 1901, 29413.—In Lisconney Electoral Division there were four large farms of good quality untenanted, farm of 271 acres in Doorly, valuation £189, owner Miss Cooper, same lady owned farm of 226 acres in Lisconny, valuation £171, farm of 128 acres in Lisruntogh, valuation £84, owner Dr. Tweedy, farm of 289 acres in Spotfield, valuation £129, owner Mr. R. A. Dilke, 29413.—Riverstown Electoral Division included untenanted farm of 161 acres at Ardcumber, valuation £100, owner Mr. Phibbs, 29413

Emigration from Collooney.

Emigration due to distress after harvest of 1879, when there was no change in land laws to benefit the people and root them in the soil, 29398-9.—Holdings were small, 29400.—Dwindling of population enabled remainder to live on land, most stalwart and intelligent emigrated, 29401.—Valuation of farms was £20 to £1, 29402-3.—The labouring men had to emigrate, 29404-5.—Holdings not evacuated, old people remained, 29410.—Bone and sinew of youth went to foreign countries, their labour paid the rent, it was not taken out of land, 29411.—There was a country town at Collooney, 29439.—Townspeople had very little land, it would not be included in the 45 out of 170 holdings not exceeding £4 valuation, 29440-3.—Very few cottages in Collooney with small potato gardens attached, 29444.—Emigration not from the town, but from the Electoral Division of Collooney, country round mountainous, people in the town more prosperous than in country round, rural districts suffered most, 29445-9.—There was some encouragement in the village, Mr. Sims was an enterprising man, and it was a little manufacturing town, industry drew people from country as well as town, development of industries would be beneficial and would tend to stop emigration, 29450-3.

Question of Scheduling the Whole of Connaught. —Migration.

Entire province of Connaught should be scheduled to relieve congestion on mountains and bogs, Board or Land Commission or State should take over all waste lands, 29413-5, 29453.—Where number of poor peasants were on holdings under £4 some two should be taken up and put on waste lands, leaving one in possession of what would then be an economic holding, 29416.—Best way was to schedule the whole, poverty extreme in some places that were not scheduled, 29417-21, 29423.—None of above divisions were scheduled, 29422.—Grazing farms put up valuation above 30*s.* standard, 29424-9.—Insufficient accommodation in Connaught for migration of people in the province, scheduling province would be a step in right direction, but need not prevent the people being migrated outside, 29430-4.—Board should get larger powers, 29435.—Parishes in Sligo as poor as anywhere in Ireland, 29436.—If only spots most requiring it were scheduled deserving places might be left out, 29454.—Selection difficult, 29456.—No room for landless people and farmers' sons unless whole were scheduled, it would save them from emigration, 29457.—Board would be more powerful if it had some compulsory powers, 29458-9.

Taking Over Non-Residential Grazing Lands by the State for Enlargement of Holdings and Creation of New Holdings Proposed.

All non-residential grazing lands should be taken over by State and used for enlargement and creation of holdings, 29460.—Non-residential grazing farms were those given up to bullocks and sheep, and no one living on them, some people had six or ten of these, living on one and having the others on eleven months' system, residential farm was the one lived on, 29461-2.—If a man built a house on a non-residential farm and his son lived in it, it would then be residential, many men had no sons, 29463-70.—No one should have more than 30 acres, practical farmer would be glad to have as much, while a gentleman's son who could not use a spade would not be thankful for 50 or 100, land was for the people, 29471-4.—If the landlord's son were a *bona-fide* occupier he should be left undisturbed whatever size his farm, different if he were put there for bogus purpose, 29475-80.—Every attempt should be made to keep sons of farmers in the country, land splendid crop land if farmers' sons were willing and able to make it pay, 29481.—Land not tilled, because it was in hands of non-residential grazier, poor people were on the mountain struggling to rear their families to go abroad and make money, 29482.—Two classes of people—industrious, hard-working class and idle, unproductive class, 29483.—Graziers belonged to unproductive class, 29484.—Untenanted land should be distributed among landless people and farmers' sons, 29485-8.—Whoever used untenanted land ought to be purchased out, 29489.—He would be compensated, 29490.—Even if a man had acquired large grazing land to supplement his tillage he ought to go, one farm was enough for him, 29490-1.—Farmers as well as owners would be affected, 29492.—If a shopkeeper had bought a grazing farm with proceeds of his business case would be the same, 29493.—Shopkeeper and gentleman farmer were dangerous to the country, 29494.—Poor man could not touch land while shopkeeper was bidding, the latter might have some land, but not whole face of country for miles, 29495-6.

Tillage Paid Better than Grazing.—Proportion of Land which should be Tilled.

Witness a farmer with 30 acres, of which about 10 acres were tilled, 29497-500, 29503.—Tillage paid twice as well as grazing, 29501.—Half of the lands of Ireland should be tilled, 29504-5.—Witness did not till more, because he could not get labour, 29506-7.—Not one-sixth of land in Ireland tilled, 29508.—One-third should be tilled, 29510.—No tillage at all on some farms, 29509.—Mixed system of farming advocated, 29513-4.—Land should be let out to grass sometimes, rough grazing wanted as well as tillage, 29514-5.—Considerable portion would thus be under grass, 29516.—If young men could be induced to stay in country tillage on farms would encourage them still more, 29517.—Easier to get farm hands if they were not driven to America, 29518.—Not enough practical agriculture taught, what little there was induced people to till more, 29519-20.

Reasons for Not Tilling More Land.

Reason more land was not tilled was because large farms were in possession of those who preferred to live an idle life and were not anxious to work or till land, and allowed it to drift to decay, people who would till had not got the land, 29521-5.—If land were broken up into small farms it would come into hands of people who would be anxious to till it, as that was more profitable, 29526-7.—New tenants were industrious class, and would work hard, 29528-9.—Graziers foolish not to till land, they were content to see poor men struggling on mountain, so long as they were better off, 29530-3.—Owner let grazing farms on eleven months' system in many cases, 29534-6.—11 months' man had no right to till, 29537.—System worked between landlord and middleman grazier, poor man had no look in, 29538.—Middleman real occupier, he let poor men bring cattle and pay highest grazing, 29539.—System the block between farmer and land, real tiller of soil could not get at it, 29540-1.

Tillage on a Small Scale Might Pay Where Tillage on a Large Scale Might Not.

Agriculture on large scale might be unprofitable when that on small holding would be very profitable, 29542, 29548, 29555.—Many hands needed for farm of 200 acres, difficult to employ them on a wet day, M'LOUGHLIN, Mr. J.—*continued.*

29543-4.—If such a farm were split up into 30-acre holdings tillage would be done by farmers themselves, employing a man or two, easy to find employment indoors in wet weather, 29545-7.—Class of agriculture that got most out of the land was that of comparatively small holdings, 29549-50.—Large holdings never paid, small one had profit on poultry, pigs, etc., family a hive of industry creating prosperity for country, 29551.—Tillage paid twice over when done by the farmer, 29552.—Would not pay on a large holding where labour must be paid for, 29553.—Mass of people anxious to till and make farm pay, tillage not decreasing because of people's objection, 29554.—Plenty of 50-acre grazing farms in district, 29566-7.—It was accommodation land, and owner was too idle to till, 29558-60.—250-acre holdings treated similarly, 29561.

Proposal to Create 30-Acre Farms.

Witness proposed to create 30-acre holdings, 29562.—People from mountains would be put on them, and they would be anxious to make them pay, 29563.—If one farmer on the mountain had the land now occupied by three they would not need accommodation land, 29564-6.—Given three farms of five acres each, with one or two head of cattle apiece, and two men were migrated, the remaining farmer would till five acres, and have ten for pasture, so would not need accommodation land, 29567-71.—Grazing farm could be used more profitably by expert farmers, 29572.—The 50-acre man finding no beasts to take on land would till it or take compensation, and let the man who would till have it, 29573, 29575.—30-acre man kept milch cows on his own land, he could profitably supply town and creamery, 29576.—He sold young stock, 29577.—Always a demand at fairs, buyers came from many places, some from North of Ireland, 29578-9.—Buyers were graziers, and even farmers themselves bought, 29580-3.—No fear of market going unless there were importation of foreign cattle, 29586.

Effect on Cattle Trade of Breaking Up of Grazing Farms.

If grazing farms were broken up there would be a mixed system of stock and tillage, which would pay better, 29584-5.—The more tillage the less cattle could be raised, and price would rise, 29587.—Much cattle on grazing farms had been raised by small holders of district, 29588.—These would rear cattle on their own holdings when restored to land, 29590-2.—They did not do it now, they were not in possession, 29591.—Profits of middleman would be done away with, 29593.—Grazier not a necessity, but ruin to the country, 29594.—Profits would go to small man, and would rise with start he would get, 29595.—Some capital would be required to help him over interregnum, 29596.

Development of Sea-Fishing.

Coney Island and Ballisodare Bay sea fisheries should be developed, 29597.—Pier would be useful, present one in Ballisodare Bay in poor condition, fishermen in deplorable state, 29598-9.—People living on Coney Island could not get off from mainland unless tide were out, it was not scheduled, many poor places left out, 29600-1.—Department's intentions good, but it did not reach the very poor, prizes went to moneyed parties, nothing done for the fishing, 29602-3.—Drainage of Owenmore a necessary work, 29603.

PHIBBS, Mr. CHARLES.

Doobeg Estate—Price, Rental, &c.

Witness had been a landowner and J.P. for more than thirty years, 29606-7.—Residing in Tobercurry district; he purchased Doobeg Estate in Landed Estates Court in 1877; it comprised 742 acres; 475 acres were in his own hands, including 176 acres of bog; there were twenty tenants in 1877; one new one created; rental then £190; raised to £224 on valuation of valuer nominated by tenants in 1876, 29608-9.—Two tenants with rental of £5 sold interests to witness, one went to America, one confined himself to his farm on Lord Harlech's estate; witness paid their own prices; third tenant with rental of £12 got into difficulties; witness bought his interest for £130; gave him back small portion of holding at rent of £1 10*s.* and helped him build house; he was now a future tenant; remaining tenants afterwards got judicial rents fixed with usual reductions; rental now, £156, 29609-12.—Witness paid £11,000 for estate, which represented 23 years' purchase of court valuation and 32 years' purchase of poor law valuation; estate bought subject to tithe and rent charges of £23 a year, 29612, 29913.—It belonged to absentee landlord and was in deplorable condition; 80 acres let to conacre tenants who had been allowed to burn soil, 29612.

Witness's other Estates.

Witness also owned Mullane, Phibbs Estate, near Clonacool, which was let to tenants, rental £120; till recently he had six other townlands, now sold under Act of 1903, namely, two near Ballymote, rental £70; two near Collooney, rental £150; two near Tobercurry, rental £220, 29612-3.

Graziers.

Graziers were the backbone of Western Ireland; greater difficulties would be created by policy of diminishing their trade than had as yet been faced, 29613, 29679.

Criticism of gigantic schemes for Migration and Enlargement of Holdings.

Gigantic schemes of migration and enlargement of holdings proposed were both impracticable and mischievous; most purchasers would not have enough capital to till or stock holdings, they would let in conacre or sub-let and land would deteriorate, they would then be unable to pay annuities, and the bad example would tempt others to make excuses for non-payment, 29613, 29644, 29689.—People migrated by Board had only recently been put on land, 29614.—Wholesale migration could not succeed, 29616.—Reform must be carried out gradually, 29618, 29622 3.—Witness in favour of gradual migration if people agreed, 29620-1.—Land required might be bought up if migration were carried out very slowly, 29629.—Board had already purchased some land in immediate neighbourhood and striped it, 29631.—Migration more likely to succeed if carried out clowly, 29632-3.—Many landowners letting land on 11 months' system were willing to sell, 29634-6.—No objection to State buying it, 29637.—Witness prepared to see migration carried out immediately to extent landowners were willing to sell, 29638.—Voluntary sale the line drawn, compulsory purchase was extravagant, 29639-40.—No danger of too rapid migration so long as the land was bought by voluntary purchase, 29641-3.

Deterioration of Land cropped without Manure, etc.

Value of land reduced if it was cropped without manure and grazed without feeding, 29644-6.—Not much feeding in country, grass land deteriorating, 29647-8.—Could be remedied by proper tillage or feeding on it, 29649.—Letting in conacre worse than present system, 29650-1.—Under landlord and tenant system crops all taken off land, no feeding of it; a man given forty acres and no capital must sub-let for a year or two till he got capital, 29652-4.—Situation would be better if he had some stock, 29655-6.—The land was safer under grass than tillage on the assumption that there was no manure, 29658.—If the small holder sub-let and took in cattle it would not be worse than present system of large grazing farms, 29660-3.—If tenant had sufficient capital and used land judiciously it need not deteriorate, 29664.—Many examples of deterioration had come under witness's notice, 29665.—There had not been sufficient time for it to show on estates purchased by Board, 29666, 29668.—The 289 migrants were not in Sligo, 29667.—On Board's estate at Doocastle and Chaffpool lands had been striped, mud fences erected, and men

PHIBBS, Mr. CHARLES—*continued.*

put on the land; very recently at Chaffpool, and Doocastle last year, 29672-4.—All grass lands, one migrant, the rest had been migrated on same property, 29675-8.

Question of Deterioration of Land and Security for Purchase Annuities.

Security of State in matter of annuities depended on prosperity of land; annuities small, 29690.—Annuities secure if land prospered and did not deteriorate, 29691-2.—Security doubtful if land deteriorated, 29693-4.—No uncertainty on bad land with present annuities which were 5*s.* below second term rents, 29695, 29700.—Almost all the lands worn out and passing from landlord to tenant under Act of 1903, 29698-9.—Untenanted lands had no basis, therefore less secure, 29701.—If land were bad it could only be security to limited extent; State secure even on bad land if annuity were low, 29702-4, 29707.—Tenanted land already twice over-valued and twice reduced; purchase annuities were a further reduction, 29706.—Judicial tenant had not necessarily been into Court, but the numbers were very small even though there had been no inspection, 29708-12.—Witness was surprised to hear that about half of the judicial tenancies had been fixed out of Court, 29738-9.—Tendency to settle out of Court had diminished, 29471-2.—No inspection when rents were fixed by agreement, 29714-6.—If those estates were sold under Act of 1903 they were within the zones and there would be no inspection; few estates had many rents fixed, 29713.

Increase in Price of Land.

Occupation prices had risen in last few years, 29717.—Landlords had given up selling, 29718.—Land not more valuable in 1902 than in 1907, 29719.—Generally a reason for landlord increasing price of land, 29720.—Witness had agreed to sell his own property at 20 years' purchase, 29722.—A landlord had agreed to sell at 20 years in 1902; price raised to 23 years in 1904; it was joint property owned by witness and brothers; they negotiated with tenants to avoid expense of partition; every tenant had not agreed to 20 years' purchase; cost of partition was pending; it would take a less price to save a lot of costs; there was no bonus; witness's estate solvent, 29720-34.

Deterioration of Land if worked with Insufficient Capital.

Breaking up grazing lands would affect cattle trade and the well-being of existing small holdings, 29735.—Unless tenants put on them had sufficient capital they would be driven to break up land in meadow and conacre, which would deteriorate it, 29736.—No danger if care were taken to give tenant enough capital, 29737.

Graziers.

Cattle trade would be upset if graziers were abolished; they were largest purchasers of 1½-year-olds, 29679-81.—Witness did not agree with Mr. M'Loughlin's statement that graziers were not a necessity, 29682-3.—Small farmer never finished his stores himself; witness thought he never would, though it was possible, 29686-8.

Effect on Cattle Trade of abolishing Graziers.

Little market for cattle if graziers were abolished; price of stock up to 1½ years would be reduced; small farmers could not keep stock more than a year; they would not thrive in confined area and could not be stall-fed or in-fed as farmers knew nothing of system and had not enough capital to adopt it; dealers would not buy immature stores unfit for shipping, 29742-3.—Cattle stall-fed in Scotland unsuitable to Ireland, 29744-7.—Farmers had never done it; suitable outliers prevented it; cattle subject to disease; danger of anthrax if forcing young beasts were attempted, 29748-50.—Want of skill the reason; climate not unsuitable, 29751-3.—Irish peasant had not the enormous housing accommodation necessary, 29754-5.—Farmer could feed stores in summer without stall-feeding, 29756.—Stock never put in in winter, 29757.—Irish climate milder than Scotch climate; Scotch farmers forced to put up buildings while Irish were not, 29758-61.

PHIBBS, Mr. CHARLES—*continued.*

Reduction of Tillage—Attitude of Farmers.

Mr. Doran thought small farmers would, or should, till most of their enlarged holdings, and he was a man of great experience; witness thought people were growing more averse to tillage and were reducing it and trying to get holdings into grass; grass more profitable and suitable to wet climate with little ripening sun; rarely more than three acres tilled on small farm, usually less; theories and advice would not induce farmers to till to larger extent, 29762-70.—Conclusion arrived at from personal observation, 29772-7.—Three acres of tillage now on a ten-acre farm; double that five and twenty years ago, 29778-81.—Witness did not agree with Mr. M'Loughlin that people were not averse to tillage, 29782-3.

Creameries helped to reduce Tillage.

Creameries in district, 29784.—Their presence reduced tillage; milk sold to them, 29785-6.—More tillage, if done differently, would produce more milk; practically no mangolds or turnips grown, 29787-8.—Mangel-wurzel had been grown, they did extraordinarily well in district, 29797-9.—Creameries not good for country, they deteriorated the calves, as farmers did not reserve enough milk for them, 29789-90.

Calves injured by Creameries absorbing too much Milk.

Calves could not be reared without milk for two months or so, then other things could be added, oatmeal the best, 29793-4.—Separated milk good if process was carried out at home; creamery process rendered it hardly fit for use, 29795-6.—Witness bought Limerick calves before creameries were started; never now, 29800.—No calf like that fed on milk, 29801.

Grass Land necessary for preservation of Milk and Butter Industry in Tobercurry District.

Chief industry in Tobercurry district was the production of milk and butter and young store cattle and pigs; grass lands necessary to keep this intact; (1) to provide home market for stores; (2) to enable small farmers with capital to send out, for summer's grass, surplus cattle and milch cows on which they made profit; moist, mild climate suited cattle; grass always growing where land was in heart; grew so fast in January and February last year that witness stopped hay to out-liers, leaving them on grass alone; witness's land differed from other land in the district, in that it was in heart, 29801.—Cake-feeding for thirty years put it in heart, 29802.

Condition of Doobeg Property.

Witness cultivated 50 or 60 acres and put it in heart, 29803.—Cultivation for a year would put fallow land in good condition; land lying a long time fallow lost heart and would not support cattle without deteriorating; idea prevailed that it grew richer, it did if feeding stuff were put on it, even sheep were beneficial if they were fed on land; cake was the most fertilising, cotton cake the best, 29805.—Doobeg property tilled at first partly because it was in unusable ridges, partly to get it into good heart; part tilled had been burned; no tillage for the last twenty years because grass paid better; others found the same; land in immediate district broken into conacre, 29806-7.

Reclamation would improve Land in Tobercurry District.

Reclamation would improve land and employment would be provided if Board were to undertake it; large drainage schemes would benefit land, especially lowering portions of Owenmore River, 29807, 29903.

Burning of Land to force Crops.

Land burnt to force crops; ashes supposed to be manure; fires were lit and skin burnt into ashes, which were collected in heaps and spread over soil; clay not so much burnt lately, it burnt well, 29808-17.—Top-dressing done with ashes; it deteriorated the land so much that it took fifty years to recover; the surface was damaged; tremendously good crop got in that way, 29818-22. Witness's crop of 75 tons of mangels got by manure; he stall-fed at the time, 29823.—Land burnt had been let by agent of absentee landlord for conacre, 29825.—Used for oats, sometimes for potatoes; sown immediately after burning, 29826-7.—Ashes put on top of seed; burning gone out of fashion now; witness had not seen it for ten or twelve years, 29828-9, 29833.

Cattle-rearing.

Less labour required for grass than tillage; price of labour had gone up a-third in last twenty or thirty years, 29830-2.—Witness finished cattle and had tilled for that purpose; that sort of tillage did not pay so well as grass, 29834-9.—Witness cake-fed his cattle as well or land would deteriorate; practice very uncommon in Ireland, 29840-1.—When witness tilled he stall-fed cattle, fattened them ready for market and sold them in Glasgow, Liverpool, etc., 29842-5.—Some now were fattened, others were sent to Dublin, 29846.—Could be fattened on grass with cake, 29847-8.—Stall-fed cattle sold from November to May; two year-olds sold in Liverpool before now; bought as yearlings in July, sold following April; that paid very well; they were double the size and weight and sold for three times the price for which they were bought; £5 10*s.* paid for yearling; £19 got for two-year-old, 29849-52.—Good prices this summer with cake and grass for two-year-olds; barren cows fattened after rearing calf; yearlings sold in Dublin, 29853-4.—Two-year-olds fattened on grass not fit in April sold in July, 29855-6.—One had them for different time and season now; those fattened in winter sold in April, 29857.—Yearling bought in October would be highly fed and sent to England in September or October; some sold in Dublin last August and September; year and fourteen months old; killed and sold by weight; mostly small and fattened rapidly, 29858-61; the earlier one sold the better demand for young stock, 29862.—£11 10*s.* got for yearlings of fifteen to eighteen months; they were done very well, 29863-6.—They were all by Hereford bull, some out Angus and mongrels out of Connemara, 29867.—Cattle reared on dams for eight or nine months; bred by witness himself; small men could not do the same; their cattle would not compare with those cattle, 29869-71.—Cattle required a good range to come to maturity and small man had not the necessary area, 29873-5, 29881, 29885-9.—He could not cake-feed them, 29881, 29885.—Calf wanted plenty of room after it was weaned, 29888-9.—Witness's calves were out of small Connemara dams; small man had no such cows, but the big ones too delicate for witness's work, 29877-9.—An acre would feed a cow and calf on witness's land; smaller man could not do it on that, 29883-4.—Small man must sell his milk and make profit from day to day; could not afford to use milk for calves; witness had never seen a small man try what witness did, 29890-4.—He did what paid him best, which was selling milk and rearing calf, 29895-6.—the calves were mainly good, but not the same as those reared naturally, 29897-8.—Witness had got £33 for yearlings in Liverpool, 29899-900.—Black water very mysterious; suddenly forcing animals into flesh produced it; calf well-fed from the first not so subject to it; they were sometimes on grass and in sheds without extra feeding; witness had to put them out on new farm in January, 29901-3.

Doobeg Property—Owners' Improvements.

Doobeg an example of benefit of treating land well, Landed Estates Court conveyance purported to give indefeasible Parliamentary title, relying on which witness fenced, drained, reclaimed, made roads, built dwelling-houses, out-offices, and gate lodge, spending £6,000 over two-thirds of which was for land improvements and gave employment, 29903-4, 29913-5.—He also bought produce of country round, 29903.—No cart or horse in townland when he purchased, hardly a tenant without at least a donkey cart now, 29915.—Money spent on faith of title, if State purchased from him by compulsion, it should be taken into account, 29905-6, 29916.—Money spent on roads all out of witness's pocket, he was not recouped by tenants, road for his own use as well as theirs, 29907-14.—Land trebled in value, and could keep three times the stock it could in 1877, it kept on improving under present system, 29916.—Witness also worked hill farm of eighty five acres two miles away, unsuitable for tillage, good pasture, used as stock farm, 29916.

Question of improvement in breed of Live Stock—Value of a Stud Farm under Government control.

Small farmers' profits would be increased if they bred from better animals, good bulls kept by witness never used, system of forbidding man to keep bulls for service unless certified by Government might be advantageously introduced, stud farm under Government valuable, useless under local control, good boars essential, pure-bred bulls in congested areas would produce cattle for English and Scotch markets, 29916.—County Committee in Sligo had done nothing in district except provision of a few premium bulls and thoroughbred horses, Department should do something, 29917-21.—Stud farm better under Government because they would have skilled managers, local people not skilled enough to manage it, 29922-6.—Committee of Agriculture might do it, 29927-8.—Advice of local men would assist managers, 29929.—No objection to local control if proper men were employed, 29930.—There were some skilful cattlemen in the county, but these were the exceptions, 29932-4.—Government system was by examination, and the business should be done by experts, 29935-6.—Oats and potatoes in district very bad, due to want of change of seed and to bad cultivation, 29937.

Policy of reducing the whole country to a dead level of holdings only just economic.

Unfortunate thing to reduce the whole country to dead level of holdings of £10 valuation, so far as policy was carried out men must be provided with loans to work new land or they would meadow or conacre, or sub-let it, and in a few years it would be run out, and they would be unable to pay annuities, it would destroy competition, possible to carry out such a policy if millions were handed out, 29960, 29962-3.

Migration.

Migration schemes difficult to carry out, most farmers disliked migration, if better holding were on different quality of land, they would need instruction to work it, capital also, people in new neighbourhood would regard them with hostility as intruders, 29937.—Absurd to suggest putting man into new holding without capital, 29938-40.—Hostility due to people wanting land for themselves, witness had case in mind, 29941-7.—People on this estate had already medium sized farms, 29948.—If there were land available on an estate, and tenants on congested estate in another area were offered it, knowing nothing about it, they would not go, 29953.—In case referred to there was a good deal of land to divide, enough to raise holdings beyond £10, there was some congestion on estate, 29954-7.

Emigration of whole families as an alternative to Migration.

State-aided emigration might be tried for relief of congestion if more popular than migration, sons of small landlords and professional men resorted to it, and small farmers should be given the means, if whole families were willing to go, 29960-1, 29964-5.—The young and strong were rushing to America at present, which was deplorable, if the whole family would go the State might assist, 29966-74.

Large areas of land available for purposes of Migration or enlargement of holdings if fair price were given—Protest against Compulsory Purchase.

Large areas of untenanted land available in Sligo if Board or Land Commission offered fair price, compulsion only necessary if people were to be forced to sell for less than land were worth, unfair for owner who was also occupier not to be paid for occupation interest, when tenant became purchaser his valuable occupation interest would not be wiped out; in 1899 witness sold townland to tenants with exception of six acres in his own hands, twenty-five years' purchase of the then existing rents paid for tenanted portion, £1,000 for the six acres, as there was a valuable limestone quarry on it, 29975.—Value of limestone quarry would not be calculated under compulsion, it was not the rule, 29976-8.—Railway companies taking land compulsorily paid more than for land taken

PHIBBS, Mr. CHARLES—*continued.*

voluntarily, but that was for a public purpose by which owner of land was benefited, 29979-81.—Price was settled by arbitrator, 29982.—In case of land purchaser would be buyer and also arbitrator, 29983.—Nothing could justify compulsorily taking land from one man to give to another, however great the evil of congestion, and however necessary to put a stop to it, 29984-91.—Principle of compulsion occurred in Allotments Act, and Labourers' Act, but the holdings referred to were all small holdings, 29992-5.—Land could be sold compulsorily for debt by Land Judge in Dublin, 29997.—The compulsion applied in Australia was on occupiers who had known of the possibility all along, and who had not paid cash for the land, 29998-30000.—No need to grant compulsory powers unless Parliament wanted to force people to sell for less than property was worth, 30001.—Witness had no reason to complain in the case of his dealing with a railway, they paid for loss of rent and occupation value, witness did not put it before arbitrator, he knew price was fair, 30005-10.—Even if there were an arbitrator for estates it would be impossible for valuers to fairly estimate loss, 30011-3.

Owner Striping Lands and offering them for Sale before approaching Estates Commissioners.

Owners might split up lands, put fair rents on them and offer occupation of them for sale, Estates Commissioners had refused in one or two cases to have anything to do with the properties, 30014-16.—Fines had been exacted in some cases before approaching Estates Commissioners, but possibly the process was not in conformity with spirit of Act of 1903, 30017-8.

Method of estimating Fair Prices of Land.

According to witness's proposal of splitting up holdings no one could get in who did not pay a fine, majority of people could not afford that, witness argued as to value of land to owner, 30030-3.

Witness would like to relieve congestion, 30019.—He did not oppose migration where land was voluntarily sold, many landlords would sell voluntarily at fair price, 30024-5.—He could not agree to compulsion whatever the price, 30025-7.—Estimate of price could not be left to professional valuer whose valuation was a mere opinion leaning in favour of his employer, method should be found of calculating price automatically, one and a third poor law valuation should be taken as minimum income, with option to owner to prove that net income during five years preceeding was more, price of estate should be sum which would produce net income if invested at 3½ per cent., 1⅓ times the rating value might occasionally represent more than net income, but seldom, 30034.—Estates Commissioners or Board could not be valuers, as they would be the buyers, 30035-8.—Responsibility would be on the valuation, 30039.—For occupied portion of land net income from tenants might be accepted, 30040.—Rent books showing income and expenditure for period of five years could be produced, 30041.

LOFTUS, Very Rev. Canon.

General opinion in favour of scheduling the whole of Connaught.

Witness had lived in congested districts all his life, and knew what congestion meant, and the necessity for relieving it, the reason for general opinion that all Connaught should be scheduled was that there were just as poor people in non-congested areas whose valuation was raised by larger holdings in district and who were aggrieved that nothing was done for them, 30043.

Necessity for Drainage of Owenmore River—Damage done by Floods.

Owenmore River badly needed drainage, fitful and subject to periodic overflow, which did incalculable damage, evil influence felt for four or five miles on each side, great damage in summer; when rainfalls occurred ten years ago agitation concerning drainage of the river was begun, there was correspondence with Government and deputation to House of Commons, deputation received by General Sankey, President of Board of Works, he refused to send inspector, surveys made in 1847 too costly, so fell through, nothing had

LOFTUS, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

been done, persons who were not professional, but who knew river well, thought £600 or £700 outlay would keep river at ordinary summer level every day of the year, 30043, 30053.—It rose at Kilfree and flowed out at Ballysodare Bay, ten or twelve miles of agricultural land were flooded, the upper reaches being in a congested district, it was a small stream for four miles, then assumed formidable dimensions and did the damage complained of, 30044-7.—Distressing to see flood come down, it carried away hay and destroyed meadows with mud, Sir J. Gore-Booth reduced rent on portion of property on account of floods, 30048.—Drainage would permanently improve condition of people at no great expense, 30049.—Riparian owners would not object, river sluggish and mud at bottom, so silted with vegetable deposits that few fish came up and were hardly worth catching, 30050.—People had thought Government would give grant at a reasonable rate of interest, 30051.—Very little could be done to improve district until drainage scheme was promoted, 30052.—There were certain obstacles in river, a rock at Collooney was the key to situation, channel there would obviate difficulty, 30053, 30063.—Owners of disused eel weir might claim compensation if drainage were carried out, 30053.—Flooding had been going on from time immemorial, getting worse every year as deposits increased, 30054-5.—Flood come from higher ground, where it was a congested district and damaged lower land that was not congested, turning economic holdings into uneconomic, waters had no free flow into lower reaches, and that effected upper portion, 30056-8.—Two miles were in congested area, thickly populated for ten miles each side, 30059.—Question very important, 30060.—River did immense damage to large portion of County Sligo, it rose in Boyle (No. 2) Rural District, and flowed through Tobercurry and Sligo to Ballysodare, attempts had been made to get it drained, in 1847 drainage district formed and plans prepared by County Surveyor, 8,000 acres to be benefited at cost of £7,000, Government spent money advanced for relief works in other ways before scheme could be carried out; in 1872 Grand Jury employed County Surveyor, he estimated £18,000 to drain area of 3,000 acres, it fell through for want of co-operation of some of the landowners, Mr. Kirwan, the new surveyor, might give estimate now, in August, 1904, meeting held at Ballymote passed resolutions asking for free Government grants, requesting Board and Department to co-operate to carry out work, replies received from the two Boards saying they had no funds, flood in summer months meant damage of £16,000, persons affected were aggrieved that Government gave nothing to them, while giving grants to other parts of Ireland towards which Sligo contributed, Board of Works should be authorised to send engineer to make plans and specifications, and save promoters the expense, Department had said scheme must be initiated by Drainage Board under Board of Works, Congested Districts Board had said Chief Land Inspector should be sent, 30061.—Mr. Carroll was sent, and made a report, 30062-3.—Department should make free grant, and the people would then organise a Drainage Board, 30064-5.

Migration.

Difficulties in the way of migration would disappear if tackled, it must be judiciously done, pace would develop itself, 30065-7.—Uneconomic holders in neighbourhood should be the first to be attended to in dividing large farms, 30068.—No difficulty if family were migrated, Irish attached to their homes, but would move if they had inducement, 30069.—Nothing more required than to take them from a worse position and put them in a better one, 30070.—Credit for tenant right of previous holding would go to establish man in new holding, Board would add something as a free grant or loan, 30071-2.

Objection to merging Congested Districts Board in Estates Commissioners.

Congested Districts Board had the affection of the people, undesirable even to change its name, 30073.—Putting work in a new Government department's hands would affect temper of people, and make work more difficult, 30074-5.—Estates Commissioners could be allowed to operate in Connaught if *modus vivendi* could be established, but things would run more

LOFTUS, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

smoothly if left to Board, 30076-7.—Board's hands should be strengthened, 30077.—Disadvantage in having two bodies doing same work, 30078-9.

Supervision required on Grazing Farms when arrangements were made for benefit of Tenants.

Estates Commissioners took over large farms to give accommodation land to surrounding tenants, beautiful grass farm taken over for that purpose at Carrigans, near Ballymote, £200 paid as compensation to a tenant, who had it for one and a half years, purchase money apportioned among tenants to their satisfaction, rule laid down that no cattle should be grazed on it from 1st November to 1st May, date changed to 15th November to suit market, after the first 15th November six or seven tenants sent in their cattle in spite of rule, supervision necessary to prevent breach of rules, arch offender processed, County Court Judge gave decree against him, and witness arranged that he should pay according to winter grade and number of cattle, but could not get the money, witness wrote to Land Commission, who said each of the tenants interested had right to take process against offenders, 30079-80.

QUIN, Rev. B.

Action of Congested Districts Board Hampered by Existing Laws, Economic Advantages of Purchasing Estates En Bloc.

Congested Districts Board effected many improvements, but their actions were hampered by existing laws, facilities under Act of 1903 not generally availed of, no movement by landlords to sell *en bloc*, consequence was that Board's properties were isolated, and they could not carry out general schemes such as drainage of Owenmore River or River Moy, which did great damage to country, making of roads, turbary, etc., 30082, 30101.—Large sum spent on road to Daghloon, which, if continued through neighbouring property to county road, would be of public utility and could be maintained by the county, expenditure partly wasted, because only one landlord sold to Board, and neighbouring properties could not be interfered with, purchase of estates *en bloc* would facilitate distribution of turbary, as that on a neighbouring estate was sometimes nearer a tenant, and consequently more valuable to him, saving would also be effected in distribution of untenanted land, tenant's house often at opposite end of estate to land, economic distribution only possible by simultaneous purchase of surrounding properties, for all these reasons Board should be empowered by Act of Parliament to purchase on equitable terms all lands required to carry out improvements on scientific and economic basis, 30082, 30088-9.—Simultaneous purchase of estates by Board would not lead to Board being landlord for a length of time, it simply meant that instead of purchasing isolated spots they should buy a property and its surrounding properties, 30089-90.—Less labour in sub-dividing, a survey of a property always meant that of the surrounding ones as well, far easier for staff to work on properties that were together, 30102.—Work could be thoroughly completed, and there would be no likelihood of Board having to return, 30103.—Board should have compulsory powers to purchase estates in any province, 30109.

Compulsory Purchase.

Price the objection to compulsion, enough land had already been sold to fix approximate fair price, landlords could not complain if they got net income, it was a mild type of compulsion, it was time State stopped unreasonableness, mistake to limit purchase powers to Connaught, as most untenanted land was outside, a landlord known to witness offered property for sale before Act of 1903 at 20 years' purchase, tenants waited for passing of Act, and finally bought at 23 years' purchase, terms raised by landlords after Act was passed, 30082.

Scheduling of the Whole of Connaught Proposed.

Board should get additional powers and more funds; all Connaught should be scheduled, 30082, 30108.—Present system of scheduling arbitrary, Branchfield poorer than Pullagh and Mullaghanarry, yet not scheduled, while the latter were, this bred discontent, and want of confidence in Government, 30082.

Migration of Large Landholders Less Costly than Migration of Small Tenants.

Large landholders of 100 to 300 acres should be migrated to rich lands of midlands, less costly than migrating smaller tenants, grazing plains would thus remain in grass, large farms left vacant, should be divided among remaining tenants to enlarge their holdings, few housese need be built, as uneconomic holdings were mostly adjacent, large farmer did not object to migrating, provided he got a better holding, 30082, 30091-3, 30105-7.—No attempts had been made in Sligo, 30104.—Board did not enlarge holdings beyond £10 valuation, Estates Commissioners had not grasped the evils of congestion, they sometimes enlarged up to £40 even on estates with many uneconomic holdings, and they had allowed landlords to purchase land necessary to relieve congestion on their own properties which the Board had never permitted, 30082-4.

Agricultural Instruction.—Model Farms.

Superior system of agriculture should be taught, model farms good, Department would not have them, Sir J. Gore-Booth offered land for one, but they said they could not take it up at present, Board might use Chaffpool lands as model farm and garden, 30084-7, 30094-6.—Where lands were striped and given to tenants a man should be sent to instruct them, resident instructor better than itinerant instructor, 30097-8.—Model farm should be on lines possible for small holders, 30100.

Agricultural Instruction.—National Schools.

A central National school could be turned into an agricultural one, better to have small farm of two or three acres attached to all schools, teachers would require a practical knowledge of agriculture, 30110.—Either a special training college or a special department in a training college would be required, 30111-2.—The teaching would add to interest of ordinary school work, 30113.—Girls should be taught cottage industries, a good deal done already in way of teaching knitting, etc., more could be done, itinerant instruction under county schemes good, permanent instructors in schools would be better, 30114.—Loss to the country that practical training had not been given before, 30112.

Transfer of Agricultural Work from the Board to Department of Agriculture.

Congested districts suffered from transfer of Board's agricultural schemes to Department, little done to educate people in spraying, live stock scheme not successful, present scheme of placing a few highly-bred animals in county and exercising no authority in case of all the other animals promised to be interminable, county should not be denuded of timber, re-afforestation should be Government work, lands suitable should be vested in County Council, should be Government's care to maintain works of public utility executed by Board, 30087.

CRYAN, Mr. J. M.

Scheduling of Boyle No. 2 Rural District Proposed.

Necessity for relieving congestion and carrying out arterial drainage, extension of scheduled area suggested, so as to include entire of Boyle No. 2 Rural District, 30116.—Ten unscheduled and three scheduled electoral divisions in Boyle No. 2 District, 30117.—Ten non-scheduled divisions should be scheduled, 30118.—Ten divisions excluded because of high valuation of grazing ranches, 30120.—More poverty in non-scheduled divisions than in scheduled, Templevanny Division, which witness represented, having more than 100 holdings under £4 valuation, 30121.—Grievance that so poor a district should be excluded from operations of Congested Districts Board, 30129.

CRYAN, Mr. J. M.—*continued.*

—Only one property bought at present by Estates Commissioners in witness's division, 30122-4.—The King-Harman, Rockingham Estate, 30132.—Considerable amount of grazing land on it, which Estates Commissioners were very slow in dividing up, 30125-7.—But they were in process of doing it, 30128.—Estates Commissioners not dividing property, but letting it for grazing purposes for six months, 30130.—Land already vested in tenants, 30131.

Drainage.

Arterial drainage would be a great benefit to the country, a lot of land rendered useless by flooding of the Owenmore and other rivers, 30133-4.—More should be done in this direction, 30135-7.

GILMARTIN, Mr. W.

Condition of Holdings in Unscheduled Area of Boyle No. 2 District.—Con-acre System.

Three electoral divisions of Boyle No. 2 District scheduled, 10 unscheduled, condition of small farmer in unscheduled area just as bad as any in scheduled area, unjust that 10 unscheduled divisions should be debarred from privileges of Congested Districts Board owing to amount of untenanted land and non-residential farms in them, in Drumrath division there were 2,000 acres of untenanted land and non-residential farms, and bordering those were 136 tenants under £5 valuation and 63 between £5 and £10, making 199 living on uneconomic holdings, in many places people were huddled together on patches of reclaimed bog and on refuse or useless portions of fat and fertile land used for bullock runs and sheep walks, same applied to other unscheduled districts, they were studded with untenanted land, while poor people existed on the bogs and mountain sides, Government should take over these non-residential and untenanted lands and re-distribute them among tenants of uneconomic farms, district very mountainous, hundreds of small farmers on reclaimed patches of mountain had not a perch of land to grow a potato fit for human use, 30138, 30142.—They paid £6 to £9 to nearest grass farm for acre of land to grow potatoes, 30138-45.—Paid exorbitant price out of sheer necessity, 30145-7.—Small farmer would get con-acre as a rule for two years, 30156.—The first year he would grow potatoes, 30147.—And would buy artificial manure, 30148-50.—He would not apply artificial manure unless he got the con-acre for second year, 30157.—Second year he would grow oats, and might get land for £1 less, 30151-2.—Rye grass grown the third year, which small farmer might get at a price, or outsider might out-bid him, or owner of land might keep it himself, 30154.—Con-acre holding then taken back to pasture, 30155.—£2 per ton average price paid for potatoes, but this year it would be £5 owing to bad crop, 30158-60, 30173-5.—In Drumrath Electoral Division there were seven townlands, in Baytown townland there were ten tenants of £1 valuation who paid price stated for land to grow potatoes, if they kept a cow they had to pay exceptional price for grass, and in summer for meadow, 30161.—Children in England and America, etc., sent help to enable farmers to pay £9 an acre, keeping cattle would not return sufficient money, 30162, 30179.—Farmers had no cheaper place to remove to, 30163.—It took each year to meet its own demands, and unless they invested in land to grow potatoes they would starve, 30164.—If potatoes were bought they would have no employment, 30165.—It was a pity these industrious people had not good land to cultivate, 30166.—An acre of land in con-acre would return on average four or five tons of potatoes, and £8 or £9 was paid, 30167-8, 30171-2.—Production of potatoes per acre in Sligo not quite three tons, 30169.—Second year farmer was not compelled to put manure on land, he had merely to buy seed, 30176-7.—Instructors appointed by Agricultural Department never attempted to carry out experiments on these wretched little holdings, the inference being that it was useless to cultivate such soil, 30178.

GILMARTIN, Mr. W.—*continued.*

The poor people of those elevated districts looked down on the plains of Boyle on one side, and thousands of acres of non-residential and untenanted land on the other, 30178.

Drainage.

Half the land tilled in Boyle No. 2 Rural District too wet, and could never be successfully cultivated until drained, better to encourage people to drain and improve soil than to make roads and improve houses, the small farmer depended on the soil for everything, if soil was drained and lime was available and properly applied good results would follow; two things necessary to improve condition of small farmer—1st, non-residential and untenanted land should be divided for relief of congestion, 2nd, Government should give a loan at low interest for drainage, 30179.—Loan should be advanced either through Congested Districts Board or given to small farmers themselves, inspector seeing that work was done, 30180-1.—Closed drains suggested, 30182.—Fields were so wet, in many cases seed had gone bad before being put into ground, 30183-6.—Drainage would cost about £8 per acre, 30187-90.—Small farmer should be encouraged, and this would be as good a way as Congested Districts Board or any other body could assist, 30191.—Loan should be advanced at low rate of interest and employed on labour, 30192-6.

Reclamation of Land, Instruction by Department of Agriculture, &c.

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction instructed the people in the best way to reclaim land, 30197-8.—Witness had seen experiment plot on bog soil, 30198-9.—Reclamation of land should be the principal industry of Ireland, 30200-1.—Large proportion of land of Ireland used for agricultural purposes had been reclaimed from bog, 30202-3.—Department of Agriculture had demonstrations as to the best way of reclaiming land, but witness would sooner see them experiment on one of the wretched little holdings a small farmer had to live on, 30204.—Witness had seen an experimental plot on a most fertile spot where it was easy to carry out experiments, 30205-7.—Great majority of tenants had a thorough knowledge of reclamation of land, and could make more out of an acre of land than the most scientific man, 30208, 30213.—Department of Agriculture were under just as much obligation to experiment on wretched holdings as fertile land, 30209a-11.—They should not do it at all if they could not experiment on all classes of soil, and it would take them all their time to show the people a better way, 30210-1.—As long as farmers had help from their sons they tried to reclaim land, but sons got a higher price for their labour in England and America, 30214-6.

HENRY, Mr. DOMINICK.

Scheduling non-scheduled areas in Tobercurry District proposed—Compulsory Powers and additional Funds for Congested Districts Board advocated.

Twenty-one electoral divisions in Tobercurry Rural District, nine scheduled, and remaining eleven should be scheduled, as a portion or portions of them were congested, in Branchfield division, out of thirty-six holdings, fifteen were rated at £5 and under, in Loughill there were forty-seven holdings, twenty-five rated at between £5 and £10, and ten under £5, same conditions existed in other non-scheduled divisions, non-residential holdings rated at £50 and upwards most suited for relief of congestion, witness advocated compulsory powers for the Congested Districts Board to acquire necessary lands and migrate persons inhabiting congested areas, he also advocated placing sufficient funds at disposal of Board, 30217.—There were more poor spots in non-scheduled than in scheduled area, 30218-9.—Places like Branchfield not scheduled, as there was a farm £150 valuation in vicinity, and division was very small, 30219.—If farm was not there rateable value would be much lower than in some of scheduled districts, 30220.—Whole

HENRY, Mr. DOMINICK—*continued.*

of Connaught should be scheduled, and compulsory powers given to Congested Districts Board to rearrange and purchase estates anywhere they liked, same to apply to the seven counties of which portions were scheduled, and to Donegal, 30220A-1.

Enlargement of holdings a remedy for Conacre System.

Conacre system existed in district, mountain holders paying £6 10s. to 100-acre farmers for potatoes and oats, 30221.—Enlargement of holdings by removal of three or four tenants would give the rest more land to till and more grazing for their cattle, and so obviate necessity for conacre, 30222-4.—At present they tilled a portion of their holding, and took meadowing, keeping two or three mountain cows and rearing calves, 30225-6.—Some grew potatoes, but some of the land would not grow potatoes fit for human use, 30227-8, 30230.—If holdings were enlarged they would be able to find some portion of it fit for growing potatoes, 30231-2.—Seven miles of land outside Ballymote, where there was no lawsuit for seven years, while all along other side of Ox Mountains was thickly populated, 30233.

M'DERMOTT, Mr. PETER JAMES.

Treatment of Tobercurry Rural District as a scheduled area proposed.

Tobercurry Rural District should be treated as scheduled area, some portions of present non-scheduled divisions were acutely congested, lands suited to remedy this state of affairs were non-residential holdings, 30234.

County Representation on Congested Districts Board and quickening of operations advocated.

Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers to acquire lands and be provided with adequate funds, and its constitution should be widened so as to afford county representation, 30234.—Operations should be quickened, and Congested Districts Board should get into possession of an estate in less than two years, 30234, 30238.—It took Congested Districts Board five years to divide and allocate the lands of two comparatively small estates, and work was not yet finished, 30235, 30237.—The estates referred to were the Armstrong and the Dany estates, 30236, 30239.—Congested Districts Board should acquire ownership of property in a year and divide and allocate to tenants in another year, 30240-1.

Wages paid to Board's Workmen.

Low rate of wages paid by Board to workmen and overseers was a drawback to speeding the operations, 30241.—If they paid better wages it would be worth the while of overseers to attend to their position, 30242.—They did not pay lower wages than those current in the district, 30243-4.—But they expected men to work longer hours, 30245-9.

HENRY, Mr. P. J.

Necessity for Drainage in Tobercurry Parish.

Beatty Estate, Tullycusheenbeg, very congested, no untenanted land on estate, small lake which could be drained at little expense, thorough system of drainage much needed, River Moy running through centre of district, people could not get potatoes and oats into wet lands until May 1st, consequently when blight appeared early, stalks were not fully matured, and potato crop was a failure, loss to farmers along the Moy in a wet year not less than £1,000 in Tubbercurry parish alone, hay and oats often carried away by floods, what remained was useless for feeding purposes, and could only be used for bedding and manure.

HENRY, Mr. P. J.—*continued.*

Untenanted Land in the Parish—Estates Sold and offered for Sale.

Untenanted lands in parish were Ballyglass, 500 acres and lower, Leitrim, about 50 acres, Knox estate comprising townlands of Ballyara, Carrowreagh, Carane, Doomore, Mullaun, Mullaghanarry, Pullagh and Cloonaraha, was offered for sale to tenants about 1896 at eighteen years' purchase, in 1904 at twenty-six years' purchase, and again at twenty-four and a half years' purchase estates already sold were the O'Connor estate, Carrentubber sold about 1886 at fourteen years' purchase, Brett estate in 1894 at fourteen and fifteen years' purchase, Fitzgerald estate in 1903 at sixteen years' purchase, under Act of 1903 following had been offered for sale; Young estate, Cloonacool, in 1904 at twenty-six and a quarter years' purchase; Cooper estate in 1904 at twenty-four and a half years' purchase; O'Hara estate, Longhill, in 1905, at twenty-three and a half years' purchase, Leitrim Estate (in Chancery) in 1906 at twenty and twenty-one and a half years' purchase, tenante on O'Hara estate were much in arrears, and would agree to purchase on almost any terms, most owed from two and a half years' rent upwards, same with some tenants on Leitrim estate, in case of sales of Meredith estate, Sessue, outside landlord (Cooper) bought over 100 acres of best portion of bog and tenants did not understand they had lost bog until too late to object, some tenants on Corsallagh estate were bady treated, and were allotted portions of bog away from holding, and with no right of way, consequently they had to trespass on others, and were often brought before local petty sessions, 30250.

Rents earned in England or America—Advances of Provisions, Clothing, &c., made by Merchants.

Rents were earned by children in England and America, merchants and traders of Tobbercurry supplied outfit, and often advanced money to send children to America, waiting for money two or three years, if these resources were cut off people would be unable to live on land, and merchants would not advance provisions and clothing, &c., if merchants and traders pressed for money they would leave all middle class and small farmers without any live stock on their farms, but they always encouraged farmers to hold on to their stock until they could be sold to advantage, merchants even advanced rent to farmers, as landlords had no sympathy with tenants, and unless rents were paid, tenants were sure to be put under law costs, scarcely 10 per cent. of the tenants got along without assistance, small landholders paid £5 or £6 an acre for conacre, 30250.

Parish Committee.

Congested Districts Board paid for number of years £100 a year for benefit of small farmers to Parish Committees, which enabled them to improve dwellings, build out-houses, &c., number of bye-roads had been made, and wet and marshy lands and rivers drained, 30251-4.

BOLES, Mr. E. G.

Highwood District.

225 holdings within confines of Highwood branch of United Irish League, County Sligo, 106 over £10 valuation, 89 between £10 and £5, 30 under £5, 30255.

Description of Properties.

Grazing ranch of 120 Irish acres belonging to Richard Gorman in townland of Annaghloy, farm non-residential with herd on it, 30255, 30259-60.—Witness lived within two miles, 30258.—Mr. Gorman lived on his property at Templevanny, eleven or twelve miles away, 30264-5.—He had no other non-residential farm at Annaghloy, but had one at Templevanny, 30266-7, 30271-2.—He let out non-residential farms as grazing to local people, 30268-9.—He put a few cattle on himself, 30270.—Annaghloy ranch bought by auction in 1894 at £2,665, from representatives of owner and occupier, T. Rae, 30261-3, 30273-85, twenty-eight Irish acres owned by Colonel Gethin on Innishmore Island, land held by W. Attison on eleven months' system, a workman of Colonel

BOLES, Mr. E. G.—*continued.*

Gethin's living on island with no land, 30255.—Very small holdings in townlands of Ballinarry and Corrigeenblike, some people with no land, 30255.—On King-Harman property, recently sold under Wyndham Act there were five Irish acres good land in Lower Barroe, this was taken by Gethin family forty or fifty years ago, it adjoined the demesne, and seizure of land deprived tenants of a convenient pass to water, King-Harman tenants in arrears, and paid high purchase-price of twenty-one and a half and twenty-three years' purchase rather than pay arrears, majority would be unable to pay annuities, 30255.—Sir G. King estate comprised Ballinarry Upper and Lower Annaghowan, in 1904 tenants asked for terms of sale, landlord demanded twenty-six and a half years' purchase on first term rents, twenty-four and a half on second term, while some neighbouring estates were sold at seventeen years' purchase, terms refused, 30255.—O'Connor estate comprised lands of Carricknagrip, Corrigeenboy, Treenmore, sale demanded by tenants immediately Act of 1903 was passed, twenty-one and a half years' purchase asked, while superior property of Greenagh sold for seventeen, tenants refused offer, as they mostly depended on money from America, which might not continue, 30255.—Colgan property comprised quarter lands of Tullybullawn and Cornmuckla, land inferior, cleared of tenants in 1846, afterwards retenanted, when receipt issued to tenants was dated back half a year, with unwritten agreement that this was never to be charged, in 1897 landlord claimed running gale, and tenants paid three half-years' rent within fifteen months, and but for friends in America they could not have done it, in 1903 and 1904 they asked for sale, which was refused, they were dependent on earnings from America, and were anxious to purchase through Estates Commissioners in order to get inspection, 30255.—Compulsory purchase necessary on above-named properties, 30255.

Kilmactranny Property.

Terms of sale on Kilmactranny property twenty-one and a half years' purchase for first term rents, twenty-four and a half for second, year's rent to be added and arrears wiped out, most tenants owed no arrears, tenants got sporting rights, those adjoining the bog were to have it after turf was cut out, the rest of the tenants were to leave three feet of mud for reclamation, five tenants under 5*s.* valuation, but two had land on adjoining property, four tenants with no land, one had some on adjoining property, property offered for sale nineteen years ago at seventeen years' purchase, tenants would only give sixteen years' at first, after two months, all agreed, but sale had then been abandoned on account of interference of mortgagees, if tenants had agreed at first they would have got 8*s.* in pound reduction, landlord was now getting ten years' purchase more than he asked nineteen years ago, 30255.

Turbary.

150 or 160 acres of turf in Highwood district owned by Mr. Park would be useful if acquired by Board or Estates Commissioners, and divided as accommodation turf, of which there was none, tenants went five or six miles for turf, 30256.

Coal.

Experts had certified coal to be in district, 30256.

Land for Migration.

1,100 acres of land in Geevagh district, benefit if people from such townlands as Cornmuckla and Tullybullawn were migrated there, 30257.

Insanitary Houses.

Number of insanitary houses in Highwood district, Estates Commissioners requested to improve them at time of sale, 30286.

Live Stock Schemes.

County Committee did not select live stock, Department would not listen to representations, and their breeds were not approved of by people, 30286-92.

NICHOLSON, Mr. PATRICK.

Congestion in Tubbercurry.

Every estate in Tubbercurry district congested; Ballycusheenbeg Ballyglass and Carntubber estates near Leitrim all bad; seven tenants in Ballyglass, with 43 acres between them, three with houses together in same "street" and one acre each; one man had to go 300 or 400 yards to his acre and had no right of way or cartway to public road, 20293-4.—He had a farm and was a farmer, but worked for other people as well, 30295-8.—His wife's people had been evicted from grazing farm in neighbourhood, 30300.—The three houses were not in town or village, only built together, 30419-21.—Man in town with labourer's cottage and one acre not a farmer, 30417.—He would not like to work on a farm, he could earn more in town for less labour, 30418.—No labourers' cottages built in witness's union yet, 30415.

Grazing Farm in Ballyglass.

Grazing farm of 500 acres in Ballyglass where tenants were evicted forty or sixty years ago, 30294, 30302, 30318.—Those on brink of bog remained there; there were 500 acres good land let on 11 months' system; one or two big graziers now wanting to take this land, 30300.—Owners were Ellen Mossman's representatives; tenants did not exactly know who they were, 30300-1, 30305.—The land was in Ballyglass townland, in Cloonacool electoral division, Tubbercurry rural district, 30302-4.—Much bog and coarse land attached to the 500 acres, 30307.

Townland of Leitrim.

Twelve tenants in the other townland of Leitrim; 48 acres 3 roods between ten of them; 7 acres the most any man had; one tenant had ¾ acre given to him as rough bog, he cropped and reclaimed it and now it was good land; one tenant fairly well off with 20 acres, 30307, 30315.—Board had negotiated about a farm in this townland, but were dissatisfied with title, 30307, 30314, 30318.—It was divided; 50 or 60 acres went to tenant who previously had 20; a schoolmaster got 25 acres; both could have done without, 30307-10, 30315.—Popular opinion that professional man was not fitted for land; tenants on estate had prior right; land should be taken from schoolmaster; he could be given some where it was less scarce, 30310-3.—Farms altogether too small, 30315.

Size of Economic Holding.

20 acres of land in Tubbercurry district necessary for economic holding as land was not of the best, 30315, 30459.—Doubtful if man could live on 12 acres even where land was good; impossible at Tubbercurry where it was generally worth only 15*s.* an acre; men could not live on such farms, they had to go to England for three or four months a year with their sons, 30457-8.—No farm should be less than 25 acres, 30456.

Migration of Large Farmers.

Best to migrate larger farmers who were better adapted for it; they owned the best land and were anxious to improve residences, etc.; they would willingly go if offered good farms of 20 or 30 acres, 30315, 30434-5.—They were in position to raise loans from banks to stock farms; only one house would have to be built and 60 or 70 acres would be left available for striping; if small farmers were migrated six or seven houses must be built; every migrant involved a loss of £100 to Board or Estates Commissioners; cheaper to transfer larger farmers, 30434-5.

Non-residential Farms.

Non-residential farms could be acquired if inducements were held out to owners; they could take equivalent land where it was less scarce, 30315.—653 acres in Tubbercurry parish; tenants anxious to buy; landlord's demands unreasonable; large tenants bought direct from landlord; small ones preferred buying through Estates Commissioners, 30432.

Fewer Competitors for Large Farms than for Small ones.

Large farms fetched less in open market; they had fewer competitors; farm of 40 acres recently sold for £200 at private sale, while one of 200 acres only fetched £400 at public auction; 50-acre farm of not very good land sold at public auction for £250; and one of 11 or 12 acres with bottom land on it went for £400, 30432-4.

Value of Land in Tubbercurry.

True value of land in Tubbercurry district about 20 years' purchase of rental, 30321.—Owners paid too much for untenanted lands; without compulsion they would not sell at terms they bought at, 30318-20.—Fair price should be given and both parties considered, 30334-7.—People would be satisfied if value were left to arbitrator to decide, 30322, 30338-40.—Owners expected to get 50 per cent. more than they paid for land, 30325.—Some of their lands had been bought at public auction; some at private sale; true value was what an article would fetch at public auction if there were proper competition; at such an auction things were not bought cheap, 30326-33.

Beatty Estate.

Beatty Estate in scheduled district, 30316-7.

Drainage of River Moy.

Drainage of River Moy required; want of it did harm to tillage along banks; back waters choked up rivulets when flood rose; water remained on land for two days; potatoes got soft and worthless, 30315. —Plans for drainage drawn up some years ago by engineer of Board; fearing opposition from Moy Fish Conservators Board did nothing; plans, maps, etc., could still be had; £1,000 would be saved if they were utilised, 30317-8, 30344.—Obstructions in River Moy had accumulated for years; three or four obstructions in Tubbercurry parish; much damage done, even cattle and sheep got lost, 30341-2.—Overflowing extended for five miles along bank; 574 acres in parish damaged, 30343, 30349.—Conservators were at Ballina; they had water bailiffs to watch fishing, 30344.

Potato Crop.

Potato crop the mainstay of people; poorest suffered most from its failure; pigs, poultry and cattle fed on potatoes as well as people; nothing done to save crop except spraying, which was not always effective; new varieties should be introduced; champion introduced in 1880, the main crop at present; its drawback was its tubers did not form till late, 30317.—Crop of potatoes off light or reclaimed land had not the staying power of that off good soil; crop would be withered and blighted long before it would decay on strong land even without spraying; yield less on bad land; two mouldings given to potatoes on light land; if soil were ploughed the subsoil of gravel would be turned up; at first moulding nothing left to come up for second moulding, with the result that stalks were not properly earthed and weeds came; double the amount of manure needed for bad land, 30361.

Price of Land.

Knox Estate offered for sale to tenants in 1896; 18 years' purchase asked; tenants offered 16 and sale fell through; after 1903 Act was passed 26 years' purchase on second term rents asked, 30349-51.—Four estates in parish sold at from 14 to 16 years' purchase before Act of 1903; four others offered for sale after passing of Act at 23½ to 26 years' purchase; sales not caried through, 30351.

Sale through Board. Fitzgerald Estate.

When Fitzgerald Estate was bought by Board all the good land in centre of estate was in hands of landlord; this was divided among tenants; Board drained, fenced, made roads, and put some of the tenants from wretched hovels into substantial houses remodelled out of farm buildings on landlord's farm, 30351.

Direct Sales.

Estate with bog on it for tenants sold direct; bog bought by outside landlord and taken away; similar sale in which tenants had bog, but no right of way to it; such things should be attended to by Estates Commissioners before money was paid, 30351.

Trespass.

Actions for trespass against tenants sometimes tried, 30351.

Indebtedness to Shopkeepers.

Rent often advanced by shopkeepers; loan being repaid when money came from America in December; large amount came from America which helped to pay for clothing, food, etc.; in bad years people depended on shopkeepers, hoping to repay them when children grew up and went to America; very few tenant farmers who could live on farms without help, 30351.

Conacre.

One or two acres of conacre taken by most small farmers for potatoes and oats; £5 to £7 an acre paid for it to large farmers, 30351, 30383.—Small farmers had good land themselves, but reserved it for cattle; they nursed land till it came to grass again; the last year they had one to three acres seed potatoes, 30351.—If people were migrated from mountain to grass lands they should be allowed to manage their own farms and not be prevented letting in conacre, 30353-5.—Land would deteriorate if so let, but people would not do it if they could help it, 30355-6.—Land would not deteriorate much if it were good; light land could not be used for conacre; good land usually taken, 30357, 30360.

Witness's Farm.

Witness's farm comprised 9 Irish acres of light land and 7 or 8 acres bog, 30358-9.—No staying power in land; if left eight or nine years without digging it would be worthless, 30359.

Parish Committees.

Yearly grant of £100 given by Board to parish administered by Parish Committee; dwellings, out-offices, etc., much improved; formerly few farmers had out-offices roofed with corrugated iron; now there were plenty; some people needing improvements were too poor to take advantage of grant, as only one-third cost was given by Parish Committee; Committee should be able to give half cost where applicant was exceptionally poor and under £4 valuation; several unable to take advantage of grant without neighbours' help, 30361.

Industries.

No industries; employment for girls at 5*s.* to 9*s.* a week and for boys at 6*s.* to 12*s.* would keep thousands from going to America or England for a few months in the year; if money expended by County Councils on live stock schemes, of which independent people got the benefit, were doubled and used to start cottage industries or local factories no one would complain, as that would relieve the poorest and prevent their becoming a burden on the rates, 30361.

Increase in demand for Labour required.

Something wanted to increase demand for labour, 30362.—Creation of 30-acre holdings would help, as the owners would sometimes want extra hands; farmer and his wife without grown-up sons could not do everything, 30363-5.—Man with 25-acre farm and fair proportion of tillage could employ a man almost all the year, 30367.

Tillage.

Five acres tillage out of 25-acre farm sufficient; farmer could not manage more himself; many things to do on farm besides tillage, 30373.—Income not more sure from grazing than from tillage; both in conjunction required; roots wanted for cattle, 30376. —Safe to till 5 acres even with earnings of cattle and selling milk to creamery at profit; 2 acres for

NICHOLSON, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

meadow, 30377.—District would not benefit if there were no tillage except potato plot, nor would such a system be profitable; withdrawal of grant-in-aid from rates would be a means of compelling men to till, 30378-81.—People were anxious to till and went miles for conacre when they had no land; they used not to do so, 30382.—They would not till more than necessary; majority would not want conacre with 25 acres; they would take in grazing cattle from neighbours and till the minimum; young people sometimes saved money and bought calf, which they sent to farmer, 30384-8.

Turnips.

Turnips not much grown; soil not deep enough for Swedes, 30388.

Price of Cereals.

Tendency formerly to let tillage run down as price of cereals was low; price of oats now going up, 30374, 30403-4, 30412-3.—Oats used for feeding cattle and for a variety of purposes, 30414.

Tullinsheen.

Five acres good land should be given to people with small farms as was done at Tullinsheen where 5-acre farms were given in centre of grazing ground, 30388.—Tullinsheen the only place striped by Board known personally to witness, 30389.—Board had had it two years and had enlarged the holdings except in two cases, 30390-1.—Previous to that men were all labourers paying for conacre; none had as much as 25 acres and did not employ much labour; only 100 acres divided; eighteen tenants got additions; 19 acres the largest holding, 30392-6.—Holdings tilled; let in conacre the first year to make up fines levied by Board; fines handed back to tenants in most cases, 30397-9.—Men now tilling twice as much as when they had small patches of land, 30400.—Holdings not too large to be worked by man and his family; witness thought there should be more acreage, 30401.

Instruction in Agriculture.

Practical instruction would be useful; lecturer no use; farmers did not believe him and thought they knew better themselves, 30405-7.—Agricultural instruction in schools would be useful, 30409-11.

Horse Labour.

Horse not always kept by farmer with 25 acres; more farmers without than with, 30422-3.—25-acre farmer with horse could till 5 acres, but must get exchange of labour from man without horse; if two farmers with a horse each worked together and tilled 5 acres they could keep a labourer between them, 30424-8.—Absence of horses kept down tillage; more horses would save time and money and allow of more tillage, 30429-30.—An economic holding should be able to support a horse, 30431.—25 or 30 acres necessary to enable man to keep a horse, 30432.

Opinion against all Holdings being of a similar size.

Not good to have all holdings the same size; some should be larger, 30436-8.—No opportunity for man to better himself, 30439-40.

Prevention of too much accumulation of Land in the hands of one Tenant.

One man who had got holding from Board might be allowed to buy from another if more successful, but State should be able to buy back additional farms and prevent him accumulating too much land; fairly good living could be made out of 50 acres; he would not feel the compulsion because he would know that he bought more than 100 acres at his own risk, 30441-50.—This should be continued always; farm of more than 500 or 1,000 acres should never be accumulated, 30451.—People had been driven from the country in the past by that process; it could not be good, 30452-4.—Difficult to prevent tenant from acting as landlord had done if he were put in landlord's position, 30455.

DYAR, Mr. PATRICK.

Witness was manager for Mr. Cook, general merchant, Tubbercurry, 30461-2.

Congestion in Tubbercurry.

District within radius of seven miles of Tubbercurry should be acquired by Board, ecclesiastical parishes of Tubbercurry, Curry, Kilmateigue, and portions of Mullinbreena and Bunninadden much congested, portions were scheduled, 30464-5.

Untenanted Land.

Land was untenanted whether in possession of landlord, owner, tenant, grazier, or middleman, so long as it was not occupied by resident tenant or landlord, 30466.—So long as land was under grass and not used for dairying it should be acquired, 30467-8, 30601.—Much untenanted land in Mullinbreena and Bunninadden. also in neighbouring parishes of Collooney, Riverstown, Ballymote, and Keash, 30465, 30468.—Line from Bunninadden to Collooney and thence to Riverstown, Ballyrush, Keash, and Bunninadden would give boundary of fertile districts whence tenants were evicted in "forties" and "fifties," enough to provide economic holdings for 500 or 600 families, enlarge present occupiers' holdings and still leave ample grazing lands, 30468.

Compulsory Acquisition of Land.

Authority needed for Board to acquire compulsorily, on reasonable basis of compensation, lands which present owners acquired compulsorily without compensation, 30468.—Reasonable basis of compensation would be what a competent valuer thought just as between owner and tenant; attitude of landowners incomprehensible considering State was buying lands for tenants, 30561.—No witness had given good reason against application of principle of compulsion; only adequate objections would be that Government were going to cheat landlords or deal unfairly with them, for which belief there was no foundation; or that Irish landlords accustomed to wield the power of a king could not see their way to giving up their property altogether, 30562.

Relief of Taxation.

Good might be done by giving County Councils power to withhold exemption or abatement in poor rate at present reverting to owners of untenanted land through operation of Local Government Act, 1898, 30468.—They should have power to levy full rate on untenanted lands and large landholders, any saving thus affected should be applied by them to improve condition of people in congested areas, 30468, 30472-4.—Out of duty of 11*s.* per gallon on whiskey, 6*d.* was set aside by Treasury for relief of local rates; out of an excise duty of 7*s.* 9*d.* per barrel on porter, 1*s.* 3*d.* was given for relief of taxation, 30499.—Part of money raised on tea and other dutiable articles handed back in aid of taxation, chiefly that on whiskey, beer, and porter, 30501.—This money handed over by Government to County Councils was not Imperial money, but had been collected from Irish taxpayer, 30469-71.—This State grant was shared by everyone equally according to his valuation, 30488-9, 30495-6.—Small occupiers consumed dutiable articles and contributed to taxation; in that way 100 acres of land in hands of small occupiers contributed more to public revenue than 100 acres under grass, 30502-6, 30509.—The greater the number of occupiers the more they contributed to the source from whence relief of taxation came, 30510.—This money contributed by poor inhabitants of congested districts was virtually handed over to large grazeirs, the people least in need getting the lion's share, 30468, 30471, 30497.—In future, money should not be distributed equally as it was at present, 30498.—Graziers did not pay taxes on the profits they derived from sale of bullocks, but a merchant selling rolls of cloth paid income tax on profits, 30475-6.—Local taxation based on valuation made years ago, 30491-2.—Each man had to pay certain rate according to his valuation, 30493-4.—Tax of 4*s.* or 4*s.* 2*d.* in the £ paid by man in congested district on valuation of house and garden, while the landowner had 1*s.* 6*d.* or 1*s.* 8*d.* of his rate paid for him, 30477, 30481, 30487.—Landowner paid income tax once on valuation of land, occupier paid one-third; where owner and occupier were the same he paid one and a third on valuation, 30485-7.—Local rate on 100 acres the same whether they were occupied by one man or by many, 30507.—100 acres under grass had not the same claim to aid as where it was in the hands of occupiers, 30508.

OPERATIONS OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Board at present operating on D'Arcy estate at Doocastle, on Phibbs estate at Moylough, and on Armstrong estate at Achonry; they purchased Fitzgerald estate at Tullycusheen five years ago, striped it and improved it, making roads, fences, etc., it was now sold to tenants who were mostly well satisfied, 30512.

MIGRATION.

Alleged difficulty of migrating tenants did not exist to any large extent; ill-treatment in the past the reason why people were not always so enterprising as inhabitants of well-governed counties; tenants on D'Arcy estate would not move because their means were so small, they were afraid of eviction if they should encounter one or two bad years; tenants willing to pay high purchase price (in instalments) rather than move, so as to keep a grip of the homestead, which was Parnell's advice to them, 30512.—Board met difficulty by migrating larger tenants and dividing their holdings amongst adjoining ones; drawback to this was that holdings though improved were still uneconomic; most desirable tenants, those in prime of life, would generally migrate if reasonable inducements were offered; Parish Committee's advice useful in facilitating migration, 30512A.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Parish Committees the most competent bodies for bettering people's condition; much good done in Tubbercurry parish and Curry by means of grants administered by them; people exerted themselves to improve dwellings, etc., and even borrowed money to complete work; grants should be continued and increased; Committees should be empowered to make similar advances for fencing, draining, planting, etc.; local schemes should be left to Parish Committees, unwise of Government Board to carry out work; Government Boards unpopular, could never acquire same intimate knowledge of people, cost of administration greater; cost of administering £100 by Parish Committee only £10, by Government Board it would be nearer £70 or £80, 30512A-17.—Value of work done by £100 was £270, about three times amount of grant, therefore cost of administering £300 was only £10, 30518-22.

INDUSTRIES.—PEAT INDUSTRIES.

Establishment of industries should accompany schemes for bettering people's condition; peat industry could be developed at Tubbercurry, plenty of bog and cheap labour within radius of four miles, good roads, under proper business management and with co-operation of railway company it would be remunerative and give employment, 30523, 30626.—general peat industry such as there was on the Continent involved selling peat and taking by-products out; Irish people had no experience of it and could get no instruction from Department of Agriculture, 30527-8.

QUESTION OF FUEL.

Fuel imported from England while there was abundance of bog, 30529.—No danger of bog running out, 30530.—Landlords would not allow tenants to cut it, 30531.—Reasonable supply should first be given to tenants, enough to supply them at present rate for 100 years; after that bog should be used to create local industry, 30532-7.—In 100 years' time there would be new contrivances for fuel, 30538-9.—Coal at present cheaper from Newcastle than from neighbourhood, owing to bad transit system, 30540.—Turf not used instead of coal because landlords would not allow it to be sold, also uncertainty of seasons affected price and there was difficulty in getting labour to cut it, as men were harvesting in England at time it should be saved, 30541-2.—Better wages obtained in England; good price could not be got for turf unless landlord were willing, 30543.—Turf and peat were different commodities, 30543.—Men cut turf and spread it out, leaving women and children to save it while they were in England, no surplus supply of labour, 30545-6.—No peat industry in Tubbercurry, 30547.—Turf not manufactured, only wetted and dried in sun, peat was manufactured turf, 30548.—Peat industry would make fuel cheaper, 30549-50.—Manufactured peat sent sixty miles by rail and sold in Toronto for 17*s.* a ton, while coal there was 28*s.* a ton, although easy to obtain, 30547.—Peat industry formerly at Coolaney failed for want of proper financial management, 30550.—Peat was compressed hardened turf, 30551.—Other products taken from peat; as result of experiment £4 worth of material had been taken from one ton of common bog, 30552.—No successful peat factory in Ireland; there was one in Germany, where it was used for several purposes, both illuminating and "producer" gas extracted from it, 30553-5.—Col. Warburton had made inquiries of Department's peat expert who replied he knew nothing of production of gas from peat except what was in the Dublin papers, 30556-7.

INDUSTRIES FOR GIRLS.

Nuns of Marist Convent, which had just been built, would be glad to help in establishment of industries for girls such as hosiery or shirt-making; nothing of that kind done as yet, 30523-4.—Lace industry successful, 30524.

TIMBER-PLANTING.

Portions of Tubbercurry and Curry in need of drainage and planting; farmers and labourers would benefit if Board planted timber; plantations could afterwards be handed over to County or District Councils at reasonable terms and they would be a source of profit, 30557.

DEMOLITION OF TREES BY BOARD.

Board had cut down small plantations of timber at Doocastle and had not replanted them; this was a great loss as district was bleak, 30557, 30602-4, 30612, 30648.—Land cleared of trees used to enlarge holdings, 30605.—Plantation consisted of ten or twelve acres, it was a shelter plantation but not enough to shelter any considerable area, 30606-9.—Holder a shopkeeper, 30613.—Some timber given to tenants to repair dwellings, small amount required, 30610.—People objected to cutting and destruction of a beauty spot, 30649.—Some trees might have been cut down because they were injurious to houses, but not all, 30650.—Ground might have been necessary for striping of land; better to give other land to tenants that did not involve destruction of trees, 30651-6.

REMITTANCES FROM AMERICA.

Tenants of Tubbercurry, Curry, and Kilmateigue were largely dependent on earnings of themselves and children in England and America; during December each year witness cashed £700 or £800 of American cheques, which was a small fraction of amount sent into district, 30557-9.—Without American money rent would be in arrears, 30559.

DIRECT SALES.

Direct sales in congested districts should not be sanctioned without inspection; in 1904-5 four or five estates were offered at 23 to 26 years' purchase, only tenants willing to buy were those with arrears who would be unable to carry out bargains; those with children in America to rely on refused to buy at that price; in quoting price landlord stated reductions offered, not number of years' purchase; price demanded before 1900 was 17 or 18 years' purchase, 30559.

POTATO CROP.

Potato crop of four-fifths of tenants had failed, 30559.

DYAR, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Hay and Transit.

Hay crop exceptionally fine, no market for extra supply, 30559.—French crop bad, price £4 to £4 10*s.* a ton, import duty only 4*s.* per ton; market not available for Irish owing to bad transit and to fact that Ireland had lost her direct foreign trade; with proper transit Sligo farmer could sell hay at Sligo and Ballina for £2 10*s.* to £3 per ton, 30560.

Indebtedness to Shopkeepers.

Witness's employer supplied small farmers, 30563-4.—Considerable amount of debt among farmers though their position was better than fifteen years ago, 30565-7, 30569, 30574.—Indebtedness diminished in a good season, 30568.—People's position better at present, but one bad year would eclipse that, 30575.—They were less inclined to run into debt than formerly, 30579-80.—People usually as anxious about price of article whether they paid ready money or not; some were heedless about price, not because they could not pay cash, but because they trusted to honesty of shopkeeper; those who felt they had no claims to bargains unless they had ready money were not more than four in 100, 30581-5.—Man who bought on long credit belonged to a careless class, he would rarely become careful even if he had the ready money, 30587-8.—People buying on credit not necessarily careless, they were more careful and businesslike now than formerly, 30589-90.—They were not quite so independent as those who had cash, 30586.—People on the whole were becoming more hard-headed, and took things more seriously, 30591.—600 out of 900 customers paid ready money, that was to say they settled account at end of half-year, 30599-600.—Debts frequestly paid in kind; witness's employer did not buy live stock or farm produce, his own oats and hay were bought by his customers, amount of unpaid debts trifling, 30592-4.—Butter, milk, and eggs, taken by co-operative creamery, cattle sold at fairs to supply rent, 30593-5.

Standard of Living.

Standard of living better now than fifty or sixty years ago, no difference in last fifteen years, 30570.—No more money spent but goods of higher quality purchased, 30571, 30578-9.—Same class of tea and sugar, etc., used better quality clothing; manure and goods for upkeep of farm bought, 30572-3.—No more money being made, improvement came from money earned in England and America, 30576-7.—Spirit licence attached to witness's business, no diminution in consumption of spirits, but less drunkenness at fairs, 30596-7.

Improvement in People.

There was improvement in spirit of people in Tubbercurry district where Board had operated, they were more independent, sober, thrifty, and industrious; men had paid old out-of-date bills since they got under Board, 30559.

Investments for Shopkeepers.

Some shopkeepers held land used for agricultural purposes on which they did not reside, 30614-7.—Nowhere else for him to invest his money except in Post Office Savings Bank or joint stock bank, etc.; men of that class must have some other outlet for investment of capital besides land intended for distribution among farmers; if there were industries in Ireland as in other countries they would have opportunities of investment, 30618, 30620.—Shopkeeper should be expropriated from land, an Irish Government should do it, 30619-20, 30622-3.—Shopkeeper like the grazier was hurrying land to destruction, 30621-2.—If there were an Irish Government, a sufficient public confidence for security of investments in industrial enterprises, with a banking system and Stock Exchange not under threat of British Government and Lord Lieutenant there would be plenty of opportunities, and shopkeepers and others would be willing to invest in enterprises with reasonable chance of success, 30624, 30643.—Limited liability company required to start industry like peat; unless backed by political influence such a company would not get quotation on Stock Exchange, so could not dispose of their shares should they wish to, 30627.—Banking system and Stock Exchange both against them, 30628.—Irish banking system not the same as English, 30629.—Members of Stock Exchange appointed by Lord Lieutenant who had to satisfy himself of loyalty of applicant, 30630-6.—If there were industries in the country investments would be at once available, 30644.—Settlement of problem of congestion urgent, 30637-8.—It could not be delayed till there was Home Rule, 30640.—Witness would prefer expropriation under Irish Government, but would not delay it till then, 30641-2.—Irish self-government the real foundation of Irish industry, 30645-7.

ARMSTRONG, Mr. LUKE.

Farm in Moylough on Phibbs Estate.

Witness was a shopkeeper in Tubbercurry; farm on Phibbs estate bought by witness about ten years ago from former tenant before Congested Districts Board had acquired it, 30663-5, 30676, 30680.—No particular Act of Parliament required to sanction purchase; it was purchased in the ordinary course, 30681-2.—Valuation, £49 10*s.*, and first term judicial rent, £42, 30666.—130 or 140 acres clear, and 40 or 50 acres bog and waste, 30667.

Witness attacked for not surrendering Tenant Interest of Holding—No one had made an Offer.

Witness had bought tenants' interest and latterly had been attacked for not surrendering it to Congested Districts Board, 30669-70, 30673.—Board had bought the estate, also landlord's interest, and witness was a tenant of theirs, 30671-2.—About a year ago a notice had been sent round by Congested Districts Board stating that they had a number of holdings all over the town; witness had offered to exchange with them and received a query sheet to fill up as to how he had acquired his holding, etc.; he had returned it and had not heard from them since; resolution had been passed by Moylough branch of United Irish League calling on people not to have anything to do with witness till he had surrendered the holding, nor with Mr. Cooke, who had a big farm adjoining witness's, 30674-5, 30678, 30683, 30721-2, 30728-9.—Witness wished to surrender tenancy, but had not been offered anything for it, 30677.

Migration.

He was hardly prepared to surrender the tenancy and migrate, as he was planted in Tubbercurry, but if he got a better farm within reasonable distance of a non-congested area he would not have the least objection, or if he knew he would get a decent price, 30679, 30687, 30730.—Witness had offered to exchange his farm for Chaffpool, but a neighbour of his (Mr. Cooke) had been negotiating for it and was most anxious to get it for various reasons, 30730, 30732, 30750-1.—There were 50 acres at Chaffpool, a great deal of which was wet, 30749.—Negotiations for exchange were dropped as the houses were of no value to witness and they were to Mr. Cooke, 30750.—Mr. Cooke owned about 80 acres of good land at Kilterna, 30751-2.—People nearest the land would have first claim to the 80 acres, 30753.—Chaffpool very little use to a tenant; Moylough a far better farm as far as the agricultural portions of it were concerned, 30754.—Great deal of Chaffpool wooded; these no good to tenant, 30755.—No difficulty in matter of price if Congested Districts Board exercised power of expropriation; witness sold a farm a week ago and got £500 for it freely, 30701, 30710.—He had improved it since he bought it; it had cost him £500 or £600, 30702.

Compulsory Powers of Congested Districts Board.

Witness did not know that Congested Districts Board had power to compulsorily take land, 30717.—He had not seen them doing it anywhere, 30718.—(*Mr. Doran—Board had already decided to exercise that power in witness's case,* 30720).—First thing ought to be to try to make a price, and then if witness were unreasonable they could exercise compulsion, 30724.—Witness had not made people aware that he wished to give up farm; Congested Districts Board should have approached and asked him what he was prepared to sell it at, 30685, 30723.—Mr. Doran had

ARMSTRONG, Mr. LUKE—*continued.*

stated that Board were determined to use compulsion; not one word about an amicable arrangement, 30736.—Board could scarcely call witness's a non-residential holding; he had a good two-storey house put up there and showed every appearance of taking up his residence; only advantage Board could take was that he had not gone there yet, 30737.

Description of Witness's Land.

Witness's farm was tilled and grazed, 30628.—He had his own beasts on it and did not take in grazing; it was a good sheep farm, 30697-8.—Grazing paid better than tillage; tillage nearly impossible to a man like witness, 30769-700.—40 acres was cutaway bog and 16 acres good land; 8 or 9 acres tilled this year, 30690.—Witness let the farm in conacre, which deteriorated it, 30691-2.—He had manured it a good deal with slag and had built a house on it, 30694, 30696.—There was a herd with a farm of about 5 or 6 acres, 30694, 30713.—Witness would be relieved of a certain amount of superintendence if a sum of money were invested, 31714-5.—Suitable to enlarge small holdings, but witness's land was on extreme edge of townland of Moylough that was sold; Mr. Cooke's farm ran between small tenants and witness's land, 30704.—He owned about 80 acres of good land, 30752.—He did not reside on the land; a tenant there had obstructed him in trying to exchange with Congested Districts Board, 30705.—Not in Mr. Coke's power to let them have the land at its fair value, 30706.—Witness would look favourably on any offer of Congested Districts Board provided he got reasonable compensation for his purchase price and improvements; if he could get 5 per cent. for it he would not keep it two minutes, 30707-8.

Necessity for Inspection of Estate.

Absolutely necessary that Board should send down inspector when estate was vested to make enquiries and report to Board, 30734.—He should report upon farms which Board should acquire for relief of congestion, 30735.

Non-Residential Farms.

There were different farms that had been put down as non-residential which were residential farms, 30740, 30756-7.—Two of them belonged to men who had grown-up sons, another belonged to Mr. Boyers, and one to Mr. Layng, 30740.—Mr. Boyers' son was twenty-seven or twenty-eight; he bought his farm six or seven years ago at a publi auction, 30742.—On Layng's farm there was a herd house, a fairly good house; he got a man to build a new house, 30743.—It was started two or three months ago, 30744.—Farm had been grazed for last six years and he conacred it a good deal yet, 30746.—He did not take stock from local farmers, 30747.—As he had means enough to stock it himself, 30748.—Witness could not tell how many cases there were in which owners fitted out these farms for their sons, 30757.—He knew the district well, but he had not the names of the farms, 30758, 30760.—One witness had said there was 500 acres of non-residential grazing land in vicinity, 30756, 30762-9.—Witness contradicted the statement, 30759, 30778, 30781-2.—He had ear-marked those holdings that the witness mentioned and included them as non-residential; witness would call them residential, 30769-71.—Other witness had put on a meaning that no sensible man would consider correct, but it was a mere difference of opinion, 30772-3.—(Occupiers enumerated by Mr. Nicholson, 30774-6).—Twice as many more could be counted if Ox Mountains were taken in, 30776.—There were 5,000 acres on Ox Mountains, 30777.—Witness still persisted in his contradiction, and he would go further and say there were 5,000 acres, 30782.—Sole point of difference was the view taken of non-residential holdings, 30783-4.

Difference between Residential and Non-Residential Holdings.

Witness thought a non-residential holding was one which was held available for a son or a daughter, 30785-6.—Quite a number of cases where it had been held for a brother, but that was going outside one's own family, 30787-8.—Houses were not new; farms had been lately acquired and houses were on them

ARMSTRONG, Mr. LUKE—*continued.*

that former tenants had occupied, 30789.—They were residential holdings at one time, 30790.—Some of the men who owned ranches had grown-up sons who would occupy after them; one man had no sons, but most of them had sons; Mrs. Brennan had a big family, some full-grown, and if land was taken from her she would have to send them away to turn to something else, 30791-2.—If a man had a grown family and had two holdings, one on which he lived, and the other on which he did not live, the second would be residential if he built a house and put his son on it; very unreasonable if it were taken away from him and quite unfair to send him away; he should have first claim to it, 30793-6.—No difference whether son was actually owner or whether he was only acting on behalf of his father, 30796.—Very hard if son spent his time working for his father and the holding was intended for him, though he did not actually reside there, 30797.—Where there was land with a residence upon it it was always possible to turn a non-residential into a residential holding 30798-802.

Effect of Tillage.

Towns would go on much the same if future farming were tillage, which would cause the farmers to employ more labour, 30803.—Witness did not think there would be any improvement, 30804.

Effect of Poverty and Congestion on Trade.

In small towns, generally, the more congestion and poverty the better the trade; where farms were larger people went to the bigger towns; shopkeepers in small towns obtained more money from poor people; richer people went to Sligo, 30805, 30805a, 30806, 30814.—Witness would be very sorry to suggest keeping people in poverty, 30805a.—But he was not in favour of too much land being in hands of any man, 30807.—Very good to have 900 regular customers out of 1,400 customers as one witness had, 30809.—But probably four-fifths were customers also of another shop in town, 30810.—If population were diminished and farms made bigger there would not be so many customers; they would go to Sligo, or further afield, and there would be no trade for Tubbercurry, 30812-3.—Distribution of land would not affect the people much, as long as population was there it would not affect local towns much, 30808.

CONNOR, Mr. THOMAS.

Doongeelagh Estate.

Estate situate in townlands of Doongeelagh and Coultalough.

Multiplication of Landlords a Grievance.

Multiplication of landlords was the principal grievance complained of; four landlords collecting rent on the estate, 30815-6.—Estate was in hands of Land Judges Court and was divided between the four landlords, 30817-8.—Witness paid rent to two landlords through agent, who gave receipt for each separately, 30819-20, 30822.—Rent was £8, 30821.—One landlord would let rent go for a year, the other would serve process if not paid up to the day, 30823.

Quality of the Land.

Land of the very worst quality; extremely hard to till, and crops even in favourable season were deficient both in quality and quantity, 30824.

Remittances from England and America.

Tenants unable to make a living without constant remittances from America and England, and when these resources fell short they had to bear heavy burden in shape of law costs at suit of the four landlords, 30825.

Migration.

Estate was portion of Tawnagh grazing land; 100 acres at present let as ranches for grazing cattle,

CONNOR, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

30825-6.—Desire of tenants that Estates Commissioners or some such public body should acquire the property, and if a scheme of migration was carried out by moving smaller tenants to part of Tawnagh now going to ruin, and remainder of holdings were enlarged by surplus land thus obtained and let to tenants at reasonable rent, they would be in better position and not so much at mercy of a bad season or shortage of remittances from England and America; this part of property was formerly barren waste and considerable amount of labour was expended on it by tenants and their predecessors, 30826.

Price asked for Land. Tenants debarred in some cases from getting Fair Rents fixed.

One landlord had made an offer to sell at unreasonable price of 24½ years' purchase, which tenants refused to accept; a good many holdings had been converted into future tenancies by process of chicanery on part of landlords, and tenants in these cases were debarred from entering Land Court to have fair rent fixed; 5 acres of holding of one of these tenants had been inundated by a small lake and landlords had refused any consideration; eight tenants under £5; eight under £10, and four over £10, 30826-7.

GALLAGHER, Mr. PATRICK.

Non-Residential Farms in Parish of Killoran.

On Dodwell Estate there were 253 acres of non-residential farms; Kelbrillar had 53; Golden, 58; Conboy, 91; M'Corrick, 48; Phipps, 108; representatives of Stokes, 104; Dane Heather, 305, 30828.—Major O'Hara had 357 acres and Mrs. Geddes, 126 acres, 30829.—Total acreage over 1,100, from which several families had been evicted during the forties and fifties, 30832.—Portion of Dodwell Estate let in grass and portion in conacre to local grazier on 11 months' system, 30836-8.—He probably had thousands of acres on the mountains, but no arable land, 30839.—Golden let his farm in conacre and took in grazing cattle, 30841, 30844-5.—He lived about a mile away and had about 50 or 60 acres, 30842.—Conboy lived in County Leitrim; he was a grazing tenant and stocked the farm entirely himself, 30846-7.—M'Carrick lived about a mile away; he had 50 acres and grazed it himself, 30849-50.—Representative of Stokes was living on the land at present; Stokes himself had about 150 acres of home farm, 30851.—Major O'Hara let his grazing land on 11 months' system; he lived within a couple of miles away on his property; Geddes lived about four miles away and had a farm of 500 or 600 acres, 30852.

Uneconomic Holdings.

The districts which comprised these lands were not scheduled; they should have been, 30853.—There were uneconomic holdings in district which needed special treatment just as much as holdings in scheduled districts to which Congested Districts Board devoted their attention, 30854.—Very poor district; numerous uneconomic holdings on mountain slopes; occupiers of which came across the river to these non-residential farms and paid high price for conacre and grazing, 30832.—These farms should be acquired by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 30833.—And small holders in neighbourhood should be put upon them or have their holdings enlarged if possible, 30834.

Shopkeepers with Grazing Farms, Question of Expropriation.

None of these holders of grazing farms were shopkeepers, 30855.—There were some men living in the towns who had shops in a small way, but who made their living entirely by land in the country, 30856.—Witness would be in favour of expropriating them from the country and taking possession of the farms as long as they had good position in the town, 30857-8.—Some of these men might till more on the farm than they would if they had not the outlying grazing farm, 30859.—But these men did not live by tillage or by farming property, but by grazing, 30863.—They used the grazing farms in connection with their home farms, 30860-2, 30864.—Witness would put them in same class as man who takes in grazing cattle, 30865.

Eviction.

There was an evicted tenant on a neighbouring estate in Carnaskea electoral division who had cost ratepayers and State £384 during last fifteen years; she had been ruthlessly evicted and had been confined in Sligo Asylum ever since, until recently, when she died; next-of-kin would be entitled to get the place back from which she was evicted, 30866.

CAWLEY, Mr. PETER.

Scheduling Carnaskea as Congested advocated.

Carnaskea not scheduled, if it were it would not be in present position, 30871.—One portion of parish scheduled, 30873.—District should be scheduled as congested, there were 103 families in Carnaskea division on the mountain side, occupants of these small holdings had been evicted from non-residential farms, 30867.—Those who did not die were hurled into the mountains, or had to go to America, 30870.—People would like Commission if possible to come and inspect the place, 30867.—Inconvenience and loss of time caused by flooding of the rivers, people could not get their goods to market unless they started the day before, 30867.

Conacre.

There were no roads in the mountain places, men had to come off the mountain and take conacre at from £5 to £6 an acre, and at the time of taking the conacre they had to sign bills for the owner to draw the money from the bank in November, 30868.—When these poor people had taken the potatoes out of the land they had to leave them in pits, until floods went down, 30869.—Necessity of Congested Districts Board purchasing the estate in order to put these poor people on better holdings on the non-residential land, 30869.

Evictions.

There were several cases of people evicted from these non-residential farms, in one case a woman had been evicted sixteen years ago, after eviction agent had ordered bailiffs to set fire to the home, and the poor creature had fled, but had been captured by the police, found to be mad, and taken to Sligo Asylum, she had remained there ever since until her death recently, having cost the ratepayers £384, if she had been allowed to keep her small holding of three and a half acres there would have been no expense to anybody, there was another case of eviction at Colhouna of a woman who had since been in Sligo Asylum nine years at expense to ratepayers of £24 a year, Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners should investigate these cases and restore these people, or their next-of-kin to the little holdings from which they had been evicted, 30870.

Price asked for Major O'Hara's Estate.

Major O'Hara had made good roads on his property, but when offering estate for sale he would not sell for less than twenty-six years' purchase and sporting rights, 30873.

M'MANANNY, Mr. PATRICK.

Cloonloo and Killaraught.

Division was divided by Lake Gara into two portions, Cloonloo and Killaraught, Cloonloo portion was mostly barren land, bog, mountain, and shrubberies and highly congested, number of householders in

M'MANANNY, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Cloonloo was 185, gross valuation £720, on an average of about £3 17*s.* 10*d.* per householder, 96 of these householders valued at £4 and under, 79 whose valuation was between £4 and £10, 6 between £10 and £15, and 4 between £15 and £20, 30874.

Migratory Labour and Remittances from America in Cloonloo.

Large number of small farmers went to England every year to earn for themselves and families, and were it not for this and money they receive from their families in America they would not be able to live at all, 30876.

Breaking up of Grazing Ranches in Killaraught.

Killaraught was all rich land and chiefly composed of grazing ranches, it possessed 900 acres of untenanted land, so that cure for congestion in Cloonloo was at the door if proper steps were taken, these 900 acres would give 20-acre farms to forty-five out of the ninety-six in Cloonloo, whose valuation was £4 and under, and in a great measure relieve congestion, 30874, 30876.

Question of Grants for Reclamation and Drainage.

Even if congestion were removed, a large portion of those left behind would never be able to make a decent living owing to quality of land, and would require special treatment, which should consist of money grants to enable them to reclaim and drain their land and make roads which were much required, taking parish of Cloonloo as a whole, it was no better than the worst portion of Dillon Estate, which was bought at fifteen years' purchase, it would have been scheduled as congested from the start were it not for ranches and large valuation in Killaraught, Commission should visit district and see for themselves, 30874, 30876.—There were two men whose valuation was £413 15*s.* and £404 5*s.* respectively, or £88 more than the 185 householders in Cloonloo, 30874.—These men held 683 acres between them, 30875.

Definition of Congestion Unsatisfactory.

Electoral division of Kilgree had been scheduled, witness represented it on the County Council, 30878.—There were only 202 holdings under £10 valuation, whereas in Killaraught there were 225, which showed that law was defective, and definition of congestion unsatisfactory, but for the grazing ranches in the southern portion it would have been scheduled long ago, 30879.

Advantages of Migration.

Migration recommended as a cure for congestion, 30880.—If two or three small holders were taken away, those left behind would be richer by the amalgamated holdings, 30881-2, 30886-8, 30892.—Man who was left behind might have 100 acres of mountain land, 30893.—Holding as a rule about four or five acres of land apart from grazing rights, all small farmers, some held twenty, twenty-five, and thirty acres, but owing to quality of land they were not comfortable, 30894.

Class of Land.

Depended on quality of land, and how it was obtained whether they could live comfortably on enlarged holdings, 30895-6.—A man and his son could till two Irish acres with a loy and a shovel, 30883.—Not a class of land that ought to be all tilled, in the half-parish only fifty acres on which a plough could run, it therefore had to be done by a spade, loy, and shovel, 30885.—Land would stay in grass about five years, then it would go back to its original nothingness, necessity for drainage, 30889-90.

MORAN, Mr. THOMAS.

Armstrong Estate.

Armstrong Estate purchased by Congested Districts Board about three years ago, area of tenanted land, 3,524 acres, untenanted, 326 acres, purchase money for whole estate, £44,000, poor law valuation, £1,783 11*s.*, number of years' purchase 24¾ of the valuation; most of the estate situate in Achonry; seventy tenants under £10 valuation; it would have been scheduled as congested but for waste ranches let to graziers on eleven months' system, thereby depriving poor tenants of any assistance from Congested Districts Board; estate bought over the heads of tenants, who were not consulted in any way and did not know how many years' purchase they had to pay for their holdings; at request of tenantry parish priest wrote to Board to ascertain the price, reply being 20 years' purchase of first judicial rents, 23 years' purchase of second; price excessive as great many of these poor tenants never had judicial rent fixed, but accepted 3*s.* in the £, abatement each year; they owed arrears, etc., and when they spoke to agent about getting fair rent fixed they were told he would process for all arrears, which meant ruin to tenants; they were thus deprived of the benefit of the Act; if they had a free hand they would have obtained five or six shillings in the £, majority of tenants could not maintain themselves for one quarter of the year if it were not for remittances from England and America.

Migratory Labourers.

About sixty migratory labourers went to England every year to earn rent and keep their parents and remainder of family to eke out a living at home.

Inspection before Purchase.

Congested Districts Board should make personal inspection of each holding before purchasing to see if it were security for price they were paying; not done on Armstrong Estate; price paid excessive when compared with price for adjoining estate purchased under Act of 1886; Lord Norbury's estate sold at 16 years' purchase; land far superior to Armstrong Estate, and tenants would get reduction of 2*s.* in the £ at end of every ten years.

First two Estates purchased under Act of 1903 in County Sligo.

First two estates purchased under Act of 1903 in County Sligo were Marginson and Armstrong Estates, former bought at 13¼ years' purchase, latter at 24¾ years' purchase, though amount of untenanted land on Marginson Estate was comparatively greater; 506 acres tenanted land on Marginson Estate, 405 untenanted, £4,412 purchase money, £171 13*s.* 6*d.* rent of untenanted land; on Armstrong Estate, 3,524 acres tenanted, 326 untenanted land, £4,440 purchase money, and £1,899 11*s.* 2*d.*, rent of untenanted land.

Tenants on Armstrong Estate aggrieved at Congested Districts Board—Collection of Rent, Inaction as to Improvements, Importation of Strangers.

Tenants on Armstrong Estate felt aggrieved, for although Board had purchased estate nearly three years, tenants had derived no benefit under sale up to the present; Board had collected full rent for the third year; taking average reduction tenants would be entitled to 6*s.* 8*d.* in the £ as five-sixths of them were first judicial tenants; Board would have extracted from tenants one year's rent, or £1,899 11*s.* 2*d.*; if tenants bought direct from landlord or from Estates Commissioners they would get the benefit of the purchase from the time of purchase as nearly all first judicial tenancies had expired before purchase of this estate and tenants were prepared to go into Court to have judicial rent fixed, but they expected to get benefit of the purchase; very unfair of Board to demand full rent for third year, Board purchased all arrears on this property, some of which accrued twenty-five years' ago, and landlord found it impossible to collect them as people had no means to pay; Board sued all cases for arrears; and there had never been any combination of tenantry against paying rent on this property; people indignant to see Board make a rent-collection machine of itself, sending sheriff's bailiffs to seize on these poor tenants' cattle, 30898.—No benefit from the improvements, 30898.—Board had not improved tenants' land, only the ranches, 30899.—Tenants derived no benefit from the ranches, full rent collected just the same, 30900, 30928.—Ranch not broken up yet, 30901.—Apportioned into economic holdings; Board should not buy

MORAN, MR. THOMAS—*continued.*

arrears from landlord unless they got a grant to wipe them out; tenants from Mayo had been put in on the ranches before claims of small landholders were considered; it had been promised that no person should be imported into the district until all uneconomic holdings on the estate were enlarged, yet in violation of that promise they imported a certain party in on the demesne lands; if Board wanted to deal fairly with tenants there was no room on the estate for importation; seventy small tenants under £10 valuation, and land available would not suffice to give economic holdings to such a number; there were herds who were evicted on those ranches for refusing to herd for graziers, also young men who left employment of graziers, and their claims should have been considered before Board imported any person into the district; Board would not have been purchasers of ranches but for prompt action of Nationalists of the district, as graziers were negotiating with landlords to purchase tenants' interest of the ranches at time agitation was raised against that pernicious system, 30902.—The ranches had become tenanted land, Board was paying all attention to them, 30925.—They had been handed over to tenants by Board, 30926-7.—Improvement schemes were going on on the ranches that were being handed over to tenants, but not on tenants' land up to the present, 30931.—Tenants' land needed improvements, property affected by the Owenmore, 30931-2.

COMPULSORY POWERS FOR CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD, PROPOSED.

Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers to purchase these waste and non-residential holdings at a fair price, and should be supplied with sufficient funds to enable them to carry out propect of planting people on the land of their forefathers; they would be able to give an economic holding to every young man in Connaught and thereby prevent emigration, 30902, 30919-21.

LACE-MAKING.

No local industry, but lace making; there was a technical hall in the parish where lace-making was taught, it was built free by Sir J. Gore-Booth and handed over to Parish Committee; there was a competent teacher from Banada, 30902, 30907-8.—But Committee had not sufficient funds to work up the industry; witness thought Congested Districts Board should give a free grant to this insitution and provide market for the work performed by the young girls attending the class, 30902-3.—Agricultural Board provided market for other commodities, 30904.—And lace industry should not be thrown over for want of market. 30906.—Agricultural Board gave a grant but local people equipped the school, cost left in the hands of Father Quinn, 30909-13.—If there were more funds more pupils could be accommodated, about thirty or forty at present, there could be 100, 30914-6.—If the work was encouraged they would be able to sell the lace, 30917.—No industry which existed in the locality worth carrying on unless it could be done profitably, 30933-4.

DRAINAGE AND ROADS.

Drainage of the Owenmore an important matter as some of the tenants' lands were periodically flooded by tributaries of that river, 30902.—Roads should be made for tenants and Board should drain the lands on all estates they purchase, which they had not done on Armstrong Estate, except through the ranches, 30922-4.

SLEIN, MR. PATRICK.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS IN AUGHANAGH, VALUATION, ETC.

Witness's holding consisted of about twenty-three English acres in the Boyle No. 2 Rural District Electoral Division of Aughanagh; thirty-four holdings on estate under £5 10*s*., and in addition seventeen families who were unrated; average valuation £2 10*s*., many of them lived in huts and had to send their children to England and America to earn the necessaries of life; American remittances had been received by almost every person in the division; total valuation of division was £2,126 1*s*.; four people owned £847 worth, leaving, average valuation of remaining 156 at about £8; there were 424 acres of untenanted land of very best quality, which should be divided among these poor people; people paying big rents for bad lands, 30936-7.

COMPULSORY POWERS OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD, PROPOSED.

Congested Districts Board should have power to purchase this untenanted land and to use it for increasing holdings of small holders; landlords refused to sell, one had asked such an exorbitant price that tenants could not purchase, the other would sell at over twenty-seven years' purchase; compulsion was necessary, 30938-40.

RENT ON PHIBBS ESTATE.

On Phibb's Estate a number of people prevented from going into court, about thirteen years ago one townland was held in rundale, landlord had land striped, fixed new rent, and tenants signed new agreements, but afterwards found they were returned as future tenants and prevented from going into court, so they still had to pay exorbitant rent, 30941.

ALTERATION OF LAW AS TO FIXING OF FAIR RENTS DESIRED.

Arrangement made twelve or fourteen years ago, 30942.—People would like to have law altered as remedy for this grievance, two of the tenants who did not agree to the re-striping arrangement went into court and got 7*s*. in the £ reduction, 30943.

FLOODING.

There was a lake which caused flooding of about 200 acres periodically, and did great damage; lake should be drained by Congested Districts Board, if this were done there would be no need for expenditure on the road, 30943-4.

DURCAN, MR. EDWARD.

MESSRS. KNOX'S BELLAGHY ESTATE.

Messrs. Knox had been asked to sell their estate to the tenants, and the people were told that they might put Congested Districts Board in motion; landlords then asked to sell to Congested Districts Board and people had also written to Secretary of Congested Districts Board asking Board to buy; letter was received from agent of above estate stating that he had been in correspondence with Congested Districts Board office on the subject of a sale, and that as the estate was circumstanced at present and owned in individual shares Board would not purchase; and having investigated into prices usually given for congested estates having no grass lands Messrs. Knox were not disposed to go to expense of furnishing particulars required by the Board because they felt confident price that would be offered could not be accepted; landlords again asked for what number of years' purchase they would sell estate to tenants; reply stating that Messrs. Knox were not at all willing to sell estate and did not see why they should make a proposal, but if some person would make a reasonable offer on behalf of the tenants it would be submitted to Messrs. Knox, 30945.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE BILL PROPOSED.

Government had been asked to pass Compulsory Purchase Bill, to deal with landlords of this kind, otherwise tenants were powerless to deal with them, 30945.

DURCAN, Mr. EDWARD—*continued.*

Inspection of Holdings Before Purchase.

The following instances of sales under the Ashbourne Act showed the necessity for inspection of holdings; Coragon Estate was purchased at from five to eleven and a half years' purchase, averaging about nine years, tenants and landlord had agreed to fourteen years' purchase, but when Government inspector came he found it was not value for fourteen years' purchase; other examples were M'Dermott Estate and Lord Norbury's estate, 30946.

Protest against the Increased Prices asked by Landlords.

Tenants on Knox Estate should not be asked to pay more in 1907 than tenants on adjoining estates paid under Ashbourne Act on first term rents, 30946-7.—Most of rents on Knox Estate were first term rents, 30947.—Sir Granville Brewitt had agreed to sell his estate at fourteen years' purchase nine or ten years ago, now he wanted twenty years' purchase, 30948.—It was owing to some misunderstanding between an adjoining landlord as to a bog that the sale fell through, 30949.

Drainage Scheme Proposed.

Greater portion of land in the district was wet and swampy, and Government were requested to start drainage scheme with a view to having number of rivers sunk which overflowed and caused great damage to crops and loss to farmers, 30949.—Congested Districts Board should undertake arterial drainage, 30950-1.

MAYE, Mr. MICHAEL.

Powell Estate.

Number of tenants on Powell Estate was seventy-five, and average tenantry valuation £2 14*s.* per holding; three holdings alone being valued at £10, and remainder ranged from 10*s.* to £6 10*s.*; landlord lived on estate, which had not been purchased under any Act, but which was one of the most congested in Connaught and deserved special treatment, 30954.

Turbary.

Large supply of bog on the estate, which could be made more valuable, but there were about twenty-four holders of small farms who were not in possession of any turbary, and who had, in past years, to obtain bog on adjoining estates though landlord had been supplying outsiders, 30954-5.

Grazing Ranch.

There was a grazing ranch of about seventy acres on the estate in occupation of the landlord and division of this would in some measure relieve congestion, but though Congested Districts Board had been approached, nothing came of it, as landlord was unwilling to part with ranch, 30955-8.

Compulsory Powers Proposed.

Necessity for the Board to acquire compulsory powers to take over such ranches, otherwise refusal of individual to accept equitable compensation would render efforts to relieve congestion futile; relief of congestion was essential and could alone be satisfactorily carried out by giving Board conpulsory powers, 30958-9.

Migration.

Unwillingness of tenants to submit to migratory scheme arose from fear of contracting obligations they would not be able to discharge; they felt it would be necessary to incur fairly large initial expense in fitting up a new home; this difficulty could be overcome by making provision for granting a sum necessary in such cases, and tenants would, no doubt, be willing to enter into such an arrangement.

MAYE, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Water Supply.

Many of the tenants suffered much for want of water during summer and autumn; provision in this respect would prove a boon.

Uneconomic Holdings.

Number of uneconomic holdings at present existed on Cooper's estate brought about by arbitrary action of landlord some forty years ago, he having evicted the then holders and put in their stead "planters" and even after they had been removed land which they reclaimed was subsequently given over to those who were planted in their place, 30958.

M'LOUGHLIN, Rev. PATRICK.

Congested Districts Board's Operations in Leitrim.

Operations of Congested Districts Board very limited in County Leitrim, total amount of funds expended in county showed correctness of belief, 30962, 30985.

Local Representative Needed.

Limitation of operations partly due to want of representation of county on Board, 30962, 30963.—Some members of Board most kindly disposed to county might have displayed considerable interest, yet witness did not believe they would have intensity of interest required by representative to work projects proposed by the people, 30963.—Board left initiative of works too much to simple people, 30962, 30985.—Peasantry and many connected with them could not initiate schemes or deal with problems, 30986.—No assistance was received in such matters, 30963.—Except from one or two members of Board, 30986, 31046.—When the people or their representatives put forward schemes, or made inquiries, Board always found objections to particular scheme, 30963.—Reasons alleged generally want of funds or that powers and funds were confined by laws and rules, 30963, 30986, 31010.—Peasantry or their representatives would not find out other things to their benefit and so practically everything fell through, 30986, 31004, 31049-50.—Witness did not say the Board had failed, avoided that word, 30985.—Practically everything fell through, 30986, 31004, 31049-50.—Powers and funds of Board should be increased, 30963.—At present there were no local representatives on Board as such, principle very good, but witness would prefer a representative, 30964.—Would like construction of Board changed in such way that at least each county in which were scheduled areas, should have a representative, 30965, 30966, 30969.

Elected Representative would be Best.

In regard to mode of appointment, elected representatives of some sort would be looked for; as a popular representative witness would not deny right of nomination, 30967.—Generally speaking, for a position of the kind an elected representative was best, 30967.—Representatives might be elected in various ways, by representative bodies, not necessarily by individual voters, 30968.

Order in which Congested Districts should be dealt with.

It would never be possible to grant Board a sufficient sum to meet requirements of all congested district counties at once, things should be done gradually, 30970.—Witness did not mean that some places would have to be dealt with before others, but that a great deal of good could be done in each county by taking the work piecemeal, 30971.—When powers and income of Board were increased, even if some places would have to be dealt with before others, it might have done enough already in some, and time of Leitrim should now come, 30791.—If the Board had at their disposal a given sum, supposing there were things on which they ought to spend money in Galway and other things apparently not so pressing in Kerry, no reasonable person should consider money ought to be spent on things practically unnecessary, 30973.—To a certain extent pressing things should be dealt with first, wherever found, 30974.—Pressure might be relative, 30975.—If a county was pressed it might be given some relief without absolutely depriving another of what it required, if Board had greater powers and funds it might do great deal of good in several counties without doing all they required, 30976.

Possible Disadvantages of having Local Representation.

Effect of adoption of two representatives from each county would not be to divide the funds in Board's possession amongst counties to meet the pressure put upon it by representatives, thereby depriving a particular county where a great deal of immediate work was needed, 30977-8.—If funds were common to all congested counties a representative and his constituents would think they were entitled to portion of these funds, impossible for these constituents to measure their need with that of which they did not know, they would look at their own necessities from purely local point of view, 30980.—Division of funds and consequent deprivation of a county a hypothetical case, 30980.—As things existed it was not a hypothesis witness would consider, 30981, 30983.—Witness had never been in West Connemara, Mayo, or the Rosses in Donegal, and seen their condition as compared with that of his own county, had scarcely ever been out of his county, 30984.

Cattle Scheme.

Improvement of cattle scheme had failed, 30987.—Witness spoke of all the years until the cattle scheme practically ceased in Leitrim as far as Congested Districts Board was concerned, 30988-9.—The Agricultural Department had taken over the whole, 31002-3.—Witness would not now be disposed to say Board had been backward in giving help to the district, 31004.—From want of funds and powers Board was forced to form a scheme, result of which was that farmers who took the leading animals were robbed, 30990.—Price farmers had to pay, system of keep they were forced to adopt, and sum received for animals when disposed of, left them losers for the sake of assisting their neighbours; result was they gave up these things, 30991-3, 31116.—Board's idea was accurate enough, 30993, 30996, 31114.—Breakdown was in financial system, and was due to the Board, not to farmers, 30994-5, 30997, 31000, 31115-6.—Sufficient knowledge was not brought to bear upon the class of bulls suitable to the varying lands, 30998, 31000, 31114-5.—Class suitable to the county generally if not put on best adapted lands deteriorated instead of improving, 31000.—A considerable number of cattle had been placed in Leitrim in the first years, but for the past years they had fallen away badly; Board had changed their schemes somewhat through time, and given some more facilities in the end, 31117.

Matters Requiring Attention of Board.

Amongst matters Board should deal with were the condition of land, congestion connected with it, emigration going on, 31005-6.—And drainage, 31006-7, 31054.—It should partially take initiative in a county like Leitrim, except in very commonplace schemes, 31051-2.—Board, or similar body, should explore mineral wealth of country, 31053.

Deterioration of Land in Leitrim.

Condition of land had deteriorated in the last thirty years owing to various circumstances, 31010-16, 31018-19.—There was more flooded land, and there were half acres of stones on the best land in Leitrim, 31013.

Liming.

More culture and more lime were required, 31010.—No lime had been put upon that part of country for over thirty years, 31012, 31015-6.—Comparing time before the Act of 1881 and since, the habit of putting lime and attending land and keeping it in heart had altered, 31017.—Liming implied possibility of getting lime, and plenty of labour to put it in, 31019-20.—Lime had disappeared, 31021.—Limestone was not exhausted, but the means to burn it, 31022.—Turf was formerly burnt, 31033, 31037.—Falling off in supply of lime was attributable in great part to diminution of turf available, 31023-4, 31026, 31028.—Twenty or thirty years' cutting made great difference with bogs, 31037.—Bog was not to be found in large quantity in the county, in many instances turf could only be got from mountains miles distant, 31025-6.—Whatever lime-kilns were now in the county were fed almost exclusively by the remains of coal, because of scarcity and difficulty in obtaining turf, 31026, 31034-6.

Previously there were several lime-kilns burning lime which farmers bought, 31027-8.—Witness never knew landlords supply anything except processes in his district, 31029.—The farmer set up the lime-kiln and probably had turf on his own farm, 31026.—He might have had five or six miles to go for limestone or have had it beside him, it was sometimes necessary to remove six or ten feet of clay to obtain it; this was now impossible for want of labour, 31030.—Causes of cessation of lime-burning were the poverty of the individual tenant and inability to get together the several elements necessary for production of lime, 31031.—There was more money in one parish thirty years ago than in ten now, 31038.—At that time there was a large population in the country, and two kinds of manure were used, lime and "blue sand" or gravel; people were engaged in manuring the land with the blue gravel in a way unfit for human beings, but by this system the land had been brought into a state of cultivation very different from the present, 31019.—Witness, when a boy, had seen fifteen ricks of oats at individual houses, whilst so much could not be got now from the whole parish, 31019.—Any quantity of corn could then be obtained, 31020-21.—Now none could be got, 31021.

Falling off in Production of Corn.

Falling off in production of corn was attributable principally to condition of trade, 31043.—Sometimes to the price, 31044.—This had, however, risen in 1907 to £1 a sack instead of 15*s*. a year or two previous, but this was useless to witness's district for they had no corn, 31045, 31111.—Each county had different names for the quantity sold, in Leitrim a sack of oats meant twenty-four stone, 31045.

Artificial Manure.

Artificial manure was now used to a very limited extent for potatoes, or a piece of meadow, 31039.—Basic slag somewhat taking the place of lime-burning, 31040.—Not because cheaper than lime, 31041.—But because it should be better than lime if it contained the elements stated, 31042.

Land Available in Leitrim for Relief of Congestion.

Much land had gone out of cultivation, 31102.—There was a large extent of untenanted land in the county, though not so great as in the midlands, 31006.—As regarded grazing tracts that might be available for new holdings, there was much evicted land, 31103.—It was about equally in the hands of large tenants and the landlords, 31104; on a townland in witness's parish there had been fourteen tenants; all had been evicted except two, but the Estates Commissioners had now restored those tenants, except in the case of a large farm recently sold; witness knew of no others, but in other parts of the county they would be plenty, 31113.

Drainage and Reclamation of Land.

A quantity of waste land, or what was little better might be greatly improved if drained, 31006, 31010.—This would be equivalent to the purchase of ranches, 31105, 31136.—Witness believed that by attention to drainage in all the land he knew in North Leitrim a different state of things would obtain, 31010.—The extent of land and bog reclaimable from Largeydonnel River by expenditure of £300 would be several hundred acres, 31105, 31136.—The productive power of farms and the value of holdings would be increased, 31138-9.—The value of individual holdings would not enormously increase, 31137.—Those in witness's parish were so small it would be very hard to increase their value to any great extent, 31138.—Schemes for drainage were much required and the Board should do more, on a large scale, in Leitrim, 31007, 31010, 31054, 31111, 31140.—Both arterial and field drainage were required in the county, 31055-6.—All old drains were closed up, rivers were stopped and closed, 31012.—As in witness's parish, by rocks; hundreds and hundreds of acres of land were flooded; crops were torn away in harvest-time, 31106-7.—Mouths of bridges were choked and floods turned out on the land, 31013, 31108.—The Bonet River, for instance, rising from a little lake in witness's parish, was in great need of a large scheme of drainage, eyes of bridge crossing it as it left the lake, were completely filled, recently, by the flood getting further up the country; a man had lost his horse and nearly his own life, 31108-9.—Witness's parish was a glen, and when floods came they carried all before them; the same happened in practically all the parishes, because of same natural formation, 31106.—Much land would be reclaimed by edge of lake; river was ruining health of people, owing to its water-logged condition a mist rose over the whole place at night, 31111.—Unless two rocks were removed the water could not be got rid of, 31141.—River must be opened to the sea, 31140.—It entered the latter at Bunduff, where a salmon fishery existed, 31141.—If these rocks were removed river would keep itself clean afterwards, and there should be little or no cost of maintenance, 31140-1.—Board should have charge of drainage schemes, for it alone knew its powers and had engineers at command for advice, 31054.—Witness did not advocate Board doing anything, or all, the people required, but there were certain things Government must do to build up commerce in Ireland as it had in England; people must be protected by laws, facilities be given, and obstacles be removed; only a Board such as Congested Districts Board, could deal with drainage schemes where Fishery Company was concerned, a man like a parish priest would be unwilling to act, 31141.—Witness had heard no objection to improvements on Bonet River by "fishery people," but all knew what these were like, 31142.—The Board of Conservators were one Board, and the men who used the fishery, another, 31143.—Witness knew little of legal constitution of Board of Conservators, only knew he would be afraid to touch a fisherman for fear of being "booked," 31144.

ACTION TAKEN BY BOARD IN REGARD TO DRAINAGE WORKS.

Board had taken question of drainage into consideration, 31008.—Numbers of communications had been exchanged between public bodies of the county, clergymen, members of Parliament and other representatives indicating schemes, officers of Board had visited localities, and engineers had prepared estimates, 31009, 31010.—After the visit of certain Commissioners, Board had proposed to contribute to drainage works in the county on condition of formation of a Drainage Board, 31057-8, 31060, 31063, 31080.—Or offered a contribution to the County Council in certain cases, if Council undertook the work, 31059-60, 31080.—As regards Largeydonnel River, Board had offered £100 conditional on formation of Drainage Board and County Council contributing £200 towards scheme, 31063. Difficulties in carrying out schemes were insurmountable, formation of a Drainage Board was very expensive and so complicated that a parish priest and the unsophisticated people could not approach such a problem, 31061.

BOARD'S CONDITIONS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

It was very difficult even for a County Council to carry out drainage works; Board's condition to its contribution to County Council involved additional rates and taxation, 31062.—Conditions were such as to imply failure, 31067.—Public all said Board must have known this, 31062-3.—People were already very highly and even over-taxed, 31063-4, 31078.—Condition of getting subscription from rates would kill a scheme in that part of country, 31067.

POWERS OF THE BOARDS AND FUNDS.

Public sympathy would never be secured for any Board imposing additional taxation, 31066.—The contribution promised was insufficient in proportion to that asked from County Council, 31067.—Whatever the Board intended to give for any scheme should be given on its own account, and it should have sufficient power to carry out the work, 31065.—It should have sufficient funds to execute its own works, great or small, and absolute powers as beneficiaries of the community, 31083, 31133.—All schemes put forward by Board require greater powers to carry them out, 31061, 31111.—These powers might possibly include that of levying a small rate upon a district benefited for the maintenance of works done by money of Board, 31134.—If the Board had sufficient power to carry out a drainage scheme in proper way once for all, the cost of maintenance would be so trifling that either the Board might impose a merely nominal tax or consider one altogether unnecessary, 31140.—Witness preferred not to speak on the question of rates or on those matters that concerned the County Council, 31135, 31081, 31110.—He was a most unwilling witness, and was only present because commanded to attend, 31082.

When Father O'Hara and Dr. O'Donnell had visited North Leitrim six or seven years ago many projects for that district had been discussed with witness; the county had always felt the peculiarly kindly interest of some members of Board, 31046-48.—All these projects had failed, 31049-50.

ROAD-MAKING.

At the time referred to large contributions were offered by Board for making certain roads in the district, but, conditional on the rates, 31068.—It had been previously ascertained or was thought that the local authority would provide the balance required, 31069-70.—Practically there were only the two contributors, the Board and the local rates, very likely both parties thought the work would go on, but when the County or District Council met they thought, considering their taxation, the amount demanded from them was excessive, 31074-5, 31077.—Witness was not aware that there was a sum of £2,000 offered by the Board for roads and drains on condition of certain contributions and that this money had not been taken up, 31076.—The County Council in dealing with roads considered two classes, roads already formed and new roads; the Council would undertake the former much more readily than the new, because whilst in case of a new road the Board offered only a contribution to the cost, the Council had to examine how many families the road would accommodate, these might be comparatively few although the district owing to its remoteness might demand the road; in promoting drainage works or road-making Board practically offered a contribution and left all further responsibility and the cost of maintenance to the local authority. This responsibility, especially that of putting forward the scheme and running the risk of legal claims, the local authority was unwilling to take, and they considered the Board should have the necessary power to save them from this, 31078-80.—In the question of roads, especially where large projects were concerned, the County Council should have a voice, but where there would be only small works involving an expenditure of from £30 to £100, the Board should have absolute power and ample funds to carry them out, 31085, 31145.—A difference should be made between large and small works, because large works would involve expenditure of £1,500 or £2,000 on a long road of 2,500 perches or so, 31085.—Where old roads existed the rights referring to them had already been determined; as regards short cuts to bogs they were not considered rateable property, *i.e.*, works the County Council was obliged to maintain, 31086.—No local authority generally looked after these roads, the few persons going to a bog and having a common roadway kept it up themselves; in cases of serious repairs or to make a road, if the Board gave a small contribution, say of £20 or £30, the people did the work, and the Council should have nothing to say to that as they were not responsibible for further repairs, 31087-8, 31093.—The people in the district maintained such bog-roads, 31097.—Witness was not aware that any other class in the community did this, 31098.—They also paid road rates for other roads, 31096.—System a good one, and with regard to small roads, the Board should make a contribution, allow the people to make the road and impose on them the duty of maintaining it, 31087, 31099.—As regards large roads the District Council must of necessity take them over and maintain them, 31088, 31145.—The County Council should carry out the work and keep it in hand, 31100.—The Board paying a sum of money to the Council, 31101.

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—Both authorities should join and make the road, 31146-7.—The County Council should keep it up, of course, but Congested Districts Board got the best of the bargain, 31089-91.—Proportion of cost offered by Board was insufficient, having regard to further upkeep and expenses subsequently arising for which Council was responsible, 31101, 31148.

Parish Committees; Extension of Work Desirable.

Respecting industries to be started, witness favoured Board taking initiative, suggestion had been made by local people and witness about Parish Committees, 31118.—Some suggestions for benefit of people had come from outside, 31120.—For three years the Parish Committees had been working in the place, 31119.—An extraodinary amount of good had been done, people and Committees working honestly together, 31121.

Improvement of Houses.

Witness would like to point out some desirable extensions. Small sum received by Parish Committee, say, £70, was insufficient for improvements; it was seeking to effect where there were so many bad houses; small windows should be replaced by good ones to admit light and air; and old flagged bedroom floors, or concrete and clay floors be boarded; Committees did precisely what Board required, 31122-3.—It was a scheme of subsidy in witness's parish, 31124.—£70 was the sum received by that Committee, 31130.—For that sum three times £70 worth of work was done by the people themselves, 31131.—The year was now closed, 31132.

Planting Suggested.

Work of Parish Committees in congested areas was confined to valuation under £7, this as work developed, should be increased to £10 at least, 31149-50.—If funds in this respect were increased and the Board took partial initiative in improving condition of people, much more could be done through the Committees; in witness's parish, it was intended when the houses were improved, to ask the Board's permission for expenditure of one year's grant on plantnig sheltering belts and beauty spots; fruit trees and bushes, save gooseberries and currants, would not live in the district, 31150-51.

Crochet Industry.

Witness had suggested a teacher for crochet industry at Kiltyclogher, 31126-28.—The class had been a success until witness left the district, 31129.—He had no present information as to its continuance, 31125.—Witness was of opinion that it would be impossible for tenants to pay the present prices of rents in his district, 31151.

MEEHAN, Rev. JOSEPH.

Neglect of Leitrim by Board.

County Leitrim had been extremely neglected by Congested Districts Board, 31153, 31193, 31222, 31232-3, 31335.—This was to be seen from the Board's reports, which gave separate returns for special districts; witness based his remarks upon the Fifteenth Report of the Board and the Table of Expenditure it contained, 31153, 31224.

Land Purchase.

Total amount spent on purchase of estates in congested districts was £547,847; up to the present one estate only had been bought in Leitrim, at Kirgariff, at a cost of £805, 31153.—The amount was given in the Board's report as £805; the sum of £1,205 might include improvements; it was for the compiler to reconcile the figures, 31155-6.—Witness knew the estate well; it was purchased in 1903, 31155.—Estates and farms in the county had been offered to the Board; three in witness's parish, and there would be many more in other parishes, 31157, 31159.—As regards witness's parish, they wrote to the Board asking them to buy a tenant-right farm in order to carry out the work of migration, and the Board refused, 31157.—The ground for refusal was inability to buy tenant-right farms; unsatisfactory reason, as the Report showed such farms were bought elsewhere, 31158, 31191.—In this case it had been proposed to sell the tenant-right only, 31159.—The tenant farmer, Holmes, had written at witness's suggestion and had the Board's letters, 31167.—Witness had gathered from the reports that the Board could only buy the tenant-right of a farm from its income, whilst in the purchase of an estate it obtained an advance from the Land Commission, 31190, 31192.—This made a difference, 31191.—But it was unfortunate the Board had done absolutely nothing for the county in the purchase of estates, despite its great work elsewhere, 31180, 31193.—The second estate offered in witness's parish was a small one in Lisnagowan, containing three or four farms; the place had been sold within the last four or five years, 31159, 31168.—Witness had written himself to the Board at the request of two or three occupiers, and had kept the reply, 31167, 31169.—Neither agent nor proprietor had communicated with the Board as far as witness was aware, 31170-71.—No communication was made by witness to owners representing desirability of sale to Board, 31172, 31174.—But he had pointed out to the Board that the land was being sold in Court, 31172.—The transactions were presumably under the Estates Commissioners; there were negotiations for sale between some parties, 31173.—The land was good grass land, with mountain ranches beside it, which could have been added to the farms, 31160.—There were no holdings in rundale in County Leitrim as far as witness knew, 31161.—Regarding the third estate, there was a splendid vacant farm, containing at least a hundred acres of very good land, immediately adjoining a congested district, which would have been very suitable for migration schemes, 31162-4, 31176.—The land was still untenanted, 31165.—The estate was Dr. Roden's, in the districts of Drumkeeran, Manorhamilton, lying just along the congested district of Killarga, 31166, 31176.—The matter was brought to the notice of the Board by the owner himself, 31162-3, 31177, 31181.—There was sent a letter of acknowledgment, together with a circular and there the matter had stopped, 31162, 31182.—Witness had examined the circular very carefully to see whether it contained any reason justifying the Board for its abstention, and had found none, 31182.—Witness could not tell whether the circular had been filled in by the owner and returned to the Board; Dr. Roden had stated that he could get no further communication from the Board, 31193-4.—Witness would expect the Board, if anxious to further the work they were engaged in, to supply a little deficiency of the kind in the case of a person selling an estate by making further inquiries; there was a *prima facie* case for the purchase by the representations of the owner, and it should not have fallen through owing to the mere fact of his not having gone through a very elaborate series of replies, 31185-88.—Witness could not say that it had been suggested to the Board to resume the matter; the question was very recent, since 1903, 31189.—Witness had the correspondence in his possession, including a recent letter of Dr. Roden's in reply to witness's request for particulars, 31178.—Witness had not seen in any of the reports that the Board considered it inadvisable to take the initiative in approaching owners, 31175.—He quite understood the disadvantage at which the Board would be put by offering to purchase an estate; nevertheless he regretted that practically nothing had been done for Leitrim, 31180.

All the Board had done for Leitrim was to send a Spanish Donkey and some wretched Fowls.

The initiative should not be put on the people; witness came into his present parish of Killarga in 1895; up to that time, the Board which had been in existence four or five years, had done nothing for the district except to send down a "sort of Spanish donkey," which was subsequently found to have come from Kerry, where it had been for years; in 1897, after some trouble, the Board had sent a lot of fowl, but through some accident they were a wretched set of Minorcas, with spurs of great length; in 1898 and 1899 a couple of fowl were obtained; this was all the Board had done, 31194-5.

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Leitrim people ignorant of Board's purposes and even of its existence.

Previous to 1897 or 1895 neither witness nor his people had known anything of the Congested Districts Board, 31194-5, 31338-9.—As far as the people of Leitrim were concerned the Board might as well have been in Mars, 31337.—They did not know the Board was willing to benefit the county, and they were justified in this by the Board's action up to 1896 or 1897, 31341, 31347.—It must have been necessarily totally unaware of the needs of Leitrim, having made no effort whatever to remedy them, 31335.—It was the duty of the people to bring their work and requirements before the Board, but how should they do so under the circumstances, and with sixty-seven or sixty-eight boards in Dublin how should Leitrim peasants have known to which board they should apply, 31337, 31340.—Witness concurred that the Board were working almost heroically and doing their very best, but it had not been in Leitrim, 31342.—For several years its officers never came to the district, 31333.—No member of the Board ever visited the county prior to 1903, when two members came "motoring round on an outside car" as quickly as possible, 31195.—Witness had met the party by pure accident when calling on the parish priest, 31196-7.—It was decidedly fair that the parish priest should be called upon; no complaint was implied; but witness happened to be living in the congested district and had written many times to the Board, not so the priest, 31198-9.—Amongst projects put before the party were those for two roads, 31200-1.—The grant and subsidy asked for were given, 31202.—The grant for the Parish Committee did not come as a suggestion from the party referred to, 31229.—Witness and the district wished to emphasise the fact that it was not the money matter to which they sought to draw attention, but the absence in Leitrim of guidance the Board extended elsewhere, 31215-6.—The Board's efforts in the county were expended almost in no other way except Parish Committee schemes, the easiest way for them as entailing very little supervision, 31330-1.—The principle of encouraging local people to do all they could was good, but the Board's officers were experts and could have done much more than those groping their way could do for themselves, 31332.—A huge staff would not necessarily be required; the present staff might visit the district; it was too bad that it had not done so for years, 31333.

Expenditure on Improvements.

As regards the improvement of estates, the total sum spent in Ireland was £480,362, that in Leitrim, in Kilgariff was £131 10*s.*; the Board having probably raised £134 from the estate there was no net benefit, 31212.—Witness was aware that the receipts correspond with the expenditure, but regretted that very few estates had been bought in the county, and the very small expenditure on improvements in consequence, 31213-4; the Board improved estates out of the rents paid, allowing 5½ or 10 per cent, 31221.

Leitrim had not received its proper share of Expenditure.

Respecting agricultural schemes, Leitrim had not received its proper share, whether on the basis of population of congested districts or on that of number of scheduled districts, 31215-6, 31222, 31334.—Taking population as the basis, for every £15 5*s.* spent in congested districts in Ireland, Leitrim was entitled to £1, or to 1 in 15; taking the total of 428 scheduled districts in Ireland, Leitrim with 38, or 1 to 11·02, was entitled to £1 for every £11 spent elsewhere, 31215-6, 31326.—Leitrim greatly needed expenditure in many ways, there was no county in Ireland where the capital held by farmers was so small, 31217.—A valuation of 6*s.* per head, such as that of Swinford Union, the very poorest place in the jurisdiction of the Board, was lower, and the claims of such a place should come first, but in Leitrim they were not patriotic enough to sacrifice themselves even for Mayo; comparing the treatment accorded to Swinford Union, where £375,000 had been spent on the purchase and improvement of estates, and much trouble taken in arranging migration, and that meted to all Leitrim put together, Leitrim had been extremely neglected; the same was the case as regards Parish Committees's schemes, £1,390 having been spent under that head alone in the one parish of Kilmaine, and £7,855 13*s.* 6*d.* in the Swinford Union, 31218-22.

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Expenditure on Parish Committees.

Parish Committees were started in other districts and thousands had been expended before they were begun at all in Leitrim, 31231-31310.—It was not right utterly to ignore the district until 1903, 31232-3.—Parish Committee grants had only recently begun in the county, this was indicated by the total of £729 spent, 31222-31306, 31322-3.—These figures, taken from the Fifteenth Report of the Board, included the total expenditure on such committees in Leitrim up to date, 31223-5, 31322.—Witness was not in a position to say positively the grants had been increased, 31306.—The sum expended in year ending March, 1905, was £729 18*s.*; the grant for 1905-6 was £1,090, but included two years, and expenditure was not indicated, 31324, 31328.—Witness, although not sure any figures brought forward by himself were incorrect accepted that of £1,796 for total expenditure prior to 1907 as given by Dr. O'Donnell; as there were however no means of comparing the relative amounts given to Leitrim and other counties, it was useless to put forward such figures by themselves, 31326-9.—The returns showed, not only amounts spent for year previous to 1905, but the whole of the amounts spent by any Parish Committee up to 1905, 31319.—The amounts being made up for the financial year ending 31st March did not necessarily include in all cases the total expenditure, a larger amount might have been received in 1905, because they had not understood things exactly, or might not have been quite in time, 31308-9.—Much money spent on what was practically Parish Committee work not included at all in reports, 31231.—The omission of expenditure from reports was only natural consequence of the system and time of their compilation and publication, the actual expenditure for the year would appear in the next report, 31325.

Killarga Parish Committee.

There was a Parish Committee in witness's parish of Killarga, which had received a grant of £50 for two or three years, 31226-8, 31233.—With one exception this committee, established in 1904-5, was the first set up in Leitrim, 31311, 31315.—1906-7 was their third year, 31312.—The one Parish Committee existing a year earlier than Killarga, that of Mahana, Inismagrath, had spent £50 before Killarga spent anything, 31315-19.—The grant appeared in the return under the name of Tullycleenan, there was none for 1905-6, Tullycleenan being now merged in Inismagrath parish, 31320-1.—Killarga committee was started and grant obtained on witness's own initiative after his reading the Congested Districts Board Report, a little local agricultural society failing to take up the matter, 31229-30.—The total paid the committee prior to 1905 was £37 16*s.* 7*d.*, or £40 for the first year, 31307, 31313.—The gross grant for 1905-6, the second year, was £50, 31307, 31314.—The work of the Parish Committee was on wrong lines; the great work of the Board was to convert uneconomic holdings into economic; the committee allowed no grant to any person whose valuation was over £7; this was helping to improve houses so as to render people more reluctant to leave them hereafter, and helping to stereotype congestion, 31233, 31244, 31294.

Valuation Limit should be raised.

Limit of valuation should be extended at least to £10, 31234, 31238, 31241.—It should be £14 or £15, particularly in more backward parts of Leitrim, 31247, 31262.—This had been represented several times to officials of the Board, 31234-5.—The Board itself should have seen the necessity, 31238-41.—Witness strongly insisted on the point that unless the small grant of £50 was increased in a district where almost nothing had been done, it was useless to level up farmers to £10, 31235, 31241.—The grant was available for the congested area of Killarga, all of which was not congested, 31236-7.—Coming for a great

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many years the sum would do a great deal for the parish, especially if Parish Committee and estate work went on together, 31242-4.

Improvement of Houses, etc.

—Witness would not leave the homes of those under the economic level of £10 or £15 unimproved until the holdings could be enlarged in some way; some of these homes were extremely wretched and should be improved in every possible way; it was the greatest necessity of all, affecting health, welfare and happiness of the people, and more important than drainage even, 31248-53, 31305.—It might be well to extend the improvement of houses to some extent to economic holders, 31304.—Poorest naturally had the greatest claim upon the grant, 31235.—Witness therefore concluded that the committee was doing the right thing, but with a drawback, 31254, 31294.—Parish Committees were particularly good for Leitrim, as there was no other way of reaching the Board at all, 31255.

Size of Economic Holdings in Leitrim.

A holding in Leitrim, valued at £7, would never become economic under present circumstances, or even if drained, 31245-6.—Holdings in Leitrim below £15 valuation could hardly be classed as economic, 31262, 31266, 31271.—Holdings under £15 formed 83 per cent. of the total holdings in Leitrim; in Killarga, 83 per cent. would be uneconomic, 31266.—Killarga consisted of the electoral districts of Cloonlogher, Belhavel, Killarga, Mohalla, and part of Garvagh, 31267-8. The poor holdings could be rendered economic by the addition of land adjoining, if such were available, 31269-70.—Even in the case of the addition of bad land to bad land provided the valuation were thus raised over £15, 31271-3.—The acreage necessary for an economic holding depended entirely on the class of land; in Leitrim, where it was particularly bad, the amount must be very large, especially in mountain districts where 20 to 30 acres would not nearly equal 15 to 20 acres in the townlands, 31263-4.—Even bad land by industry might be sufficient with good meadows, but assuming a large migration scheme by which two out of every three holdings were vacated, there should be a little good land in each; the man remaining, living on his own farm many years, cultivating it to the utmost, should, assuming the land added to be equally cultivated, be three times better off for the addition, 31273-6.—This would entail three times the amount of labour in order to keep up the land to the previous extent of tillage, but with the enlarged holding the farmer might keep a horse and so be enabled to do what three men did before, 31277-8, 31284.—Such a holding could be worked by a man's own labour and that of his family, 31279-80.—It would give a farmer no return to employ labour on any farm in County Leitrim, 31281-3.—It might be a good principle to limit the extent of land given to a man to what he could properly till with the help of a horse, 31285-6.—A man with a £15 valuation would probably keep a horse, 31265.—One reason for their not being used more in the county was that farmers could not afford to do so, 31359.—Sometimes neighbours had a horse between two or three, 31360.—There were hardly any ploughs in the district, and only two or three in Killarga parish, 31265.—Spade labour was almost exclusively used in County Leitrim, 31265, 31277, 31355.—Leitrim farms were extremely hilly, even on economic holdings it would not be possible to plough the land and work a horse on, perhaps, 50 per cent. of the county, 31355-8.—Another reason for not using horses was that the soil was not deep, and it would not suit for a plough to dig up sub-soil of such bad nature, 31359.—The land was bad, practically all millstone grit, very bad for cropping, and extremely hard to work with spade labour. on bad land tillage was more laborious, occupied more time, and there was less return, 31265, 31355, 31370.—The difficulty might account for the small amount of acreage cropped in Leitrim, 31265.—Tillage in the county was practically stationary, labour was becoming difficult to get and therefore there would be a tendency for tillage to go down to some extent, 31353-4.—It might be possible to give a man too much land, but no one would object to having it at a fair rate, 31286, 31300.

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Restoration of Evicted Tenants.

The people who had been driven from lands, even in other parishes, should, if possible, be brought back, they or their descendants having first claim on such land in any re-division, 31290, 31348.—The very best land in Killarga had been taken from nine or ten people of two townlands, and the houses razed to the ground, 31290.—Forty years ago one of these men was given land which was completely tossocks and bog, and he had brought it into a fairly good farm, others would do the same, 31290-1.

Migration.

There were about 202 families within the scheduled area of Killarga parish, 31287.—Other remedies than migration should be first tried for rendering holdings economic, 31288-9, 31293.—Migration within the parish might take place, and would be preferable, 31295, 31348.—There were about eight or nine farms in Killarga whose holders should be moved, 31296-7.—Mountain land and bogs adjoining holdings should be brought into cultivation by means of loan from Government at small rate of interest secured as first charge against farm, 31288, 31291-2, 31298.

Question of Reluctance to Migrate.

Farmers were said to be reluctant to migrate, numbers of them told witness they would go anywhere to get a good farm, out of their county, or to any part of the world, provided there were no objection in the county or district migrated to, such migration would, of course, be better in colonies than singly, 31349-51.

Local Opposition to Migration.

Witness feared the farmers of Meath or Westmeath would hardly accord Leitrim farmers the welcome extended to those of Donegal, Fermanagh, and Kerry by Leitrim at the time of the Cromwellian settlement, but members of the Commission would be in a better position to judge whether objections might be removed by judicious management, 31351-2.—If lands long untenanted were bought and striped, there was no reasonable objection the farmers of the district could put forward, provided they obtained a fair price, they might even be glad to see their land turned into tillage, grass land, bullock walks being no longer profitable, 31352.

Labour in Leitrim, Wages, &c.

Want of employment and a demand for labour characterised the district, very little labour was to be had, Leitrim's return of 9*s.* 3*d.* a week was the very lowest on Foxe's returns, one gentleman present had told the House of Commons, and also witness, that he could obtain any amount of labour for 6*s.* a week. 31354, 31366.

Labourers' Cottages.

A sum of nearly £2,500 had been sanctioned in the union of Manorhamilton for putting up labourers' cottages, which could scarcely be classed as high as holdings, but were rather temporary homes, the labourer being expected to labour on the land about, 31367-8.—Many of these were tradesmen, masons and carpenters, and went out to labour, 31372-3.—Witness knew of no instance amongst the 325 small holders in Killarga under £4 valuation, of one going out to labour, they would willingly do so, but there was no demand, 31369, 31371.—Tillage on bad land occupied much time, one acre of potatoes cost at least seventy-eight days' work, and forty-eight additional days if the Department of Agriculture's suggestions were followed, 31370.

Railways Needed.

There were other remedies for congestion besides agriculture and its bye-industries, 31302-3.—Railway-making was the principal need of witness's district as shown by an article written by him in the *New Ireland Review*, the Board presumably not having the funds [illegible] to carry out the work itself, should, as in the case of the Killibegs Railway, obtain a grant for the purpose from Government, 31440.

Domestic Science Classes.

Three Domestic Science Classes had been instituted under the Board in the district to witness's knowledge, and was their very best work, he could not say whether any other parishes had applied for classes, many lacking exact knowledge of these things, 31343-7.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Very little was done by the Parish Committee to induce people to remove manure heaps from front of their houses, 31361.—In union of Manorhamilton nearly £50 was yearly paid out of rates and State money for sanitary inspectors, these were sporadically active, as at present, extremely so when an epidemic arose, and slept rest of the time, 31361-5.

Drainage Scheme rejected by Board.

The Board had turned its back on a feasible scheme placed before it, one for drainage of a river running along congested district, witness's letter was answered after six months with statement that the matter could not then be attended to, the correspondence continuing two years without anything being done, if, as stated by Dr. O'Donnell, Board had not requisite power to do the work, all the worse for Leitrim, and witness should have been informed at the outset, 31256-61.

Special Disadvantages of County Leitrim.

Leitrim was practically a non-maritime county, having about a mile and a half of sea coast, it derived no benefit from the fisheries to which the Board devoted a vast amount of attention, 31373-4.—Another disadvantage was the absence of public institutions of any kind, a great annual drain upon it was caused by yearly sum of £7,658 sent out for support of the asylum situate in County Sligo, instead of its being circulated within county, 31375-6.—Emigration constituted another great drain, about 1,000 people leaving Leitrim every year, just when they were strongest, taking £120 a year as their average worth to the country, this meant a loss of £120,000 a year, but the worst feature was the probable deterioration of the Celtic race, 31390-3.

Absentee Landlords.

The vast majority, at least seven-eighths, of the landlords of Leitrim, lived elsewhere, having an agent, an extremely clever man, to deal with the tenants, 31377, 31379-80.—The loss to County Leitrim from this absenteeism was on a very rough estimate £100,000, estimate arrived at by taking total valuations of estates in the county as given in Thom's Directory, and deducting the valuation of those landlords living in the county, 31377, 31382, 31388.—It did not include the large grazing ranches left with nothing but a herd upon them, 31378.—As an instance of absenteeism, Lord Massey took £24,000 out of the county, and no one had ever seen him there; Mr. Clements, of Glenbuoy, had only been seen once even by his agent, 31381.—It was no benefit to Leitrim that Lord Massey lived and kept a large staff in Limerick, witness would prefer his living in Limerick rather than London, and London rather than the Continent, but, before all, his living and spending his money in Leitrim, 31383-4.—Leitrim was by absenteeism much worse off than Sligo, where one of the best landlords in the country, Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth, lived, 31385-6.—It was a decided advantage to a district to have landlords living on their demesnes, they should not only live in their places and spend their money in the county, but take a leading place, 31387, 31394-9, 31407.—Only a man wanting in intellect or energy would not find plenty to do wherever he was placed, 31396, 31400.—One landlord had devoted much time to daffodil culture, this of course implied that he had retained the family home, 31400-1.—With the landlords' power clipped, the people would be glad to have them in the country, but witness would be very sorry to have such a one living there as Mr. Montgomery, in Killarga, who spent his money there, but knew the estate of every farmer, and increased the rent whenever he saw a farmer able to bear it, 31394.

Inducements for Landlords to remain in the Country.

In order to induce landlords to remain in the country, it would be necessary for them to retain even a large amount of land, 31408.—Witness had not thought of a general rule, individual cases would have to be considered, 31403-4.—No claim to acquire land within the demesne wall should be supported except where no use was made of it, whilst people were starving for want of land, 31405.—There should be a Court of Appeal of some kind for such cases, 31406.—Landlords should not have land from which tenants had been evicted, 31402.

Sporting and Fishing Rights.

Sporting would be a great attraction to men, especially young men, to remain in the country, 31409.—Game and fish were a national asset not to be reserved exclusively for the landlords, if landlord had exclusive rights to hunt hares, and could enter tenants' lands for that purpose, the tenant would not hesitate to bill a hare wherever he saw one, rural life was dark enough compared to town life, and those who had a taste for hunting should be allowed to indulge it, 31410-1, 31418.—As regards salmon fishing, where a landlord had exclusive right to a salmon river passing through his land, and the land passed to the tenants, landlord's right should not be confiscated, but it would be far better that this exclusive right should cease, and the tenant have an interest in the fishing, 31412, 31415, 31431.—People had the main right to all the fish going past their doors, this was God's natural provision for their food, 31413-14, 31426-7, 31435-6, 31439.—The people of Leitrim derived no benefit from the fishing on the Bonnet and the rivers about except that of nabbing a stray fish, and if they were caught they would go to jail for it, as far as witness knew, the profits went into the hands of some gentlemen in Sligo, 31414, 31417, 31420-22, 31425, 31427, 31429 30.—Witness did not mean that landlord and tenant were to have the fishing rights among them, and anybody could fish who liked, 31416.—There should be some set rules so that anyone wishing to fish must get permission from some authority, if the landlord and tenants had some committee and owned the rights between them, the public spirit of the tenants would cause them to put down poaching, so that they might fish themselves, and the fishing become an economic benefit to the whole district, 31417.—A Board of Conservators such as there were in England, managing fishing in the interests of the people, without question of private rights, was wanted, 31419.—Witness was not a fisherman, and knew very little of the Board of Conservators, his opinion of its constitution was worthless, but if the present constitution was such that the conditions in Leitrim described above was legal, witness was decidedly against it, 31423-4, 31427-8.—The best means of making fishing a national asset would be to transfer it to the occupier on reasonable terms, witness did not know the foundation of present fishing rights in Ireland, but if the landlord had prescriptive rights, they should be confiscated, if such rights were good and of long standing, he should be compensated for their loss, 31432-3.—Sea-fishing was in quite a different position, 31437.—Witness would not admit that if the rights of the landlord to exclusive fishing were bad in the case of a salmon river, those of a tenant would be equally so, or that the man with a holding not bordering on river should have similar rights, in that case there would be a natural right for the French, English, or Spanish to come within the three miles limit of the Irish coast and fish as they liked, 31438-9.

Explanation of Memorandum.

Witness had said in his memorandum that he wished it clearly understood he did "not favour

MEEHAN, Rev JOSEPH—*continued.*

confiscation—righting wrongs by other wrongs," the sentence was not purely academic, though perhaps not very clear and written hurriedly, it was put in to further clear ideas on the subject, 31445-6, 31449-50.—It meant that supposing it were decided to carry out migration, and a man had a large farm he had held for a number of years, which could be utilised for the easement of congestion, the farm should not be taken from that man except at a fair valuation, even if he did not need the farm, to take it without compensation would be a wrong, 31441-2, 31444.—No one had ever suggested such a course, witness had never heard a Nationalist member of Parliament, or any man on a public platform in County Leitrim, suggest the taking of a grazing farm for improvements without giving full value for it; no such case of righting wrongs by wrongs had happened in the county to witness's knowledge, 31445, 31447-8.—The other wrongs referred to were those done to tenants by confiscating their property, driving them to the morasses and mountains, by piling on rents whenever tenant was seen to be strong enough to bear it, 31290, 31387, 31402, 31443.—No people in the world had suffered such wrongs as witness knew them to have suffered in his parish, 31452.—Examples of this treatment and of the duties of bailiffs were given in his memorandum, the landlord evicted when a man showed independence, and had a notice to quit printed on the back of the receipt, the tenants were treated mercilessly, and felt themselves in practical slavery, 31211.—In the memorandum witness had stated that he was not a thorough partisan, and that he had begun to study the land question biassed, if anything, against the tenant, 31203.—Translated into clearer language, this meant that he had approached the subject with a perfectly clear mind, 31207, 31209-10.—Witness had tried his best to find out the truth from all sources, and to tell it now, 31204-5.—He was thoroughly in sympathy with the tenants, but had left it to others to be more energetic on their behalf, 31208, 31452.—He had already given one reason for the opportunities he had had of seeing their side of the question, namely, the fact that his brother had suffered very much from the landlords, 31206, 31208.—The sentence "Personally, I accept the situation, and I humbly urge," meant that witness accepted things as they are, he was utterly sorry for the present position, but the sentence did not suggest that the situation previously existing would be more commendable, the discussion was one on points of rhetoric, not of fact, he decidedly did not mean that he was sorry the tenants had a grip of the land, he was delighted they had, and thought it entirely due to their own exertions, and the exertions of their leaders in Parliament, 31451-4.

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HEWSON, Mr. G.

Definition of Congestion needed Amendment.

Classification of congested districts a blot on present system; there were slums in Kildare and elsewhere needing re-settlement as much as any other part of Ireland, 31462.—All electoral divisions containing fifty or more families whose average agricultural rent did not exceed £5, or whose holdings did not exceed 10 acres should be provisionally declared congested; final declaration to depend on report of Board's officials, 31488-9.

Board's Duties should not be transferred to Land Commission.

Time had not arrived for transfer of duties of Congested Districts Board to Land Commission; Commission already had more to do than they could manage, 31462.—Further duties were thrown on Commissioners by Bill of 26th February, 1907, 31812.

Constitution of Board.

Congested Districts Board might be increased by, say, three members; half the Board should retire by rotation every three years and not be eligible for re-election for another three years; outgoing members should be replaced by persons representing different districts, 31462.—And a small *ex-officio* element would be an advantage, 31462-4.—Work of Board would soon be learnt by new members, who would, moreover, be kept straight by old members, 31465-9.—Witness not at all dissatisfied with present *personnel* of that Board who had looked after their own districts very well, 31471-2.—But he wanted other districts to have their turn and a representative on the Board would see that they got it, 31469-70, 31472, 31485-7.—Swinford district had been extremely well looked after, partly, at any rate, because Father O'Hara was on the Board to urge its needs, 31473-8.—It would not be well to give each congested county its share of funds regardless of its necessities, and there was no reason why local representation should have any such result, 31482-3.—Counties must be taken in some sort of order, the absolutely fair way would be to put their names in a hat and take them out one by one, 31483-4.

Migration: Importance of transferring Migrants to conditions similar to those they were leaving.

Success of any migration scheme depended on migrant being transferred to a district where conditions of life and agriculture resembled those in district he left; as great a mistake to bring a West Donegal man to Roscommon as to take a Meath man to Connemara, 31490-4.—West Donegal (Gweedore) man was used to live beside his turf, have large rights for grazing sheep, and seaweed for manure; in Roscommon, supposing he would consent to go there, conditions would be entirely different, 31495-504, 31737.—Even if he were put on virgin soil he would not understand the class of agriculture required, 31507-10, 31515.—Though as a young man he might have served his apprenticeship in a very good agricultural district, and as far as knowledge of tillage went the Gweedore farmer who had decent land was as good as any other farmer, 31516-8.—Emigration would not present greater disadvantages, 31505-6.—Bog holdings did not give their holders a living; they were merely a kind of accommodation holding, 31512.—Leitrim men who had come to Donegal as herds were all exceedingly poor, 31519.—But witness had no actual case to quote of a Donegal man who moved to Roscommon and failed, 31522-3.—And men moved from a bog holding to a grass holding in same county had succeeded in many cases, 31524-5.—Transfer to another county was different; people were very clannish and styles of agriculture varied widely in different parts of Ireland, 31526-7, 31529, 31759.—Sligo and Roscommon might be grouped together, as conditions in those two counties were much the same, 31528, 31530.—And Mayo as far as Tubbercurry, 31531.—But it would not do to bring a Belmullet man to Tubbercurry, 31532-3.—Most small farmers in congested districts had turf, 31534.—Proximity to bog and a good supply of water a vital necessity for grass lands to be settled, 31738-9, 31747.—People had lived on these grass lands before, but it was a question of environment and habit for migrants, and very often bogs had been cut out, 31740-7, 31760-3.—In the islands of Lettermore turf was brought over in lighters as in Tory Island, 31535.—Turf could hardly be supplied at a rate they could pay to small holders in Roscommon, supposing grass lands were broken up, 31536-8, 31570-3.—Compressed peat had failed for want of a market; migrants might perhaps help the market, 31574-8.

Reluctance to Migrate.

People would not migrate in sufficient number to relieve congestion, 31540.—This was an opinion advanced, not statement founded on actual experience, 31542-7.—People would no doubt go to moderately rented farms ten or twelve miles off, 31570.

Local Opposition to Migration.

Dromard Farm, near Mohill, was bought by philanthropists to provide houses for Massareene tenants; local opposition was too strong and land was finally given to natives who had cut down all the timber, 31570-7, 31581-4.—If farm had been divided among strangers there would have been no land left for local people, 31578.—People for whose benefit land was bought were evicted tenants, not congests, 31580. —Congested Districts Board would probably have succeeded no better, 31585.

Migration from unpurchased Estates.

Landlords of congested estates would not object to removal of tenants to better surroundings even if migratory tenants went to one of the Board's estates; Witness's experience contrary to Mr. Finucane's evidence; no reason why notices should not be put in congested districts telling uneconomic holders to apply to Board, 31734-7.—No need to make a gift of tenants' interest to landlord; migrant could sell his interest to adjoining tenant and so secure a little money to start with in his new holding, 31737, 31764-7.—Migration of sons of tenants as migratory labourers to district where new farms were laid out would be very expensive, 31767.

Migration of Tenant Purchasers.

Tenant purchaser would lose nothing by migrating; he would sell holding on which he had already paid, say, twenty-five instalments, at an enhanced price, 31781.

Remedies for Congestion.

Problem of congestion, as a whole, was insoluble, 31539-40.—Impossible to make all holdings "economic," 31644.—Bulk of real distress consisted of cases where old people were left without a family, where husband or wife died leaving a family of young children, etc., which might occur under any circumstances, 31718.—Migration would help a little, 31538. —Board should also have right of pre-emption as at present exercised by landlords; should undertake main drainage and establish a bureau of information as to employment available in England, Ireland, and Scotland; small holders should be encouraged to keep their drains clear and to raise their standard of cleanliness, and sub-division should be prohibited by law, 31539.

Circulation of Money in Neighbourhood Required.

Circulation of money was the great want now that landlords were gone, 31539.—Congested Districts Board should take their place and do the work of a good landlord, 31548.—At present there were many absentees, 31554.—But twenty-five years ago many landlords lived and spent their income in County Leitrim, 31549-51, 31555.—Some landlords spent large sums on improvements, 31556-9, 31600.—Mr. Wynne spent large sums on the railway, 31560.—Forty-two miles of railway made; money raised by local guarantee, 31601.—Mr. Wynne got nothing back, there never was any prospect of getting anything back, 31601-2.—No occupiers joined in guarantee, 31603-5.—Railway scheme had been re-arranged and was now doing very well, 31606-7.—Witness did not know whether proximity of railway was considered in fixing rents, 31608.

Practically no Land available for Relief of Congestion in Leitrim.

Leitrim congested districts peculiarly situated; no fishing; very little land let on 11 months' system; in consequence there was not much land available for migration and practically none for enlargement, 31561.—Not enough untenanted land in Leitrim to put up more than 100 families, 31570.—No congested estates with large farms adjoining, 31781.—Statistics of untenanted land quite unreliable; bulk of it was mountain, 31812.—Rents of holdings not an appreciable factor in occupier's budget, 31561.—System of dual ownership seemed to be impossible owing to legislation, 31561.—Legislation since 1881 had tended to drive out landlords, and the only remedy was to purchase, 31562, 31568-9.—Compulsion not necessary, landlord would be willing to disappear if he got a fair price, 31564-7.—Much could be done in Leitrim by draining and fencing mountains and by planting, 31595.—Coal flags and iron ore in Arigna district could not be properly worked for want of easy access to a port, 31595-8.—Witness had advised several clients to sell outlying farms in other counties, but landlords had been unwilling to sell, 31599-600.

Size of an Economic Holding.

Impossible to say what area or what valuation should be held by each occupier, 31570.

Breaking up Grass Lands: Effect on Cattle Trade.

Not likely that migration could be carried out on scale large enough to make much difference to the store cattle trade for years to come; a serious attempt to prevent graziers taking grass lands would affect the trade, 31586.—Large infusion of graziers necessary to well-being of the country, 31587.—Small holders would not be able to finish their stores and do away with middleman's profit; they would not have room, 31589-91.—It was not done in Ireland, 31592.—New holders would probably till as little as possible; modern education made young people disinclined to work land, 31586, 31594, 31644.

Dangers of such an Experiment.

Dangerous experiment to revolutionise whole system of agriculture; till land was broken it was impossible to tell what it would grow; experiences of Famine time ought to be a warning, 31685-92.—There was no sign of a crash in letting of grazing farms, 31812.—Grazing was now profitable and successful and going back to tillage might endanger agricultural prosperity of the country, 31695-8, 31700, 31727.—Witness would like to see people on the land if the scheme would be a success, 31724-6, 31732-3.—They were on the land before, but though in many cases landlords had made clearances in many others it was natural causes that turned holdings into grazing ranches, 31728-31.—Witness did not apprehend danger from addition to grazing lands and diminution of tillage concentrating agricultural prosperity of Ireland in the cattle trade, 31693, 31701-8.

Probable effect of Importation of Canadian Stores.

Importation of Canadian store cattle would ruin the small breeder in the West, but the ordinary grazier would make money by it, 31709-12, 31715.—If it were certain that Canadian cattle would come it might be wise to put men on 20-acre holdings and let them learn to be ready for the change, 31713-4, 31716-8.

Difficulty of selecting Land to cut up in event of Compulsion.

If land were compulsorily taken, selection of which farm to take and which to leave would be excessively difficult, 31718-23.—Suggestion as to cutting up farms of over £50 valuation would be unworkable in many cases, 31781.—Mr. Finucane's proposal to treat everyone alike and if landlords' land would not go round take that of the big tenants was an impossible and unjust one, 31783-8.—The residential tenant ought not to be touched, 31789-94.

Distinction between Land let on 11 Months' System and Land held by Large Farmers.

There was plenty of land let on 11 months' system which could be broken up, but it would be ruinous to do away with the large farmers, 31694, 31699, 31782, 31795.

Conacre Letting.

Large farmer who let land in conacre should not be interfered with either, it was a mistake to interfere with markets and political economy, 31796-801.—If the small tenants were removed the large man would be driven to tillage, 31806-9.

Compulsory Powers.

Compulsory powers should not be exercised except as a very last resort, 31803.

HEWSON, Mr. G.—*continued.*

Creameries in Leitrim.

Creameries were the principal industry started in Leitrim; as a result good butter was made, but a source of employment was taken from the women and breed of cattle was deteriorating from want of proper feeding of calves, 31595.

Small Holdings as a Security.

As an investment large property of small holders, if fairly circumstanced, was preferable to one of large tenants; on many congested estates witness had almost invariably collected the year's rent, one year with another; accumulation of arrears was generally due to mismanagement, 3160-9.—If a congested estate paid as a whole the landlord could probably make more of it in his own hands, 31819-20.

Price of Land.

Price at which Board had hitherto bought land could not be taken as basis for price in future; Board had got cheap lots of what might be called bankrupt stock; there was no reason why other landlords should be compelled to accept such prices except for public reasons, 31611-2.—Landlords were willing to sell at a fair price, that is, one which would not involve them in too much loss, 31613-4.—Witness had himself made losses in four out of six sales notwithstanding bonus, 31615-24, 31626.—Landlords had to pay local rate in case of untenanted land, 31629-32.—Rate of interest on investment was about 3½ per cent., 31625.—In bulk of estates sold at middle price between the zones landlord must lose; he could make money only in case of a mortgaged estate, 31628.—Many reasons why landlords should sell, 31627-8, 31633.—They preferred a fixed income to an investment in Irish land, 31634-5.—They sold at a loss because they could not help it, 31636-8.—Witness did not anticipate fall in value of land, it was a toss up, 31641-3.—Witness could see no ground for Mr. Finucane's proposal to take twenty-six times tenement valuation as basis for price, 31812.—Prices received for holdings had greatly increased within last few years, 31812.—Assumption that Estates Commissioners would not depart from a price already fixed would put them in a difficult position, 31781.

Disastrous to Ireland if money earned by labour in England and Scotland were lost, 31644-5.

Small farming could not be started in Ireland on a large scale without protection, 31644.

Estate sold direct to Tenants in Mayo, Grass Lands used to enlarge Uneconomic Holdings.

Reasonable amount of land at fair price available in Mayo for relief of congestion, 31648.—Witness had sold an estate in Mayo having tenants of congested district on its borders, and he had split up a large farm, 31648-50.—It was a direct sale, 31651.—No philanthropic reasons for sale, it was purely a business matter, 31660-1.—There were uneconomic holdings on estate, and these were being enlarged from grass land; no fines being charged, 31652-5.—If witness had sold through Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners there was no guarantee that tenants would get these grass lands, the Board might bring in congests from a distance, 31675-8.—As it was, tenants were industrious and would carry out the improvements needed, 31656-9.—And landlord knew what price he was getting, 31662-5, 31677.—There had been no inspection for value, 31667.—But if tenants and landlords were satisfied there was no more to say, 31668.—In case of default in payment of annuities, default might be borne by rates, but the country got that back at the next payment, 31669-71.

Loss suffered by Landlords through Delays in completing Sales.

Landlord willing to sell untenanted land ought to be sure of getting his cash in a reasonable time, at present he might have to wait four years and could not let his land during the interregnum; if he did not get cash, State should give him interest equal to his average income pending final distribution; if securities in which Land Commission invested landlord's money dropped he lost his money; one remedy would be to allow tenant purchasers to pay off balances owing to State in Land Stock, 31680.—Witness who said that under certain circumstances a landlord with the bonus would get more than his present income at 3½ per cent. had forgotten that vendor had to redeem head rents, pay costs of sale, live for three or four years on 25 per cent. less than his income, and bear any loss that might occur in selling out of securities in which Land Commission had invested his purchase money, 31680, 31812.—Loss of sporting rights was often loss of a valuable asset; cost of selling a small estate was almost prohibitive, 31680.—Action of modern Government in dealing with Ireland was like that of a child pulling up a plant to see how it was growing, 31680-4.

Improvement of Estates sold direct from Landlord to Tenant.

Land Commission should have power to provide for improvement of estates sold direct from landlord to tenant from Reserve Fund; power must exist since free grants were made to evicted tenants in direct sales, 31768-72.—Inability to make loan or advance might be met by an arrangement between landlord and tenant, whereby there would be a proportion of price on which no bonus was paid and tenant would get a certain portion to improve his holding, 31773-8.—Danger of tenants agreeing to pay annuities out of proportion to capacity of land could be guarded against in agreement, 31779.—Provision should be made for maintaining improvements and Congested Districts Board would be a suitable body to make such provision, 31779-81.

Number of Uneconomic Holdings sold.

Statistics as to number of uneconomic holdings sold were not entirely reliable; two or three holdings sometimes sold to same man or additional holding sold to man who had already purchased another, 31779.—Tenant who was absolute owner of his farm could get money from Board of Works for improvements, 31781.—Improvement was more than a question of staff; if carried out in districts where labour had to be imported expense would be enormous, 31812.

Character of Leitrim Peasantry.

Hitherto the people had had no chance of learning how to make the best of their material, or the advantages of steady work; the best remedy was to make the tenant owner of his holding and encourage him in every way to improve it, 31812.

Prices in 1735.

Statistics as to price of commodities in 1735—37 tons 14 cwts. of straw sold for £24 10*s.* 5*d.*; 30 sheep and a cow for £4 10*s.* 3*d.*, 31813-4.—Witness paid large labour bills on several estates, but he had to emigrate his family, 31812, 31818.

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O'HARA, Rev. F.

Work of Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board only Board that had done anything for country, 31824.—It had the confidence of the people, because it had benefited them as far as it possibly could.

Case of Evicted Farm bought by a Scotchman who wanted to sell it to the Board at a Profit.

One of three properties put before Board to purchase was an evicted farm, which had been left for years, and which Scotchman had bought twenty years ago and built on and then wanted to sell to Congested Districts Board, 31825.—No one would touch the property was the reason Scotchman had got it conveniently and he wanted then to make more profit, 31826.—He was not the man who should benefit, 31827.—If man was unjustly evicted from his home, and had done all he could to keep it, he would like to return to it on honest and just terms, 31828.—And he might have been able to return if the other man had not interfered, 31829-1.—Whatever price was paid for holding, it would be arrears of rent to landlord, 31833.—Owner had not paid for tenant-right, and witness objected to his getting price of tenant-right, 31834-5.—If Congested Districts Board paid him for tenant-right, and restored tenant, he would be paid twice over, 31836.—Evicted tenant came into possession while Act of 1881 was in operation, 31838-9.—Scotchman restored and built house and improved farm, 31840-1.—Witness thought Commission should know particulars of case as it was put forward, 31843.—Foundation of case was wrong and unjust, and no money expended would compensate, 31844-5.

Board should not buy Land from which Tenants had been unjustly Evicted.

Congested Districts Board should refuse to buy land unjustly evicted, and where there was contention and feeling against it, 31857-8.—Prescription would give a right, but in case of Roscommon business it would be very ancient, case referred to happened within last twenty years, and was not forgotten, 31860.

Board should have increased Powers and Funds.

Witness would give more powers to Congested Districts Board, and more funds, 31847, 31854.—Leitrim not very congested, and Board had considered cases put before them and people were well satisfied, 31848-9.

Condition of Board.

Board should have an inspector, which would be better than county representatives, 31850.—Present inspector too much confined to certain districts, 31851.—Satisfactory if Board could hold meetings in County Leitrim, 31852.

Drainage.

Necessity for better drainage in County Leitrim, rivers in bad state, houses flooded, and people had to leave their houses at night, 31851.—About £100 necessary to remedy the drainage, one river surrounded by fairly good land, landlord had borrowed money at cheap rate for remedying drainage, but one or two people had objected, necessity that Board should have absolute power, 31854.

Grants for Cottage Dairies Needed.

Leitrim a county for good butter, if Congested Districts Board could make an allowance or grants for dairies to be built, they would benefit the people, too many applications under £7 grant, 31863.—Increasing amount spent in working cottage dairies through Parish Committees suggested, 31864-5.—Two congested districts in parish of Ross and Ballaghameehan, 31866.

Deterioration of Land owing to Climatic Causes.

Witness had met Professor Baldwin, who had been in Leitrim fifteen or twenty years before, he knew of no part of Ireland that had suffered so much from climatic influences, it was farmers' experience that land had deteriorated at least a fourth in last thirty or forty years, 31868-9.—Land had fallen as if it had suffered from earthquake, 31870-3.—Excessive rainfall was the great drawback, 31873-5.

Professor Baldwin's Decisions set Aside.

Although Professor Baldwin was one of the greatest authorities, when he gave his decisions and reductions in rent, his decisions were appealed against, and rents raised back again, 31876-80.

CONNOLLY, Rev. TERENCE C.

Poverty of North Leitrim.

North Leitrim very poor, had suffered from various causes in the past, had had little done for it, required special care, 900 a year of population lost, average valuation lowest in Ireland, 86,000 less people now than in 1881, 31882.—Population 69,000 last Census, an eighth lost between 1881 and 1891, 31883.

Flax Industry.

Flax industry important some years ago, absolutely disappeared now, three acres of flax in Leitrim, 31883, 31891.—There would be a market if it were produced, 31884-5, 31886-7.—Nineteen scutch mills thirty years ago, none now, 31888.—There was market in Cavan and Monaghan, 31889.—More flax imported from abroad every year, 31894.—Farmers in Cavan took £40 an acre for flax, 31895.—It had been steeped in a hole and scutched, 31896.—White flax steeped in running water as was done abroad fetched higher price, that could not be done in Ireland, 31896-9.—Industry revived a little in northern counties, 80 acres flax in Louth last year, 31900.—Industry might be revived, 31901.

Occupations of Seaboard Population—Kelp Industry, &c.

County had seaboard of nine or ten miles, former kelp industry practically disappeared, 31901.—Price gone down since iodine was produced from other things, 31902-4.—It was not the most economical way of producing it, although people were content with small wage, modern law of commerce was that things must be produced from cheapest and most natural products, 31905-7.—Kelp industry paid a small wage in other parts of Ireland, 31907.—Seaboard district alluded to was in Tullaghan division in union of Ballyshannon, average valuation £3, population forty or fifty, people living by fishing, nothing had been done for them, 31907-8.—They had no landing place, no instruction, and no fishing gear, 31909.—Mr. Green went down eight years ago and talked matter over with people, 31911-4.—They took haddock, whiting, codfish, lobsters, were skilful if they got a chance, 31914.—Pier to suit people might be economically placed at Tullaghan, exact spot could be left to inspector, 31916-7.

Coal Mining—Transit Facilities Needed.

North Leitrim had a valuable coal mining area absolutely undeveloped, coal could be got at pit mouth for 10*s.* which cost 21*s.* or 22*s.* sixteen miles away, only one man doing anything, he employed thirty men every day of the year, 31918.—This was in North Arigna, 31919.—Transit needed to Irvinestown, Tyrone, Ballyshannon, and Enniskillen, 31921-2.—No railway in North Leitrim, 31924.—Sligo and North Counties line ran by, and there was a station at Manorhamilton, 31925-6.—Proposal to connect Arigna with Dromahair not sound, 31927.—People would not give a guarantee after their experience with Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway, 31928-33, 31937-8.—Existing railway was no use to coal district, 31934-6.—Railway should come from Drumkeeran to a mile west of Manorhamilton, then down from Glenade to Bundoran or from Ballaghmeehan to

CONNOLLY, Rev. TERENCE C.—*continued.*

Belleek, carried on across other line, 31939-40.—Not so far east as Kiltogher, 31942.—Dromahair was the nearest point, but once there the line could go no further, besides coal obtained by water trans-shipment would not sell in Sligo, 31941.—£6,759 guarantee paid for deficit on Cavan and Leitrim line; £4,295 got back from local taxation over benefiting area, 31944.

Roads Needed.

Roads bad, Lord Iveagh's motor scheme would benefit the country if roads were made, County Council could not induce ratepayers to improve roads, 31948-52.—Enormous expenditure needed, 31953.—It would be enough to put main roads in order, 31954.—Interest on borrowed money had to be paid by ratepayers, 31955.—And rates were too high to be raised, 31956-8.

Reafforestation Needed.

1,500 acres of forest supposed to exist in North Leitrim according to Thom were not visible, reafforestation was needed, there, very little drainage, 31958.—Land wet and exposed to sea, 31959.—Trees would give shelter and lessen bad results of rainfall by helping the natural drainage, 31960-2.—Large plantations preferred, 31963.—Magnificent to plant two miles of hillside, 31964-5.—Land used at present for cattle and sheep, easy to clear, some tenants too public-spirited to want compensation, 31966-8.—Sheep not paying, they had gone down in North Leitrim, 31969.—Total number, 13,000 last year, Galway had 577,000, Mayo 306,000, Roscommon, 165,000, 31970.—1,000 lost in Leitrim from 1905 to 1906, 31972, 31977.—Sheep would be better, and have better wool if one-fourth mountains were planted in trees, 31973.—Locality would be better sheltered, 31974.

Agricultural Products of Leitrim compared with Roscommon and Mayo.

No proportion between number of sheep in Leitrim and in Roscommon and Mayo, same could be said of other agricultural products, 31985-6.—781 acres of turnips, 300 less than year before, only 271 acres of mangel, 1,000 acres of cabbage less than year before, 3 acres of vetches, 1 acre rape, 5 acres flax, 5,000 horses in Leitrim, that was 200 more than last year, while in Galway there were 28,000 horses, and 11,000 in Roscommon, 31977-80.—Fewer asses than any other county, 31981.—Number of horned cattle gone up, there were 3,000 last year, bacon industry used to be important, and could still be made so, nearly 25,000 pigs in Leitrim, against 38,000 in Roscommon, number had gone up, but was still absurdly low, if agriculture were more prevalent pigs would have better chance, 31982-6.—Mayo and Galway were five and three times the size of Leitrim, but Mayo had large tracts of bog and bad land, while Leitrim had only little lots, 31987.

Manuring and Drainage.

Instruction in manuring and drainage needed; hills were bleached for want of drainage, and much land was not economic, because not properly drained and manured, 31987-8.—Large number of cornmills formerly, two or three now, only 7,000 acres of oats grown this year, 500 less than last year, 31989-90.

Capital Needed.

Serious thing for country that people bought from foreign countries what they could get from their own farms, farmers sold pig at 4½*d.* a pound, and bought Canadian bacon at 6½*d.*, people so rack-rented they had not the capital, and were obliged to sell pig to get ready money, shopkeeper would wait, something should be done to give capital for agricultural industries, drainage, &c., 31991.—Congested Districts Board should do it through Parish Committees within their ambit, 31993.

Definition of Congestion needed Amendment.

Some poor not in scheduled areas, scheduling system absurd, poor men penalised for living next door to rich ones, Board should have power to work everywhere in county with farmer under certain valuation, 31993, 32006-7.

CONNOLLY, Rev. TERENCE C.—*continued.*

Agricultural Credit Societies.

Agricultural Credit Societies good, but very small, and involved a lot of trouble, especially to priest, who was expected to do everything, 31994-2001, 32003.—Witness made chairman by tenants on seven estates, and carried through sales of eight estates, 32002-4.

Success of Parish Committee—Economy in Administration, &c.

Parish Committee in witness's parish doing well, they were good, but should be able to reach poor outside the area, 32005-6.—£5,000 given by Board to Leitrim within last six or seven years, more good done by Board's money than by twice the amount from Department, witness would like Board to get more money, and larger powers and hold meetings in district to get people's views, Board administered money very economically in some cases, through Parish Committee whole cheque reached poor man, with nothing for administrative expenses, 32007-11.—There were supervisors, but one did ten parishes, they were paid 10 per cent. on grant, 32012-15.—Officers were paid for carrying out Board's schemes, 32008.

Agriculture and Industries based on it of most importance for Leitrim.

Agriculture as such, and industries based on agriculture, required closest attention in Leitrim, there was no raw material for factories, 32016-7.

Lace-making and Sprigging.

Sprigging important industry for women some years ago, almost disappeared, 31885.—There should be lace-making or sprigging for girls deprived of churning by the creamery, but the idea was not followed up after Department was started, as those who assisted before thought there was now money enough, Department did it in a sort of way, 32018.

KEAVENY, Mr. M.

Districts Needing to be Scheduled.

In witness's parish three congested electoral divisions, Mahanagh, St. Patrick's, and Arigna, Drumkeeran, was within parish and should be scheduled, in three scheduled divisions there were 395 persons with holding rated under £7, 109 rated from £7 10*s.* to £10, and 504 rated at £10 and under, in unscheduled division there were 355 ratepayers of £10 valuation and under, some holdings in Drumkeeran valued from £2 to £2 10*s.*, some as low as 5*s.*, 32020.—Garvagh district was very poor, 103 holdings below £7 valuation, 32021.

Particulars of some Non-Residential Holdings.

In Killanummery Electoral Division there were a number of non-residential holdings, 227 registered occupiers, area 5,138 acres, valuation £1,882, of those 227 holdings 17 were non-residential, containing upwards of 700 acres and five of 395 acres, valued at £255 10*s.*, 32022.—This included the mountain sides, 49 holdings valued at an average of £24 3*s.* 5*d.*, 178 at an average of £3 19*s*, average value of 227, £8 5*s.* 9*d.*, average value of 222 £7 6*s.*, 32032.—These not in scheduled districts, lot of unfortunate people living close to large farms were deprived of benefits of Congested Districts Board, 32024.—Should any large farm be sold Congested Districts Board should buy it to provide farms for parties living in congested areas, 32025.—Non-residential farms, but tenanted. 32026-8.

Land Available for Board to Buy.

One or two farms for sale, application made to Congested Districts Board to buy, but they declined, 32028, 32032.—138 acres belonging to Mr. Hamilton, which witness thought was for sale, would be convenient to Congested Districts Board and advisable for Board to buy but for expense of working property, at a distance from its other work, 32029-31, 32038-9.—Misses Hamilton, the tenants, were willing to sell, but witness did not know whether landlord was, 32033-4.—Farm sold under one of Purchase Acts, 32037.—Hundreds of acres of mountain land in Killanummery, 32035-6.—There was a farm for sale by auction in St. Patrick's held under Land Commission, no purchasers, as people around were too poor, very useful to district if Congested Districts Board would buy it, 32040-2.—77 acres in it, 32042.—If split up into small holdings it would sell better, 32044.—Only one bid of £280 for farm, 32045.—Rent, £20, 32046.—Well-to-do shopkeepers bought land formerly, but farmers were going to the bad, and shopkeepers had to go with them, 32043.

Development of Industries.

Employment should be found for people in such districts in order to relieve congestion, 32046.—Board doing important things in other parts of country, giving assistance to factories, 32047.—Large number of girls without employment, 32048.—They had to emigrate, 32049-51.—If Congested Districts Board would make a line from Drumkeeran to St. Patrick's an industry might be started in plaster of Paris and fire-clay, extensive industry ten or fifteen years ago, but failed, 32052.—There had been flourishing industry in manufacturing bricks, tiles and pipes, but company started a public-house, and nothing was done right after, 32053-5, 32069-73.—Bricks were exported in a poor way, as there was no railway, 32057.—Industry might pay well, 32056.—If started now on account of line going to Arigna it would not be so expensive to carry out work, nor so expensive to send to Ballinamore and Belfast, 32058.—Drainage pipes made which farmers found better and cheaper than stones, 32061-3.—Good demand, two large steamers employed, and bricks sent on to Limerick, 32064.—Strangers constituted the company and farmers of locality had no control, 32065-8.—Coal found in locality, company started at Spencer Harbour, and Lord Spencer christened the Harbour, 32059-60.—Steamers carried coal to Limerick and took away bricks, 32074-5.

Work of Parish Committee.

There was a Parish Committee which did well, but funds were limited, 32076-7.—And they were not allowed to work outside scheduled area, 32078.—They worked at fencing, drains, and buildings, 32079.—Witness would like funds of Parish Committee increased to £400 or £500, 32080.—365 parties entitled to share of present grant of £100, 32081.

Roads Needed.

Necessity for completion of chain of roads, 32082.—Considerable sum offered as subsidy, 32083.—They were so backward they could do with money for construction of roads and funds of Parish Committees increased, they only got £932 for construction of roads in County Leitrim to 31st March, 1905, 32084.—All Leitrim had for construction of roads from Congested Districts Board since it was formed was £1,674, while Donegal got 26,992, 32086.—Ratepayers in Manorhamilton Union were overtaxed and too poor to accept, £2,000 offered, 32087-8.—North Leitrim was the poorest part in Ireland, 32089, 32102.—Leitrim could still get money offered, in 1905 Parish Committees in Donegal got £2,553 and in Leitrim £21, 32090-2.—If more money could be got through Parish Committee people were willing to earn it, 32093-5.—If industry were again started all would depend on management, 32096-7.—Witness did not think the industry would have to be artificially kept on, 32098.—Money given to Parish Committees would be used in making permanent improvements, 32099-101.

Butter Industry.

They had small industry in Tarmon where farms churned their own milk and sent butter to be manufactured, 32102-4.—Butter was improved and reduced to certain quality and sent away in 56lb. boxes, 32105-7.—Locality so poor and hilly and creameries so far away that butter factory worked better, 32108-10.

Sanitary Work of Parish Committees.

Parish Committees had done much to improve sanitary conditions, removing manure heaps, etc., 32111-2.—£50 spent annually in sanitary officers in union of Manorhamilton to travel the country, and see that manure heaps were a certain distance from houses, 32113, 32116-8.—Man could not get a grant from Congested Districts Board unless manure heap was a certain distance from house, it did not cost Board anything to remove them, 32114-5.

Railway Facilities Needed.

1,400 acres of land untouched for want of railway facilities, 32118.

Poverty of the Soil.

Tillage going down for want of labour, people so poor they had to emigrate, 32121-5, 32127-9.—Farms were small and land bad, witness planted 16 cwt. of seed last year, and had not 20 cwt. to take out of it, 32126, 32132-3.—Years when potato crop was good it would pay them, but there would not be enough for two years, 32130-1.—Man could not rear family on five, six, or seven acres with a valuation of 30*s*., 32133.—Tilling ground on an enlarged holding would pay better than emigration, 32134-6.

ROONEY, Mr. P.

Grass Lands Should be Broken Up and Migrants Settled on them.

Suitable grass lands should be purchased and divided into holdings to persons migrated from congested districts, 32137.—In any part of Ireland wherever tillable land would be found, 32138-40.—Heads of families were willing to migrate in most cases, 32141-2.—If landlords refused to sell at reasonable price, compulsory powers should be given to Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, so that untenanted land could be obtained, 32142, 32225.—If not available in congested district Board should have power to acquire in any part of Ireland, 32142. An amount of available land over length and breadth of Ireland, 32226.—If there was not sufficient witness would strike a line at a farm of £50, he would take part away from man who had too much and was not able to labour it, 32227.

Farmers' Sons Should Get Farms in Order to Keep them in the Country.

Farmers' sons under £10 valuation should get farms in order to stop emigration, 32142, 32204-5.—People in congested districts should have first claim, a larger holding would provide labour for whole family, 32205-13.—Persons should be at liberty to inspect farms and if satisfied with terms of purchase, to have the same title to holding as other purchasing tenants; term of repayment for migrated people should be extended in order to reduce half-yearly instalment, 32142.—If migrated family were able to sell interest in little vacated holdings they would have means to stock the new holding, 32144-6.—More advantageous for remaining parties if they got the land for nothing, 32147.—People would have little means to start on new holding, and if they borrowed it would be a heavy sum yearly to pay back, 32150-2.—Loan would be an advantage, 32154-9.—Congestion worst in mountainous districts, 32160.

Mountain Grazing should be Secured for Tenants.

Mountain grazing should be secured for tenants at purchase of holdings, 32160.

Price of Land.

Estates Commissioners should have land inspected before tenants purchased to see if it was worth the price, 32161, 32173.—When a man got a great amount of arrears of rent and was in difficulties he agreed to purchase his holding at too high a price in order to get over difficulty, he was often unable to pay instalments, and many decrees had been taken out where tenants had made

ROONEY, Mr. P.—*continued.*

bad bargains with landlords, 32162-5, 32170-2.—There had been purchasers under Ashbourne Act, but witness did not know of any case where man had been turned out of holding for not paying his annuities, 32166-9.—Estates Commissioners should fix a fair price, and landlord and tenant should be bound to accept those terms, 32174.—Success and failure did not depend on tenant paying 5*s.* or 6*s.* a year more, 32175-8, 32184-6, 32189.—But tenant would benefit by reduction, 32178-9, 32190-2.—Man who paid £3 rental could not maintain himself and family, he had to find some outside sources, 32187-8.—Half the people would not be able to live in the county if they had not help from their children in America, 32180-2.—Inspection might not benefit tenant altogether, but witness wished for it, he had confidence in the Estates Commissioners, 32183, 32193-5.—Rates would be mulcted later if tenant bought at exorbitant prices, 32196.—18 years' purchase under Ashbourne Act was fair, 32197-201.—Under new Act Government was giving a bonus of three years' purchase to landlord, who ought not to profit because tenants got a cheap loan, 32201-4.

Development of Industries Needed.

Industries suitable to each locality should be established, a woollen factory might be established in congested district of Glenarriff, 32213-4.—Enterprising landlord might start some useful industry, 32215-7.

Importation of Cattle.

Necessity that small farmers should be protected, sale of store cattle was mostly all their means of making money, and if foreign store cattle were imported into England without restriction prices would fall in Ireland, and the small farmer be ruined, 32218-20.—Small holder must sell his cattle, he had not the means to hold them over, 32221.—Bigger farmers and graziers made the market for them, 32223.—They all went to England in the end, 32224.

Witness represented one of the poorest congested districts in North Leitim, in Glenarriff division they had 190 holdings under £5 valuation, 51 over £5 and under £10, and 12 over £10, only 12 persons in the whole division that had land enough to live on, 32227.

Sporting Rights.

Sporting rights were of little value to tenants, sons were better employed on working the lands, it was better for tenant to purchase the rights of landlord in case of burning in the dry season, when there would be a claim for malicious damages, 32231.—If tenants purchased sporting rights they should appoint a committee to look after game, to preserve it and sell it, and proceeds go to pay taxes, 32236, 32238.—If sporting rights had been sold proceeds should go to the revenue of the tenants, and not to the Parish Committee, 32237.—Tenants should not be allowed to shoot at will, 32239-40.

REYNOLDS, Mr. P.

White Estate.

2,072 acres of untenanted land on Whyte Estate and some of it rough mountain grazing, 32246-8.—Estate not sold on account of difference as to price, 32246.—Not fit for tillage; of 192 tenants, 77 were under £5 valuation, and 72 over £5 and under £10; uneconomic holdings on estate could be improved by adding grass lands to some of them, 32249.—Some of the 2,000 acres was grass land and fit for grazing cattle, 32250-2.—Other holdings in division of Sraghmore not easily accessible, could be improved by consolidating two farms into one; in townland of Carrickinero, Mr. Whyte had 119 acres, 1 rood, 16 perches untenanted, of valuation of £47 on land and £7 10*s.* on buildings, suitable for dividing among tenants, 32252.—In Carrickfad Mr. Whyte had 30 acres, 2 roods, 17 perches, and 70 acres, 32253.—They claimed that 70 acres were not the demesne, as he built on 7 acres and took the rest, 32254.—Mansion house was valued at £22 and £4 5*s.*; in Cartron Mr. Whyte had 59 acres, 3 roods 22 perches; 7 acres 0 roods, 37 perches; and

REYNOLDS, Mr. P.—*continued.*

4 acres, 2 roods, 22 perches, with valuations of £27 15*s.*, £3, and £2; in Corray he had 125 acres, 2 roods, 13 perches; in Cornalaghta 3 acres, 0 roods, 7 perches, valuation, 10*s.*; in Curraghan, 42 acres, 3 roods, 31 perches, valuation, £3 10*s.*; in Doonkelly 54 acres 0 roods, 6 perches, valuation, £7, 32255.—Owner took in grazing cattle from surrounding people, 32256-7.—In Doonmorgan he had 36 acres, 3 roods, 3 perches, valuation, £12 5*s.*, some fit for tillage and tenants could be put on to it; 978 acres not fit for tillage with exception of what would make two farms; known as Lecaun and Fawnlion sheep walk, and some holdings made very small and miserable by late Col. Whyte, 32257, 32262.—Some land taken away from tenants in the early sixties, 32258-9.—Very few evicted, but every man curtailed, 32263-4.—No compensation given, the following were a few instances: D. O'Connor lost about 28 acres and only 4½ left; O'Dolan lost 30 acres and 6½ left; P. Dolan 32 acres and only 8 left; T. Murray lost 30 acres and 8 left; rent and rates reduced very little, grass lands had deteriorated since taken from tenants; land taken from 6 tenants and let into one ranch, had only 5 cows on it the last few years, while formerly 20 were able to graze on it; by tillage and manure it might be brought back to former state, but would cost much money and labour, 32265-6.—Overrun with rabbits that ate the roots of the grass away; tenants could be put on to the land again if it was cropped, 32268.—It would not pay landlord to crop it himself, but farmers gave their labour for nothing, 32269-71.

Negotiations for Sale.

There had been negotiations going on for a sale of property under Wyndham Act, landlord had asked 26 years' purchase, and through clamouring of tenants in arrears, tenants had bid 21 years, but bid had been withdrawn, 32291-4.—Landlord had offered the bad part to tenants, and wanted to keep the good part offered, 32299.—Tenants were anxious to buy through Estates Commissioners at what they considered the value when they inspected it; there were 25 tenants' sons who were anxious to get new farms; if they did not, they would have to emigrate, 32291.

Dolan Property.

Dolan property was another estate, of which Mr. Whyte was head landlord; there were 14 tenants on Dolan property, 7 under £4 valuation, 5 under £7, and 3 from £10 to £12 10*s.*; landlord held 114 acres of untenanted land and 18 acres belonged to an evicted tenant; small farms could be improved by addition of some grass land, which was accessible to tenants, but was in the landlord's hands.

Parks Estate.

On estate of Col. R. Parks, of which Mr. Whyte was the head landlord, there were two tenants, the landlord holding 110 acres, all arable land, which he had let on eleven months' system; some of this could go to improve holdings on Whyte Estate, and others adjoining it, five of which were very barren and barely fit for cultivation; remainder would make three or four new farms, 32299.

Size of an Economic Holding.

Witness would not take £5 valuation as a basis for uneconomic holdings; some holdings valued at £10 were uneconomic, because they had not enough arable land for rotation of crops, and consequently they had bad crops, 32271.

Witness's Method of Farming Twenty Acres.

Witness farmed twenty acres and considered six or seven acres arable, 32272-3.—Whole was tilled in rotation about one and a half acres at a time, 32274-5.—He grew turnips and cabbages besides potatoes and had to buy manure and a lot of hay, he spent about £2 on manure, 32276, 32278-9.—And kept five cows, 32277.—And often five calves, 32281.—A man with five cows could only find manure for an acre of tillage on bad land, 32282, 32285.—Witness took a conacre, which cost £5, 32280, 32283.—Some stock were out in summer, but were housed in winter, 32286-7.—Pigs and poultry were kept, his wife made more out of the poultry than he did of the cows, the eggs sold in Sligo, 32288-9.—Congested Districts Board had assisted them, by giving them eggs from the poultry stations, 32290-1.

REYNOLDS, Mr. P.—*continued.*

Migration Prospects.

Some tenants would be willing to migrate if they got a better holding, and if they were given some compensation, 32300.—Witness and his father had expended a lot of labour on his holding, which would be hard to leave, 32301, 32316, 32318.—And neighbours who entered would have to insist to pay annuities, 32392.—He was willing to migrate, 32303-4, 32307.——If he gave up his holding he would do so for relief of congestion, and if he got leave to sell, some man might buy it, the neighbours could not afford to, and congestion would not be any better, 32306-10.—If new holding were large enough, so that he could afford to keep a horse, he felt that he could work it to the fullest extent, 32319-1.—And neighbours were of same opinion, 32322.—Witness did not agree with Mr. Hewson's evidence, he would sooner have twenty acres in Roscommon than 200 acres in Canada, 32323-5.—There were plenty of farmers willing to migrate, 32326.

Reductions of Rent.

Witness wished to mention some reductions of rent in Land Courts and annuities, case of M. Dolan whose old rent was £15 and reduced to £7 10*s*., and his annuity now was £5 2*s*. 4*d*., that man had improved his land since he purchased it.

MITCHELL, Mr. P.

Farm of some middling fair land and some moss or boggy land; employment needed most for people, to keep them at home and give them a living, 32329.—Manorhamilton a suitable place for industries, being nearly central in North Leitrim, 32330.—Some parts of district needed scheduling to give people means to improve farms and houses, 32329.—Portion of road from Manorhamilton to Garrison made by Government in 1846 should be opened up; waste lands in and around Manorhamilton should be parcelled out and distributed among small farmers, labourers and artisans, 32330.

GILMARTIN, Mr. J.

Bad Quality of Land in Rossinver.

Witness resides in Rossinver on eighteen acres of land, of which five or six were arable, situated on mountain slope; land was bad and not able to maintain beasts of good quality, they died of disease called cruppen; all labour was done with the spade, 32332.—It was not possible to till, manure had to be taken up the side of a hill in donkey loads in a wet season; there were 100 uneconomic holdings, and none large enough except a few where tenants had left in 1846 or 1847; only one farm where horses could possibly be kept, migration was the only means of relieving congestion; there had been a private creamery, but it was closed, 32333.

Creamery Needed.

If congested districts would put up a creamery it would help the people and they would get better prices for their milk, 32333-4.—Agricultural Organisation Society had been asked to help in erection of creamery; an organiser had been down and there were a certain number of shares, but people were so poor it had fallen through; farmers kept four cows on the average, some only one or two; average price for calves reared was £2 or £3, 32335.—Farmers depended on earnings of families or friends abroad for support or else some other industry; holdings too small and inconveniently situated, 32333, 32336-7.—People had to take their cattle up in the morning and bring them back in the evening.

Work of Parish Committee.

Parish Committee was doing good work but funds were so limited they could not meet the demands; only £50 placed at disposal of Committee last year and

GILMARTIN Mr. J.—*continued.*

they could have easily spent £150; number of people who applied got no assistance; works satisfactorily carried out, 32338.—Witness had a salary of £5 or 10 per cent. of grant, no bicycle allowance, 32339-41.—Works on house repairs or outhouse repairs generally carried out, 32342.—They could usefully employ money on drainage and reclamation, 32343.—People did not have cattle in their houses, witness had found young calves in one house and fowls in another, and he had made them provide outhouse accommodation; people of between £7 and £10 valuation needed a grant as much as many under; standard of valuation should be raised to £10 in this parish, 32345.—Grant-in-aid scheme had been working for three years in parish, the people were too poor for the prize system, 32345-8.—Witness made estimate of cost of work, 32349.—Certain amount of money given according to estimate, 32350.—Proportion fixed from a third to a sixth, 32351.—Subject to sanction of Congested Districts Board, 32352.—Works were supervised by an inspector, 32353-5.—Papers were forwarded to Congested Districts Board and supervisor's estimate checked before work was carried out, 32356-8.—When works were completed they were inspected by inspector but supervisor had authority to give a certificate that they were completed, 32359.—Liable to inspection of works at any time, 32360-1.—Witness's estimate had never been altered, 32362.—Complete reports sent of actual grants to be made to particular persons, 32363.—Additional grants made for reclamation and fences, 32365-6.—Applicant would get about a fifth of cost for draining a field, 32367.—Labour was valued at so much a day and actual cost furnished, 32368-9.—Drainage could be done with the farmer's voluntary labour, but if he went in for house repairs he would be money out of pocket, 32370-2.—Stones for drainage were sometimes taken from a distance, and he would do it by his own labour, 32373-5.—Drainage and road-making calculated at so much a perch; two electoral divisions scheduled and in one unscheduled division people were as badly off as the scheduled districts; Ballaghameehan should be scheduled, work done would be about five times the amount of grant received; parish committee was a publicly elected body and the people had every confidence in them, 32391-5.

Agricultural Bank.

Agricultural Bank was doing good work, many of the loans were for purchase and saving of stock; borrowing powers were 250 and should be raised to £400, a third of the stock would not be in district if it were not for the Bank; people were industrious and honest.

Drainage.

Drainage of Lough Melvin of great importance; Congested Districts Board had been appealed to for grant and they replied that if Drainage Board was formed they would consider what amount they could give towards the work; one scheme comprised the Kilcoo River, Lough Melvin and Bundromer River, from twenty to twenty-five miles of work; Lough Melvin was obstructed by a rock in River Bundromer, it dammed up the lake and damaged the land surrounding it, when the lake was at high water; there were two rivers emptying into it, and no outlet for the water, it flowed into people's dwellinghouses, and last August whole crops were destroyed, 32377.—If grant was given they would sink the river, 32378.

Spraying.

Potatoes were sprayed once as a rule, but this did not ensure a good crop, 32379-83.—Witness had been instructed that three sprayings were necessary, but it had never been tried in this district, 32396.—From experience he had found spraying once was useful and twice was better, 32398-9, 32408.—In wet season it was almost impossible to find suitable days for spraying, 32409.—There was a difficulty in getting spraying machines, 32384-5.—Congested Districts Board had been applied to about a scheme, but the Board had given that Branch over to the Department of Agriculture, 32386.—Useful if Parish Committee could have spraying machines to let out and a good mixture which could be guaranteed, 32387-9.—It was clay land and in a wet season potatoes were not worth turning out, 32381.—They had had a change of seed this year, 32390.

GILMARTIN, Mr. J.—*continued.*

Agricultural Instruction without Experiments useless.

Agricultural instructor was not much use, he never put his lectures into practice, so nobody derived any benefit, 32400-2.—Agricultural instruction in this form without experiments was a waste of money, 32404.—Work was done through County Committee, 32403.—And witness's parish was not represented, 32405.

Protest against Direct Sale.

No direct sales should take place between landlord and tenant, if they were continued congestion would remain; Congested Districts Board should see what could be done; migration would be a great benefit, and drainage and other things would relieve congestion; if people had their farms free they could not live on them, 32410.

CONNOLLY, Mr. M.

Little done by Congested Districts Board.

Witness farmed 33 acres of very rough land, £2 10*s.* valuation and 10*s.* on buildings, only benefit locality derived from Congested Districts Board was through Parish Committee work, but grant of £70 when extended over area of twelve miles was very slight, it covered two electoral divisions, Tullaghan and Gubacreeny, grant should be greatly enlarged, 32413, 32425.—Very large population, registered list of voters in Tullaghan was 400 and in Gubacreeny 350, great number of holdings in both divisions exceptionally small, 32411-3.

Lack of Water Supply at Gubacreeny.

In Gubacreeny division there were six miles without a single well of pure water, great necessity for grant for erection of pump or provision of pure water, 32411-3.

Grazing Lands Available for Relief of Congestion.

Kinough Electoral Division needed to be scheduled, there were grazing lands available which could be purchased for relief of congestion if compulsory powers were given to Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board, Mr. St. G. R. Johnston owned a ranch of 414 acres 2 roods 32 perches, valuation £180 and £3 on buildings, there was another holding in same division of 62 acres 2 roods 24 perches, valuation £45 15*s.*, there was no valuation on houses or buildings on the lands, showing that they were unoccupied holdings, there were about 60 small holdings on Dickson Estate, Tawley, with an average valuation of £2 10*s.*, there was a grazing ranch of 260 acres close to these holdings which tenants had used for grazing and conacre for forty years, 32411-3.

Increase in Supply of Turbary if River Duff were Drained.

River Duff should be drained and bogs divided, and road made through the bog, this would be a source of industry, a turf market being available, turf was plentiful in plot referred to, but in other parts it was scarce, there was a co-operative dairy society wrought by an engine and engine was fed by turf, there were 400 acres without a way into it, some on Dickson Estate and some on Dunlop Estate, drainage of River Duff and making of a road would open up this bog, 32411-3.

Improvident Bargains made by Tenants on Dickson Estate.

Improvident bargains had been made by tenants on Dickson Estate under threat of arrears of rent, instances given—J. Murray's first-term rent was £2 10*s.*, he was promised 8*s.* in the pound by consent to purchase, first demand he got in lieu of rent was £2 5*s.* 6*d.*, only allowing 4*s.* 6*d.*, 32413.—Estates Commissioners took no action in matter, estate was in Land Judge's Court, and was sold in Dublin a year ago, 32414.—Promise of 8*s.* was made through the receiver on estate, Land Court refused to accept tenants' offer, and Congested Districts Board had not worked on their behalf as they expected, judge refused to abide by bargain; another instance was that of W. M'Gowan, who paid a rent of £3 first-term, purchase agreement would make it £2 7*s.*, at an application in County Court the rent was reduced to £1 15*s.*, 32415-6.—Improvident bargains would still be made in the future unless they had inspection and interests of tenants were safeguarded, 32417.—Witness wished to show how congested the district was, and that there were grazing ranches in it which could not be got for relief of congestion, extent and particulars of Ml. M'Gowan's holding was—Valuation 17*s.*, 12*s.* on land and 5*s.* on buildings, rent £2 3*s.*, he was only enabled to live by help from America, and others similarly situated, 32418-23.—Maps and valuations could be produced to support this evidence, 32424.

Necessity for Pier or Boatslip on Leitrim Coast.

Necessity for a pier or boatslip for accommodation of fishermen on Leitrim coast, if there was a boatslip at Tullaghan it would help the fishing industry, holdings so miserable and small they wanted some industry to help them to exist, 32424.

GALLAGHER, Mr. HUGH.

Description of Holdings on the Tottenham Estate.

Witness the eldest of six, no brothers and sisters in America, 32438-9.—His father had two farms 300 yards from each other, 32440, 32445.—One in Leitrim of 23 acres, 32427, 32449.—Valuation £5 5*s.*, 32427.—The other in Fermanagh, a tillage farm of 60 acres, 32441, 32443, 32449.—The two were farmed as one, most people had not two, 32446.—Witness had not been out of Ireland, 32442.—He lived on the Fermanagh farm on borders of Leitrim, 32444.—Leitrim farm was on Tottenham Estate, Fermanagh one on Mrs. Grey's, 32453.—Valuation of latter was £14, 32456.—Witness's father employed labour at certain seasons, 32454.—If 60-acre farm were broken up it would help the people round by providing labour, they were in bad condition on mountain land, 32450-2, 32455.—Majority of land in neighbourhood of Leitrim farm was heather, the country was hilly and incapable of producing crops, the farms were all spade labour farms, district was scheduled, there was one large estate, one small, large estate the Tottenham, famous for evictions in Land War, people too poor to pay rent, holdings uneconomic, men went to England and Scotland to earn rent and support families, 32427, 32466.

Sale of Tottenham Estate.

Tottenham Estate had been sold to tenants, agreements signed, money not yet paid, the people had been morally forced to buy, they were threatened with evictions, and all the tenants were in arrears, mostly five or six years, and threatened with procedure for recovery, 32456-9.—They could not pay rent without paying instalments of arrears, holdings were insufficient to pay rent, 32462.—Rents were fixed by the Court, in some cases there were a number of future tenancies, 32463-4.—75 per cent. had relatives in America, 32465.—Arrears had been increasing for 25 or 30 years, 32467.

Sale of Cullum Estate.

On the Cullum Estate people were in same condition, nine were to be evicted, so they purchased at high price rather than be thrown out, 32468.—Same thing occurred everywhere, 32469.

Migration.

There was grazing land in neighbourhood, farmers would migrate if given better holdings, beneficial to introduce migration system, 32427-8.—Witness and his father would migrate, 32428, 32447-8.

Investigation of Mineral Resources of District Proposed.

Rich minerals in district, people would be thankful if Board sent inspector and started industries, iron mines at Kiltogher pronounced best in Kingdom, transit facilities poor, roads needed improvement, and

GALLAGHER, Mr. HUGH—*continued.*

a railway would be beneficial, 32429.—Iron worked centuries ago at Garrison, 10 miles away, 32430.—Conditions improved since then, 32431.—There was delph clay in district and water power, factory for delph would be a benefit, clay taken to Belleek did not come from there, 32432-4.

No Industries.

There were no cottage industries, there had been a lace class, but the girls emigrated, only a few could turn out lace fit for market, 32435-7.

Drainage Required.

District like the rest of North Leitrim required a proper drainage system, rivers were blocked, and small farms could not be drained till leading streams were opened, flooded lands could not produce crops, tenants would drain if larger streams were opened, 32470-1.

Attitude Towards Congested Districts Board.

Board had people's confidence, little had been done, but the people had hopes for the future, they thought Board willing to do something if income were increased, Board's efforts would be seconded by people, 32471.

Value of a Corn Mill.

Corn mill would be useful, old disused one could be purchased at small expense, corn carried eight or nine miles, there were disused water-power mills in neighbourhood, 32471-4.—Mill witness referred to had been used fifteen years ago, shutting up of mills not due to lack of corn, 32475-6.

GILROY, Mr. JOHN.

Witness's Farm at Mullagh, Dromahair.

Farm consisted of fifteen acres owned by witness's father, it was mountain two portions of land owned, witness lived on one, cattle and milch cows kept, calves, pigs, poultry, etc., reared, 32478-9.—Milk sent to creamery at Dromahair, 7 cows kept, they did not all calve at regular time, 32480.—Calves fed on separated milk, grass, Indian meal, and flour, cod liver oil too expensive, witness had heard of it being used, 32481-4.

District not Scheduled on Account of 2,000 Acres of Untenanted Land.

District congested and one of the poorest in Leitrim, got no benefit from Board, not scheduled, 32485-6.—It should be scheduled, in Mullagh there were 24 tenants, 17 under £5 valuation, 6 under £10, valuation of one holding was £13, 8 with valuation of 10*s.* to 25*s.* with men rearing families of five or six on two or three acres of bad land, 32487.—It was the Fox Estate, and was not scheduled on account of Whyte Estate adjoining, and 2,000 acres untenanted land in Drumlease, Fox estate bought by Land Commission in 1902 under Ashbourne Act, but it did little good, people could not live on the land, holdings too small to rear cattle, 32488-90.

Other Townlands Near Mullagh which were also Congested.

Bohey, near Mullagh, was also congested, there were 15 tenants, nine with valuation not exceeding £5, mostly from £1 to £1 5*s.* and £2, in Rockvalley, also in neighbourhood, there were 12 tenants, 10 under £5 valuation, mostly from 10*s.* to £1 5*s.*, to over £5 and under £10, 32490-1.

Question of Migration to Moneyduff Grazing Ranch.

Grazing ranch called Moneyduff adjoining was formerly used by people to graze cows for milk, they stopped that, in order to try and force landlord to sell, 32490-1.—Tenants might be migrated to ranch, 32491.—It was over 400 acres, and belonged to C. B. Whyte, he had no cattle on it, and did not use it for agriculture, 32492-4.—People in witness's district used to depend on it to graze cows in summer, they paid for the grazing, 32495-6.—It was tenanted land and waste at one time, tenants were evicted, and land turned into grazing, 32497-8.—Landlord lived in Carrick-on-Shannon, 32499.

GILROY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Development of Tourist Traffic by Steamer on Lough Gill.

Steamer on Lough Gill would develop tourist traffic from Sligo to Dromahair, and bring cargo as well, 32499-500.—Turf nearly exhausted in Mullagh, 32500.

Question of Railway for Conveyance of Coal.

Railway from Arigna to Dromahair to convey coal at cheap rate would meet want, people could not afford present price of 1*s.* 4*d.* and 1*s.* 5*d.* a cwt., 32500.—Arigna 16 miles by road from any part of lake, 32501.—Railway would have to be made from south end of Leitrim, 32502.

GILLIGAN, Very Rev. Canon.

Congestion in Kiltoghert—Sufficient Grass Lands available.

Fifty congested families in parish of Kiltoghert, each had half an acre to two acres of land, 32505, 32543.—Lived by going to England and Scotland, 32505, 32518, 32546.—District not scheduled, twenty of the families were near Carrick-on-Shannon, thirty in Gowan district they could be relieved by giving them small farms, with suitable houses and offices, 32505.—Three large grazing ranches in hands of occupiers, which occupiers were willing to sell to Congested Districts Board, 32505, 32518.—Occupiers were Mr. MacDermot, who told witness he was willing to sell, Mr. Vaugh, who would also sell if he got fair price, third owner Mr. Harrison, 32507-8.—500 acres of grass altogether, it lay east of Carrick-on-Shannon, 32509-11.—Witness thought occupiers had purchased, 32515.—The largest place belonged to Mr. Latouche, and it was once occupied by tenants, but they were cleared out in the bad times since 1848, 32516-8.—Tenants constantly evicted all over Ireland, 32518.—No necessity to migrate them in this district, as land was available, they would not like to leave neighbourhood, 32518.—Breaking up grass lands the only way of providing for them, as county was not agricultural, 32518.

Soil of the Parish was mostly Wet.

The soil was wet, with retentive sub-soil, water remained on surface, only nine inches of soil, six foot drain needed to do any good, farmers could not work the land, but it did very well for grass, 32518.—This wet land lay on both sides of road from Carrick-on-Shannon to Jamestown, it was a town park, and belonged to Mrs. Whyte, 32528-30.—Town parks round Carrick-on-Shannon were all wet, the grass lands were due east, they were on limestone, and water got away, 32530.—Unsuitability of soil accounts for failure of tenants, as they could get no employment, 32519.—Few of those evicted in Famine time remained, they emigrated to America, 32520.—Failure of potato crop would be enough to account for tenants' breakdown, 32521-2.—Certain amount of tillage essential to success of small farmer, 23523-4.—The ranches had good tillage land, 32525.—Labourers could not get employment, because it was all grazing, and farmers had not more than they could till for themselves, 32526.—Every farmer had some tillage, he drained part of his land, manured it and petted it, biggest farmers had only a small amount, it was all grazing, 32527, 32551.—No difference between town park and ranch, except town park was near a town, 32531.—Ranches very suitable for allotting to small holders, occupier would only want cottage and offices to get on, 32532.—All the other lands were saturated with water and unsuitable, 32533-4.—Ranch land best in parish, all of it would not be needed for small holders, 32535, 32548.—It was near the small holdings, a mile or two away at most, tenants would leave present cabins, and new houses, &c. would be provided, three or four of the old holdings should be

GILLIGAN, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

amalgamated, 32538.—They were nearly all suitable for tillage, 32539.—Two would not be enough to amalgamate, three or four would enable a man to live, 32541.—In such a farm there would be two acres for tillage, and three or four for grazing, 32542.

Congested Small Holders were really Agricultural Labourers.

The fifty congested small holders were really only agricultural labourers, they had only small gardens to grow roots and potatoes, and feed pigs, they were not grazing farmers, 32545.—Ranch land was partly level, partly high, country was undulating, there were some comfortable farmers on it, and no poor, congested people, such as the small holders a couple of miles away, 32549-50.—Small holders grew potatoes, turnips and mangels, for pigs, they had no cattle, with manure anyone could grow roots, they had manure, great pig fairs in Carrick-on-Shannon, 32551-6.—Tenants in Gowan were in one union but in different electoral divisions, Gowan the principal one, 32559-60.—Priest lived in that direction, he could give the electoral divisions they lived in, 32561-2.

Protest against Extension of Railways in County Leitrim owing to burden of Taxation.

Witness wished to fight against railways, they had already put overwhelming taxation on Leitrim, further extension without prospect of return would be fatal, 32563.—It might pay to extend them in direction of coal mines and quarries, in that instance line if opened up might pay and give employment, 32564.

VAUGH, Mr. WILTON.

Size that a Self-supporting Holding should be in County Leitrim.

Witness paid £800 a year in rent and taxes, £150 of that was taxes, 4*s.* in the pound on most of the lands, 32567-8, 32582.—He knew County Leitrim well, and never knew industrious tenant who could not live and pay rent no matter how small his farm, man with five acres sometimes better off than one with thirty, 32568, 32573.—Man with less than five acres a labourer, who needed outside employment, or his holding enlarged, 32569-70.—An industrious man if he could not get enough from the land would find employment, 32571, 32575.—With proper management every farm should yield enough profit, 32572.—Five acres enough to live on, 32574.—That was the smallest amount possible, 32577.—Witness's chief faith was in the man himself, 32579.—Rather a good man with five acres than a bad man with thirty, 32580.—Every man ought to have twenty acres, 32581.—If a man lost calf or was disabled from any cause he came round in a short time; if he were an industrious man he could always get a friend to help him, 32584.—There was little congestion near Carrick-on-Shannon, but it was to be found in every electoral division in County Leitrim, more or less, industrious men should be migrated on to good holdings, proper men bound to succeed, farms vacated would be used to enlarge adjoining ones, 32584, 32629-31.

Price of Land for Migration Purposes.

Plenty of land to be had for migration if a fair price were paid, witness held farm of 287 acres on King-Harman Estate, when Estates Commissioners bought estate in 1905 he offered to sell at price that would yield his net income when invested at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 32385, 32587, 32636.—Witness not tenant purchaser, he paid rent to Land Commission who had bought estate, 32585A.—The farm was in County Roscommon on border of Leitrim, Estates Commissioners inspected it and said it would suit, but when

VAUGH, Mr. WILTON—*continued.*

witness stated his price of £3,000 they wrote and said, considering the short time he had been in possession, it was too high, and asked him to take off a third, 32586-8.—Witness's net income was £210, he had bought estate eight years before paying £1,500 for the tenant's interest, 32588-91, 32596, 32615-6.—He did not answer Estates Commissioners' letter, he thought it was no use, 32588.—He was tenant of Land Commission and paid them rent every half year, 32593-4.—Farm well situated, good water, good land, 32595.—Abatement demanded was unreasonable, price paid by witness for estate had nothing to do with Estates Commissioners, if Guinness's shares were bought at £15 and rose to £56, owner of shares would not be asked to sell for £15, 32898.—Witness was prepared to show figures to support statement *re* income, 32600.—If he were allowed to cut farm into thirty-acre lots he would get £5,000, 32601, 32605.—Value of land had gone up, though not so much as Guinness's shares, 32602-2A.—Guinness's merely mentioned as an instance of market going up, 32603.—Because purchaser wanted to know previous price paid, there was no reason article should be sold cheaper than seller thought proper, 32604.—Farm sold in one case for £1,000, that was bought five years before for £700, in another a farm fetched £1,400, that was bought for £1,000, 32608.—Witness had bought his farm cheaper, 32609.—Witness had not argued out matter because he thought Estates Commissioners did not approach him in the right way, short tenure of farm was nothing to them he bought out tenants' interest, 32610-2, 32648.—Rent of farm was £217 9*s.* a year, 32616, 32619.—Valuation £317, 32754.—Lease held on term of three lives and forty years after the last life expired, term not yet expired, 32617-20, 32624.—Some of those lives still existing, 32623.—Reversion was to Estates Commissioners, they had no power to resume while witness paid rent, 32625-6.—If estate were put up to auction he would not sell at £2,000, 32621.—Estates Commissioners' letter not prejudicial to sale, 32622.—Unless Land Commission put on rack-rent, or raised rents, series of years of lease having expired would not affect value of witness's property, they had no power to raise rents according to terms of lease until forty years after the death of last survivor, 32627-8.—Witness thought he came under section of Act that permitted leases to be broken, 32632.—Act of 1887 did not break leases, it gave power to go into court and have rent reduced, 32633.—Witness could have done so if he thought he could gain by it, 32634.—Value of land £100 over rent paid, 32635.—Reason witness made profit out of land due not to his experience and knowledge, but mostly to land itself, 32637.—Farm had yielded same income for years before he had it, 32638-9.—Ordinary farmer would make more out of it, so would witness if he could pay attention to it and stock it himself, he could make £200 a year out of it, 32640-1.—Farm in hands of National Bank when witness bought it at auction, grazing was let to three men, in whose hands witness left it, £110 a year profit got from it, 32642-3.—Sub-let on eleven months' system, 32644.—Rents and tenants never disturbed, 32645.—If farm were broken up and men put into it the return would be more, because more time and attention could be given, 32646.—Such an investment as this farm offered would never be offered again, 32647.—Only basis of price State could go on was net receipts for last five years, 32649-50.

This instance showed chief object in demanding compulsory powers was to compel landholders to sell landed property cheap, 32651.—No necessity for compulsion at all, 32753.

Inquiries by Estates Commissioners concerning Evicted Tenants.

Estates Commissioners had had an inspector making inquiries about evicted tenants in the county for past six months; he had done nothing but raise false hopes; witness had told him he had 500 acres for sale, but had heard nothing further, others also willing to sell.—Desirable to prevent sub-division and reckless cutting down of trees, 32651.

VAUGH, Mr. WILTON—*continued.*

Effect on Cattle Trade of breaking up Grass Lands.

Splitting up of grass lands would not affect County Leitrim, as there was very little there, abolition of large graziers disastrous to country generally, 32651.—Small farmers kept calves till old enough to be fattened, graziers bought them at one to one and a half years old, price would be reduced if there were no graziers to buy, £7 to £8 10*s.* got for good year old, £12 for three year old, 32652-4, 32671-2.—Graziers kept beasts till ready for English and Scotch market, 32655.—Small man would not keep beasts till they were older, even with enlarged holding, he got double profit from small beasts, 32656, 32659.—Big grazier did not breed, 32658.—He would not be troubled to rear cows and keep servants to do milking, 32660-1.—He had to pay for the help, small farmer employed his own family, 32662.—Good range required for maturing year old cattle, 32663.—Could not be provided on small holdings, 32664.—One reason why small farmer did not keep his cattle to maturity, principal reason was that year-olds paid better, 32665.—The cattle had no exercise, 32666.—Scotchmen got all the profits, while the cattle were prepared in Ireland, 32667, 32676, 32684.—Great trade in Scotland for one and a half year olds, 32668.—Large grazier kept year olds a year or a year and a half, and sent them to Englishmen or Scotchmen to finish, 32669.—He bought direct from small farmer, rents of small farmers in Leitrim always well paid, 32670.

Possibility of Stall-Feeding, etc., in Ireland.

Tillage might be tried, and cattle stall-fed if country were in more solvent condition, if small holder were more solvent, witness would prefer him to grow green crops and feed cattle better, and leave stall-feeding to Englishmen, 32674, 32726.—Witness bought cattle from Mr. Lane Fox, of Yorkshire, at £11 10*s.* a head, he sold them for £26, he gave them cake and everything he could, 32676-7.—He carried on operations on a large scale, 32699-701.—The men who made the huge profits were the very large farmers, 32700.—Ireland behind the times, farmers had not the means, 32678.—No reason why it should not be done in Ireland with means, 32680.—Agricultural education not what it should be, 32679.—It was a matter of education and capital, 32683.—A good thing if Ireland could derive the principal profits from cattle she raised, 32685.—Could only be done by feeding and fattening cattle in the country, 32686.—Hard to fatten a calf with other demands on man's time, 32688.—It must be kept in good condition and hand-fed, house accommodation wanted, 32688.—To fatten and kill beasts at two years old, they must be fed continually with meal and cake, &c., from time of calving, 32689.—Big price would be got, 32690.—A number of beasts in England and Scotland, were fattened in that way and fetched 5*s.* a cwt. more, 32691.—No reason why small holder should not do the same, if he could do without money till beast were fattened, 32692.—Knowledge and capital all that was lacking, 32693.—Bank would not lend money for fattening, only for drains and houses, 32694-5.—If man with thirty-acre holding had knowledge, and could borrow money from Board at cheap rate, he could keep beast and fatten it, 32696-8.—Big men made the profits, because they had the knowledge and capital, 32703, 32706.—Small man could, perhaps, do the work himself better, usual to stall-feed number of cattle in one house, two men could feed twenty or thirty, same number required for ten, 32704.—That would make no difference, 32705.—Some men must grow the young cattle, small men would do it so long as it was profitable, 32710.—Somebody must be left to buy them, 32711.

Extent of Land necessary to make Stall-feeding possible.

Unless they got fifty acres each they would not fatten, 32712.—No chance with thirty acres, they could feed three or four young cattle for two old ones, 32713-32715.—Better to keep them if they had capital, 32714.—Twenty to twenty-five acres required for man to live comfortably on, 32716.—Fifty acres good land necessary to make stall-feeding profitable, 32717-19.

VAUGH, Mr. WILTON—*continued.*

Foreign Competition with Irish Cattle Trade.

Cattle dearer than a year ago, competition with foreigner did it, 32721.—Foreigners had done their best and their worst, cattle would not get cheaper, 32722-3.

Mixed Farming Advocated—Drainage the most urgent necessity in Leitrim.

Dairying and rearing young cattle went together, best thing for small farmers in Ireland, 32725-8.—Tillage essential to production of butter, 32729-32, 32736.—Drainage wanted above all things, first drain land, then crop it and feed cattle, then sell young cattle, that was the way to make money in Leitrim, 32732, 32734.—There was a limit to number of cattle to be kept on a property, 32733.—Milk must be had for young cattle, 32735.—Dairying better carried on by small holders who did work themselves, 32737.—Tendency of grass ranches to diminish tillage, 32738.—They should be broken up to increase tillage, every one should till more, not half enough done, 32739.—Mixed farming best, 32740.—System of small holdings better than large ones, 32741.—Connaught should go in largely for breeding calves, buyers would come from elsewhere, 32742-4.—Better not to have to go outside Connaught for grazing, great mistake if it got all over Ireland, 32745.—Prospect for small holdings was principally in Connaught, 32746.—Drains must be maintained by occupiers if made, 32746-9.—Board should appoint man to go around and direct tenants where drains should be, and to give them 6*d.* a perch for making them, 32749.—Nowhere so many rushes as in Leitrim, people would not drain land without incentive, 32750.—Few parts of the county would want large arterial drainage, 32751.—There were main drains to carry off water, 32752.—Small farms wanted draining, and that should be encouraged, 32752.

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MANNING, Rev. JAMES.

Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Areas in Leitrim.

Drumshambo, part of Kiltogher parish, partly scheduled; twenty-three townlands containing 166 families scheduled; thirty-three non-scheduled townlands with 187 families, population of 990; ninety-five families in town of Drumshambo, population 553; thirty-three non-scheduled townlands should be scheduled; town of Drumshambo had something to do with non-scheduling, it raised rates; scheduled area should be extended; majority of farms uneconomic according to Congested Districts Board's definition; all uneconomic if Agricultural Board's test were applied; whole of County Leitrim might be scheduled, 32757-8

Land Purchase in Drumshambo.

One small estate in Drumshambo parish sold under Act of 1903; price, 21½ years' purchase on second term rents; greater portion of scheduled area purchased under previous Acts; price under 18 years' purchase; at the last sale, prior to 1903, there were a number of first term rents, but they were reduced 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound and made equivalent to second term rents, 32758-9.—Negotiations were being carried on *re* estate partly in scheduled, partly in non-scheduled area; some of the tenants signed for purchase at 23 years, some did not, others refused to give more than 22½ years' on second term rents; negotiations likely to fall through, 32759.

Description of the Land—Difficulties of Drainage.

Tenants in Drumshambo all poor; land bad, cold, shallow, and retentive; not 4½ inches soil on majority of farms, 32759.—bluish clay underneath; impossible

MANNING, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

to drain except drains were brought to the surface or left open; draining with stones was useless; water could not get through clay, 32760-3.—Drain closed with clay became hard as slate; lower portions of land were formerly bog; there was black clay in them; there were small patches of better land in parish, 32762.—Open drains possible with tillage, 32764-6.—District rocky and mountainous; the further up the hill the wetter the land, 32767.

Fuel.

No turf in parish, 32768-9.—Culm from Arigna mines used as fuel, mixed with yellow or blue clay, burnt in lumps, made good fire, price 3*d.* or 2*d.* a cwt., 32770.—People fairly well off for fuel, 32771.—Worse off than those in turf district; they could not get a supply of culm; had to go a long way for it in all weathers with a donkey cart or creels, 32772.

Difficulty of Tenant Purchasers in paying Instalments—Holdings incapable of producing Instalments.

Rents heavy; people industrious; difficult for those who bought at 17 or 18 years' purchase to make both ends meet; they could not do so from produce of farms; people came to witness for assistance to pay instalments, or to write to Commissioners for further time, 32772-3.—State of tenants who had not purchased only a degree removed from legalised slavery, 32773.—In one case a man with big family died and his son came for a loan of 27*s.* to pay half-yearly instalment; the son was only eighteen or nineteen years old, 32775-80.—In another a hard-working young man, with father and mother to look after came to ask witness to write to Commissioners, or help him pay instalment of £2 7*s.*; he asked for 27*s.*; had probably got the other £1 from someone else; impossible to meet instalments from produce of farm, 32781-6, 32789, 32789-91.—These two cases were those of purchasing annuitants under Acts previous to 1903, 32812.—Holdings had been inspected, 32813.—These were special circumstances, 32815-6.—In the one case a death in the family, in the other case money could not be produced from land; application for assistance occurred only once, 32846-7.—The people had no other source of income but farms, unless they went to America, which they did in large numbers, 32787-8.—Help had come from America for the people who had asked witness's help, 32848.—There were holdings purchased in Drumshambo which were incapable of producing instalments, 32792-4.

Fair Method of calculating Price of Land.

Five shillings or six shillings more or less in the instalments would not mean difference between success or failure, but people thought a good deal of it, 32795-8.—Rent had to be got from sources other than land, 32799-800.—Question of sale depended on number of years' purchase; three or four years would make a difference to the people; five or six years would make a difference in negotiations, though they would not militate much against future prospects of people, 32801-5.—Population very poor; great struggle at best to get from America and other sources money to meet annuity from year to year; 5*s.* or 6*s.* made a difference, 32805A-9.—Better to purchase even if they had to pay 5*s.* or 6*s.* more, 32810-11.—Every reason why small occupier should make an equitable bargain just the same as big occupier, 32817-9, 32836-7.—Equity of bargain the important thing from landlord's point of view, that was, to sell at a price that would yield net income if invested at 3½ per cent., 32820-1, 32831-2.—Instalments should not be more or less than would yield that, simply because there was only a difference of 5*s.*, 32822-4, 32833-5, 32838-9.

Compulsion not advocated unless absolutely necessary.

Compulsion not advocated if it could be helped, but if it were necessary it should be applied all round to both landlord and tenant, 32825-8.—Tenant should not have right of determining annuity, 32829-30.—Compulsion might have to be exercised in extreme cases, 32840-1.—People so used to coercion they would not object, 32848.—If there were loss entailed it should not fall on any particular class but on the State, 32843.

MANNING, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

Effect of Ownership.

Purchasers took more interest in farms and kept them better than tenants who were not purchasers, 32845.

Emigration not the remedy for Congestion.

Emigration in shiploads not the remedy for congestion; it had been tried without success since 1841—in that year Irish population was 8,175,124; in 1901, 4,458,775; in 1906, 4,387,887, being a reduction of 50 per cent. in sixty years; bullocks should be emigrated and people migrated on to the land they occupied, that was the only lasting remedy, 32848.

Continuance of Congested Districts Board desired, with fuller powers.

Congested Districts Board should be continued; it had the confidence of the people, and was the only one of the many boards established that had done good to agricultural classes; Connaught should be entirely handed over to it; Board should have free hand wherever congestion prevailed; its purchase and improvement facilities should be increased; it should have power and funds to purchase wherever it could for migration purposes; additional land must be got for migration, 32848.

Compulsory Powers.

There was a Land Bill passing through House of Commons that would confer compulsory powers and enable Board to get land; principle of Act of 1903 was the land for the people; people had not yet got the land; voluntary sale preferable, but compulsion might have to be resorted to, 32848.

Parish Committee Work.

Parish Committees did work of immense advantage to small farmers, 32848.

Necessity for Drainage.

Main rivers needed draining; the mountain river tributaries of the Shannon that ran down from Slieve-an-ierin overflowed their banks periodically; Board had sent inspectors down, but nothing had been done yet; a few years ago hay-cocks near the river were all carried away, 32848.—Drain was a main drain, not an arterial drain; it was a small river, four or five yards wide, made by man in natural watercourse, it ran into Lough Allen; bed of the river needed deepening to prevent flooding, 32849-53.—It flowed down a steep mountain, 32854.—Obstruction took place on way to smaller lakes through which river passed, 32855.—Worse now than some years ago, 32856.—Drain ran between two properties; sixty years ago landlords looked after it, now it was clogged, 32857.—Nothing done to it now and it did not fulfil its purpose, 32858-61.—Tenants did nothing to it; always wanting witness to apply to Board for help, 32862.—The work was necessary, 32863.—If Board put drain in order they ought to have power to make tenants keep it in order, 32864, 32871.—Easier for tenants to drain their farms if river were deepened, 32865.—Farm drainage difficult, but something could be done with open drains, 32866-9, 32875.—Difficult for Board to conduct many operations it was entitled to conduct, 32872.—They had put up a very useful wooden bridge over same river, through Parish Committee, 32870.—River drainage absolutely necessary in non-scheduled part of parish; small drain 4½ to 5 feet wide destroying crops every year, 32874.—Impossible to drain land unless drain were exposed, 32876.—Difficulty of drainage explained last witness's (Mr. Vaugh) statement, 32876-7.

Brick and Tile Factory at Northern end of Lough Allen.

Brick and tile factory eighteen years ago at northern end of Lough Allen, ten miles away, flourished for some time; market ceased, 32878.

Spraying.

Farmers should be aided in spraying; good thing if Board could aid in supplying spraying machines, 32879.

MANNING, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

Tree-planting.

Planting of trees also necessary; Board might assist; country bare and bleak looking, 32879.—Trees wanted for shelter and to improve land, 32880.

Benefit of additional Tillage.

Benefit to farmers of growing more food-stuffs, both for themselves and cattle; prizes might be offered as an inducement, 32880-1.

Corn Mills.

More corn mills wanted; none in Drumshambo; one in Carrigallen, 32881.

Agricultural Education.

Agricultural education of people needed attention, 32882.—County Committee sent out instructors who did a great deal of good; people profited more by agricultural education than technical; important to educate people who were to be migrated to advanced state of agriculture, 32883-9.

FOX, Mr. BERNARD.

Abolition of Dual Ownership.

Abolition of dual ownership desired, land could not under present agricultural conditions support both landlord and tenant, any Commission should try to buy out land on most advantageous terms for tenants, 32891-2.—Tenant did not work farm properly, as proprietor he would have more inducement, 32893-4.

Price of Land Inflated by Excessive Sums Paid for Tenant-Right.

Tenants disposed to pay too much for land, price inflated by retired civil servants, police pensioners, and people returning from America with capital anxious to get back their old holdings, and not paying price on commercial basis, they paid more than farm was worth for reasons of sentiment, 32894-902, 32918-9.—Farmers displaced who had not been able to make profit out of land, 32900, 32902.—Opinion based on experience, 32899.—Witness noticed the excessive prices five years ago, but they had been given within last two years, 32903-5.—Man buying had perhaps smaller family and a pension or capital brought from America, 32906-8.—One-third of the farms purchased at auctions in the district were bought by police pensioners or Americans with capital, 32909-10.—They wanted a residence, they did not put money profitably into land, 32910A-11.—One holding was bought by five successive Americans, and was found to be a total failure after a few years, 32911.—Price went up and down, 32912.—Each purchaser bought tenant-right of the other, 32913-4.—It was all tenant-right, landlord did not come in at all, 32916-7.—Land should go to highest bidder, but sale of land between tenant and landlord was very uneconomic, 32915.—Price of tenant-right induced tenant to pay higher rent, 32920.—Prices paid induced Sub-Commissioners to raise rents, 32922, 33925-9.—Tenant being unable to meet it sold tenant-right, 32923.—With police pensioners and Americans, and when tenants bought their holdings they gave excessive prices owing to competition, 32930.—Witness objected to inflated prices because the people who came in did not work land on commercial principles, 32928.—Price should not be allowed to be forced up, 32933.—Tenant should be allowed to sell tenant-right to whoever he chose, 32934-5.—And Americans, etc., could pay what they liked for it, 32936-7.—Landlord took advantage of high price of tenant-right to demand increased price for himself, 32938-9.—Americans, etc., did not come into competition with purchaser, except as giving impression of price, landlord should ask for his land, 32940.—Under Act of 1903 landlords wished to have as the basis of purchase the reduction which the tenant would get, 32941.

Points that Should be Considered in Fixing Price of Land.

Landlord should be compelled to sell for sum less than would yield his net income, 32942.—Purchaser would lose on increase of foreign competition, that should be considered, 32943-4, 32949.—Landlord did not consider it, 32945-7.—He would not go into particulars of rental or figures to disclose net profits, 32948.—Reduction necessary for increase of foreign competition, the amount had been estimated, second-term rent was on an average 2*s.* in the pound reduction of first term rent, that calculated on 15 years would give it, 32950-2. Third and fourth term rents should be fixed in that way, as causes operating for decay of Irish agriculture would operate more strongly still, 32953.—It was a question of exhaustion of soil, not of price of produce, 32956, 32958-9A.—Value of production affected the whole question, 32960.—Original reductions were reduction from rack rents, not from economic rents, 32962-3.—In estimating value of land allowance should first be made for tenant and family to get decent living, surplus profits might then be divided between landlord and tenant, 32964-8, 32971, 33005.—Number years it would take to wipe out rent altogether depended on introduction of Canadian cattle and many other things, 32969.—Number and strength of man's family a factor in rent, no tribunal would ever consider it, 32970, 32972-3.

Fair Rents—Question of Reduction and of Periodic Revision

Under Act of 1881 fair rents were fixed, 32974.—Revisable every fifteen years, 32975.—First-term rent fixed for coming fifteen years, 32976.—Second term rent for next 15 years; when Act of 1881 was passed there was no idea of revision, 32977-9.—In fixing second term rents first term ones had been considerably reduced, 32980.—Same reasons for reduction would operate in greater degree in fixing third and fourth term rents, nothing to show that process might be reversed, 32981-6, 32994, 32999.—Under Act of 1881 rents were to be fixed for one period of 15 years, under Act of 1896 they were subject to revision every 15 years, 32987-9.—Allowances to be made in respect of improvements widened by Act of 1896, 32990.—That was one cause of fall in second term rents, 32991-2.—That had not brought the matter to its final stage, 32993.—Prices of agricultural produce might have risen since 1881, 32995.—Causes of reduction of rents were that tenants were unable to pay rack rents, country was going on in same way as when fair rents were fixed, now they were 40 per cent. lower than in 1881, nothing to indicate change in situation in next fifteen years, 32999-8, 33000-1.—Situation not exactly the same as before reductions, 33002.—Original rent was a rack rent, 33004.

In Fixing Annuities Arrangement Should First be made for a Tenant and his Family to get a Comfortable Living off the Land.

Tenant-purchaser should first get a decent living from the land, and annuity should come after that, security of State depended on what was paid to the landlord, 33008-9.—Decent living meant ordinary meals, bread, and clothing for hard-working farmer and family, with education, 33011-3.—That was roughly possible, 33014.—Farmer's budget depended largely on prices of agricultural produce, 33015-6.—Price of produce operated on what he paid for holding, 33017.—Fall of prices went to a certain extent against further reduction of rent, 33018.—Public opinion an important factor in fixing rent, Irish land problem could not be treated from economic point of view, because it never had been in the past, 33019-22.—Holdings that were incapable of supporting man and his family should have no rent, 33023, 33077-8.—They might be charged for taxes, 33079.—Witness strongly opposed State purchasing such holding, 33026.—Labourer with one acre allotment made his living in other ways, 33027-9.—Man with three acres was a labourer, if holding were so small he had to go elsewhere for employment, he might be charged a fair rent, the holdings that should have no rent were those a man was supposed to make a living on, 33030-6.—Witness not a farmer, 33039.

Labourers not Needed in County Districts.

Labourers Act conceived on wrong basis, good in environs of town, no need for labourers in country, farmers unable to pay, and labourers could not live on what farmers did offer 33040, 33052, 33061 —

FOX, Mr. BERNARD—*continued.*

Breaking up of Grass Lands.

Breaking-up of grass lands into moderate-sized farms would be partial solution of problem, 33041, 33062.—3,000 acres of land and more, available between Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon, 33044-7, 33063.—Cutting-up of those 3,000 acres into 20-acre holdings would settle a great many men anxious to become farmers, 33048-50.—Better to settle some than none at all, 33051, 33055, 33059.—Remainder would try and struggle on, and would emigrate, 33055-9.—One-fourth of the 3,000 acres should be tilled, witness believed it to be some of the best land in Ireland, 33064-7.—Labourers would not find employment on tillage developed; peasant proprietors could not afford to pay 2*s.* 6*d.* a day all the year, which was minimum labourer could live on, 33069.—Plenty of room in Ireland to establish peasant proprietors, some of the people might become shopkeepers or go into trade, 33071-4.—Population in Roscommon could be dealt with without emigration, 33075-6.—The 3-acre tenants would be transferred to the 20-acre farms, 33080, 33083-6.—An inspector should first report on the man's enterprise, 33085.—Tenant would sell his three acres, and they would go into surrounding divisions, 33081-2.—Small holders in congested areas the class that should be first relieved, grass lands would be better developed by being split up than at present, which was another reason for giving them to tenants, 33086-8.

Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway.

Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway passed through a portion of the area, and ratepayers in district where it passed paid 1*s.* in the £; governed by Board of Directors consisting of eight members, representatives of shareholders, shareholders got five per cent., and had no interest in economical working, members of County Council of Leitrim also on the Board, greater number not interested in paying of line, £70,000 already paid out of rates since building of line in 1883, railway being in congested district, shareholders should bear part of burden, £3,000 contributed by County Leitrim besides a Treasury grant, ratepayers had no control of line, 33088-92.—Had depressing effect on farmers, 33093.—Line useful, could be more developed under responsible management, directors proposed extension to mineral works at Arigna, *sine qua non,* that it should be put under popular and responsible control, 33094.—Lack of control a greater grievance than paying the money, 33095.—Right control made for better management when there would be less to pay, Board should subsidise line, 33096.—Government gave no assistance towards construction, 33097.—Capital not all paid up yet, 33098.—There was a baronial auditor.—He could not say whether line were economically worked, 33099.—Majority of ratepayers of county did not pay rate for the railway, 33100-1.—County Council appointed four representatives, but majority of County Council represented portions of county not included in railway area, 33101.—Their representatives on Board came from ratepaying areas, but were in a minority, 33102-4.—It was a case of a limited company in which holders of debenture stock ran the entire concern, 33105.—Representatives of ratepayers should be from railway area, and in conjunction with representatives of Treasury, who gave large grant, should control line, 33106.—Original shareholders were sure of their five per cent. and did not need representation, 33107.—Line absolutely independent, had its own rolling stock, and was a narrow-gauge line, 33108-10.—Money could be saved on Dublin offices, business could be done as well in Ballinamore, 33111.

Bridge Needed Across the Shannon between Carrick-on-Shannon and Cootehall.

Bridge across Shannon needed between Carrick-on-Shannon and Cootehall, 33111.—Representations had been made to County Council, who did not see their way to pay the price of £800 or £900, 33112-4.—Cootehall ten miles away, many people coming to Carrick-on-Shannon had to go round by Cootehall, bridge a mile from Carrick-on-Shannon would be a great convenience, people in latter place would give good subscription towards it, as it led to a bog, and there was no bog in Carrick-on-Shannon.—1*d.* sometimes paid for six sods of turf, 33115.—The bridge would be between Roscommon and Leitrim, Leitrim County Council had not considered it, as they were not sufficiently interested, 33116-7.—Inhabitants of congested districts would be benefited, they would get market for their turf, 33118.—Boyle might object to construction of bridge, 33119.

Road Needed in Ballineen

Road needed in Ballineen district, people had to cross stream, and go by precipitous route to Drumshambo, Board gave sanction for grant if county would contribute, County Surveyor informed them that limit of expenditure under Local Government Act had been reached, so nothing was done, 33119.

FLYNN, Mr. PATRICK.

Agricultural Schemes in Congested Districts.

Greater part of district congested, 33123.—Valuation, £138,000; population, 69,400, or £2 a head, 33123.—Before Congested Districts Board amalgamated with Department of Agriculture they spent £11,000 a year on live stock in Connaught; now they only contributed £2,000 a year to the Department's grant, 33123-8, 33135.—Congested areas suffering through not getting bulls, 33125, 33132.—Department said they had insufficient funds to meet the deficit, 33129.—£400 allocated for Department's scheme of agriculture in Leitrim during current year, 33131-2.—Supply of live animals practically neglected for first year after transfer, 33133.—Board spent more than £11,000 a year on agricultural work of all sorts in Connaught, 33134.—Big expenditure of £14,700 for current year not made by Department in the past, 33136-8.

Scheduling the whole County of Leitrim proposed.

Only thirty-eight divisions in Leitrim scheduled out of seventy-eight although valuation was £2 per head, 33138.—People as poor and neglected in non-scheduled as in scheduled districts, 33139.—Whole county should be scheduled, 33123, 33140-1.—Several places Board had power to schedule if they chose; they should not stand on ceremony if valuation were for a general election, 33143-5.—£26,000 the valuation of rural districts in Leitrim, 33146.

Local Authority could not provide Roads and Bridges.

At last quarterly meeting witness's district had applications for work amounting to £1,000, in connection with new roads and bridges, three-fourths being from congested districts; all refused as there was no money to do it, 33146-7.—Rate fixed already high, 33148-9.—Demands of people always postponed; there was an application last year, 33150-1.—Taxation on land in district referred to was 3*s.* 10*d.* in the pound for poor rate, county cess, and annual cost of upkeep, not including sanitary rate, 33151-4.—Great portion of congested district paid railway rate, 33155.—Grant from Board promised if district found certain amount; Board should not wait for rate, 33155-6.—Serious to raise rates; they were nearly up to the limit, and the people could not at present bear any increase, 33156-8.

Land available in Carrick district for relief of Congestion.

Uneconomic holdings in other districts besides scheduled ones; 1,300 or 1,400 acres of land in Carrick district available at reasonable price for relief of congestion and for migration, 33158, 33177-8; witness a farmer, 33121, 33159.—He had 45 Irish acres in County Leitrim, 200 in Roscommon, 33160, 33166.—He grazed his own cattle, 33161.—He was a tenant farmer paying too high a rent, 33162-3.—He would part with land for the good of the country, 33164.—Roscommon farm occupied by witness's father and mother, 33165.—It was grazing, with eight or nine acres of tillage; two families of herds on it, 33167-9.—The father and mother were judicial tenants, 33170.—No objection to any part of their farm being taken provided they were compensated, 33171.—There were some men who would not give up their farms whatever the price paid, 33172, 33179.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Compulsion would be the only thing in that case, 33173.—Those were mostly landlords, 33174-5.—700 of the 1,400 acres not occupied by owners; they let it on 11 months' system, 33177-8.

EMPLOYMENT OF LABOUR.

If a man had 100 or 200 acres and laid out money on it and worked it for benefit of district someone got the benefit, 33180.—In some cases land was only suitable for grazing, 33181.—Witness employed labour all the year; a greater number of men in spring and harvest; they were men with very small holdings, some of his labourers lived on the land and were in constant employment, 33182-7.—Some farmers in Roscommon, with 2,000 acres, often employed only one or two herds, 33188-92.

CATTLE-REARING.

Cattle bought in fairs at one to three years old, 33176-7.—Some fattened on land and some fattened in winter ready for the butcher, 33193-4.—Others shipped to England and Scotland, 33194.—Cattle housed in winter and finished on turnips, cake and meal, 33196-7.—Never kept by witness after three years, 33198.—Fattening paid best, 33199, 33208.—Impossible for witness to fatten all his cattle, 33201.—It entailed closer attention and more labour, 33202-3.—Labour necessary for two would feed only ten, 33204.—Paid better to get stores ready for shipping than to fatten for the butcher, as there was good market for stores and not for fat cattle, 33205-12, 33214, 33217-22.—Fattened cattle only sold in local market, 33213-6.—Cattle suffered in going over to England, fat ones suffer more than store cattle, 33223-4.—Witness had nineteen or twenty horses and 100 cattle on 200-acre holding, 33226.—Small number kept to fatten for local market, 33227.—Land kept in heart by putting cake on it, 33228-30.—Witness found it best at present not to have more tillage, as labour was scarce and dear, 33231.—Majority did not treat their land as witness did; they took in grazing and put in as many cattle of other people's as they could, 33232-3.—Nothing put into land of farm worked on 11 months' system; kept under cattle the land did not deteriorate, but might be made more productive, 33234-7.

LANDLORD REFUSING TO SELL RATHER THAN ALLOW EXAMINATION OF HIS BOOKS—ROWLEY ESTATE.

Application made to Mr. Rowley by witness, on behalf of tenants, to purchase estate; present income offered if landlords would allow a public accountant or any other independent authority to say what his net income was; result was landlord refused to sell, 33237-41, 33250, 33271-3, 33301.—He objected to tenants' representative seeing his books and knowing his business, 33242-3, 33251.—Offer made through Estates Commissioners, 33240.—Price settled by them would have been paid by tenants, 33246-9, 33302.—It was not suggested that Estates Commissioners should be the independent authority, 33244-5, 33251.—Suggestion was merely that independent expert authority appointed by tenants should find out what net income was, 33252-5.—No person named, 33256.—Any recognized chartered accountant would have satisfied them, 33257-9.—Tenants generally were all second term judicial tenants, 33260-2, 33298.—Price might be second term rents less a little more than 10 per cent., 33263-6, 33268-70.—Landlord had to pay income tax and sometimes could not get rent, 33269-70.—Expenses could be judged by the books, 33267.—Net income offered was to be the net income of the particular year in which the offer was made, 33273.—In 1905 tenants thought rent too stiff and wanted to buy; they offered 22 years' purchase; landlord wanted 24½; witness and parish priest tried to arrange for 23 years' purchase of second term rents; landlord refused, 33274-6.—Hardly any arrears, 33277-8.—A final offer of 23 years' purchase was made, to which the reply was that tenants must take net income from landlord's figures, 33279-80, 33297.—He agreed to drop half a year, 33297, 33303.—20 years' purchase offered for first term rents, 23 for second term rents, 33299-300.—No stipulation made that income must be calculated on five years basis, 33281, 33286-7.—Witness thought he would sell a declining business on present year's income rather than wait longer; that was the landlord's position, 33282-4.—Basis was so many years' purchase of second term rents, or so many of first term rents; impossible to say average of five years would mean any more or less, 33288.—Tenants would not have objected if he had made stipulation, 33289-91.—Times of settling first term rents varied, 33292.—Reasonable for tenants to insist on average of second term rents, 33293.—First offer was to give owner a certain number of years' purchase, 33294.—Second offer to give net income as found out by a chartered accountant; third offer was to purchase through Estates Commissioners, 33294.—Witness himself met owner in Courthouse and made offers, 33295-7.—Offer to sell through Estates Commissioners was refused altogether; tenants even now prepared to buy through them, 33303.—Witness thought tenants offered too much, 33304.—Property large, with hundreds of tenants and no untenanted land, 33305-8.

CAVAN AND LEITRIM LIGHT RAILWAY.

Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway, 33321.—Great portion of Carrick-on-Shannon district paid 1*s.* in the £ for upkeep of railway; 2*s.* in £ paid a few years ago, 33312.—Railway improving; would never pay its way; witness a director representing County Council, 33313-4.—He represented on County Council the barony charged with taxation, 33315.—Amount of guarantee increased from 10*d.* to 1*s.*, but there had been a decrease, 33316.—Decrease fluctuated for some years, 33317.—It was in proportion to earnings of railway; some years there was a large expenditure on rolling stock, etc., for which rate paid; witness powerless as director to do anything for ratepayers as long as shareholders' representatives were in the majority; the latter had no interest in working of railway, as they always got their money from the guarantee; he did his best, 33318-9.—They had offered to give evidence before Railway Commission; time not yet fixed, 33320.—Remedy for grievance if County Council were in majority on Board of Directors, 33321.—Deficit formed mass of rate, 33322.—5 per cent. paid on capital although railway rarely even paid its own expenses, 33323.—Line could not be made to pay, but grievances could be relieved and expenses reduced if County Council had a voice on the Board of Directors, 33324-6.—Guarantee ran for ever, 33327-8.—Money could be got at 4 per cent. as on other railways instead of 5 per cent., 33328-9.—No power on part of anyone connected with railway to redeem; annuities not terminable; debenture holders would want market value, 33330-3.

COUNTY LEITRIM NEGLECTED.

County of Leitrim much neglected by Congested Districts Board; mountain portion of rural district needed particular attention, 33333.—People within mile and a half of Carrick-on-Shannon had to travel nine Irish miles to get to market for want of a bridge, 33333.—Large territory of bog on other side of the river which would be available for Carrick-on-Shannon, where there was no bog, if bridge were built, 33334-6.—Leitrim had no representative; Father O'Hara represented Mayo and was very efficient, 33349-54.—He was put on Board as representative of Connaught because he had interest in work, not because he came from Mayo, 33352-3, 33355.—Representatives might be nominated by an elective body such as the County Council, 33356-7.—And selected by Government from their nominees, 33358.—Each county would have representative and they would know the county's needs better, 33358-9.—Number of congested counties not large, 33360.

PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD NOT AFFECT FIXING OF RENTS.

Public opinion should not affect fixing of rents; they should be fixed by market value of produce in addition to cost of labour, 33336-7.—Before rent fixed by landlord and bailiff, 33339.—After that Land Act regulated it and public opinion; Commissioners did not fix fair rent in witness's opinion, 33338, 33340-1.

FLYNN, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

County Representatives desired on Congested Districts Board.

Each congested district county should have representative on Congested Districts Board in order to get more attention, 33343-5.—There were representatives of Connaught on present Board, 33346.—They were believed at the time to be the best representatives, but were found to give more attention to other counties, such as Mayo, 33347.—Mayo got more attention than Leitrim, 33348.

DARLEY, CAPT.

Rowley Estate—Purchase Negotiations with Tenant.

Witness had been agent of Rowley property for last twenty-five years, 33361.—He remembered occurrence alluded to by last witness, 33362.—Tenants had wanted to investigate books themselves, no question of accountant, 33363-5, 33382, 33406.—Witness was present during negotiations, 33366-7.—Landlord satisfied to get net income calculated on investment of purchase money, at 3¼ per cent., the terms of the Land Conference, 33369, 33402.—Rental and cash account would show receipts, disbursements, and remittances, 33370.—No difficulty in finding out net income from books, 33371.—Accurate account kept, 33372.—No objection to show books to Estates Commissioners, 33373.—It was not done because it was not called for, 33374.—Net income proposal came from Mr. Rowley, 33375.—The meeting was called in reply, 33376.—No correspondence passed as to production of books or employment of chartered accountant, 33378-9.—All done by word of mouth, 33380.—Owner made no proposition as to proviting what net income was, 33381.—If principle had been accepted figures would have been produced, 33384.—Rental and account books together would show net income, 33385-6.—Different thing to have accounts investigated by one person and by every tenant in country round; landlord would probably not object to a chartered accountant seeing his books, 33387.—Nor to an examination by the Estates Commissioners, provided he got net income, 33396.—Landlord willing to submit his books to any authorised person, but not to a person the tenants chose to appoint, 33405.—First proposal to buy probably came from tenants, 33388.—Mr. Rowley when applied to directly offered 24½ years' purchase, 33389.—Negotiations carried on largely by himself, witness met tenants with him, 33390.—Meeting in Courthouse of Drumsna called in order to discuss matter, 33391-2.—No reporter present, it was reported in country press, 33393-4.—It took place more than a year ago, 33395.—No great variation in income of a number of years on second term rents, 33397-8.—There had been no difficulty previous to question of purchase, 33399.—In fixing second term rents railway rates were deducted from landlord, pink schedule showed that, it went to reduction of net income, 33399-401.—3¼ per cent. the basis taken by Land Conference; money market had not gone up since; witness understood that all the calculations were made on 3¼ per cent basis, 33402-4.

CARTER, Mr. MICHAEL.

Grazing Ranches Available for Purchase by Board.

Witness represented Shanraw, Keshcarrigan; all the divisions were congested, except Keshcarrigan, few grazing or untenanted farms available for enlargement of holdings; no reason for exempting Keshcarrigan from congested districts, tenants as poor as in scheduled areas, 33408.—Parish mountain district with 700 families, 300 on holdings of £1 to £5 valuation, 200 from £5 to £10 valuation; tenants of grazing ranches signified intention of allowing those to be split up, there were 1,100 acres adtogether; a man in Gorteenkelly would give up all his 400 or 500 acres except enough for small holding for himself, small holding more profitable; there were also 300 acres in Knocknagashel which owner was prepared to sell, 33466.—It was in a congested district; two farms of 103 and 173 acres, which were in the market, not in congested district, and there was another, Kilmorton Farm; great disadvantage to districts if holdings mentioned could be purchased by Congested Districts Board; there were other small farms; migration would improve them.

CARTER, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Payment of Railway Guarantee by the People.

Railway tax of 1s. in the £ paid by people, not landlord, rents outside guaranteeing area were reduced as much as those within which showed that tenants paid guarantee, 33467-9.

Drainage Needed.

Proper system of drainage needed; hundreds of acres of cropped land rendered useless by flooding every year, remedy impossible without Government assistance, 33408, 33469.—People had presented petition to witness; rivers needed scouring and opening; Parish Committee grant was £50, if doubled improvements could be faced, 33469.

Question of Promoting Industries.

Suitable industries might be promoted; district abounded in peat, if necessary money were available it could be utilised; Slieve-an-ierin in north of parish famous for minerals, efforts to establish mining there failed for want of capital and means of transit, 33408.

Exorbitant Demands of Landlords.

Only two estates purchased since 1903 on account of extravagant demands of landlord which were extraordinary, 24½ years' purchase demanded for Peyton Estate; adjoining property, Fitzgerald Estate, bought out ten years ago at 10 years', and Lloyd Estate at 13 years' purchase; Peyton Estate bad clayey land; O'Byrne Estate offered 17 years ago at 18 years' purchase, 23½ demanded now; landlords' exorbitant demands showed that Board or Estates Commissioners must interfere to ensure tenants getting their land at a fair value; no estate in district which was not clear of arrears; tenants would grasp at any appearance of relief, threat of recovery of arrears would have serious result, abolition of State inspection would spell ruin; many boys and girls emigrated to America to assist parents, those who could not afford passages migrated to England and Scotland, 90 per cent of rents came from those sources which if cut off would reduce farmers to deepest poverty, 33408.

Lawder Estate an instance of the Injustices arising from want of Inspection.

Lawder Estate demonstrated injustices due to want of inspection; tenants had signed agreements to 24½ years' purchase when they found they had to pay a drainage tax and rent for turbary which was before free, these additions left them paying as much as before, 33408.—They were in worse circumstances in fact because the landlord gave them time if unable to pay rent, Government could not, 33408, 33462, 33465.—Annuity would go on for 68½ years, 33409.—It should be such that payment could be made both in bad and good years, 33410-2.—On this estate annuitants were trying to break agreement, 33413.—Tenants on this estate were led to believe that they would get 4*s*. in the £ reduction and some did not get 2*s*., 33414, 33460, 33463.—At time of sale landlord was anxious to sell and used to go and see tenants and ask them to buy and brought them to his house and gave them drinks, 33421-2.—They led each other to believe they would get reduction, 33464.—Tenants had had judicial rents fixed, and under their judicial rights they had turf; by sale of estates those rights were taken away, 33427.-30.—Landlord had no bog besides what belonged to tenants before he sold, 33431-40.—When the estate was sold he reserved all the bog to himself and made tenants pay rent of £5 to £10 for it, apportioning small plots to them and reserving the rest, 33416-7, 33431-7, 33441.—Tenants had turbary right before sale, 33418-20.—Estates Commissioners allowed them to lose that right, 33441.—Sale took place eighteen months ago, 33442.—Tenants had petitioned Estates Commissioners by letter, correspondence carried on by

CARTER, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Mr. Smith, M.P. for South Leitrim, 33442-5.—Estates Commissioners had promised to consider the matter, 33446.—Estates not yet vested, landlord had not received his money, 33448-99.—Inspector was going down and something might yet be done, 33450-2.—Tenants thought they were purchasing turbary, 33453-7.—Under agreements they purchased all that they paid for in judicial rent, 33458-9.—When estates were purchased care should be taken to provide reasonable amount of turbary as far as possible for each person, 33416.—Witness a farmer holding 17 acres, valuation, £9 15*s.*, 33425-6.

M'CABE, Mr JOHN.

Uneconomic Holdings at Gorteenmore.

Witness was a farmer at Gorteenmore, Carrigallen, farm was 32 statute acres, valuation £14 5*s.*, 33473, 33494.—He had two farms under one landlord, near each other, one 8 acres, the other 6 acres 5 roods, the two made about 20 Irish acres, 33474-5.—No house on them, 33476.—Land bad, both grass and crop, 33477.—He could live on it if there were no rent, in fair play he should have none, 33478-80.—Rent £11 15*s.* 6*d.*, 33479, 33493.—Witness was reared on farm, and had worked with his father since he was twenty, was now forty years old, parents had ten acres first, and paid £10 rent with money from America, most people got money that way, and could pay very little without it, 33481-5.—Man's sons and daughters in America sent money till they married, grand-children rarely sent, 33482-4. South portion of Leitrim should be scheduled, majority of valuations under £8, people as poor as in congested districts, 33485.

Price of Estates Offered for Sale in the District.

Mr. La Touche, landlord of estate, offered it for sale twenty years ago at twenty years' purchase, tenants thought they could get it for less, estate now offered for 4*s.* in the £ reduction on second term rents, 5*s.* on first term. Whyte Estate sold at 13 years' purchase under Ashbourne Act, Nichol Estate at 17½ years' purchase under same Act, some tenants found it difficult to pay rents, even with this reduction and a decadal reduction since, 33485.—That was 23 and 25 years' purchase, 33486.—Under Ashbourne Act landlord had to pay 4 per cent., now it was 3½ per cent, 33487-8.—It was an old rent, since reduced, 33491-2.—Tenants had not been into court at time of first offer, 33490.—Rents lower than valuation now, 33495-6.—Twenty years ago they were about even, 33499.—On one of witness's farms rent 20 years ago was £8 1*s.*, valuation £8, that rent had now gone down to £6, 33499-503.

Drainage and Lime the Most Urgent Necessities.

Drainage and lime burning would improve country more than anything, lime burning of use as an industry, 33485, 33504.—Lime was put on the land when witness was a boy, 33505.—Stopped when help got scarce and land worse, 33506.—Plenty of lime kilns then, a long way from witness's farm, 33507, 33509-10.—They had turf in those days, none now, 33508.—Tenants bought lime out of kilns, 33511.—tenant farmers kept kiln going and sold the lime, 33512-3.—Still burned in places, but tenants did not like to pay for it, sand was so wet and lime was of little use without drainage, 33514, 33528.—Draining twenty years ago and twenty-five years was better, and the crop was twice as good as at present, 33515.—Land going back, 33516.—Seasons better now, climate had changed, 33517-8, 22527.—Witness's father did drainage most part of his time, he had witness to help him, could not afford to pay a man, witness had made no drain for fifteen years, when his younger brother and himself helped their father they had a much better crop on 10 acres than nowadays, 33519-21, 33524.—Now he had to pay man in spring 5*s.* a day, 33522.—His son only 12 years old, 33523.—Long ago all tenants made and mended drains and put on lime, no drainage done now, although drainage was wanted, 33525-6.—Open drain no good, as land could not then be laboured, land wet now, greater part of what had been witness's best field was now rushes, 7 crops of oats taken off in succession after two crops of hay, now second crop of oats not worth cutting, 33527, 33543-4, 33549.—Same thing for six miles round, 33527.—Fifth crop of oats on the good field had been better than second, now after been broken up it was hardly worth the labour, 33545.—Not much manure put in in his father's clay, witness had to mow fourth of land for hay to give cattle to get manure for one field, 33546-7.—The seasons produced the good crops, 33548.—The land was good land, not reclaimed, good was now gone out of it, 33550.

Turbary.

No turf available for lime-burning now, it was formerly cut out of a bog on neighbouring estate and sold by tenant without landlord's knowledge, when he found out he took the people who bought it to the High Court in Dublin without their knowing, and made them pay 13*s.* or 14*s.* costs, man who sold should have been prosecuted, 33529-35.—Injunction taken restraining anyone from cutting or selling turf, 33536.—Tenants then went six miles away, where there was only fifty perches bog, 33537-8.—Abundance where they now cut in County Longford, but they had to pay for it, 33538.

Easier to make money in old days, the old people worked hard, young men of present day more industrious, 33539-42.

SMYTH, Mr. THOMAS.

Land Available for Relief of Congestion.

One hundred Irish acres of land in Killahurk available for relief of congestion, 300 or 400 acres of bog land on Maguire Estate, would benefit people if worked by a body like the Board, 33552.—Also a farm of 80 acres, another in Drumsilla held by man living in County Cavan, he had two or three large farms unoccupied, 33553.

Rents in Drumbreanlis Locality Mostly Paid with Money from America.

Most of the rents in Drumbreanlis locality were paid by relations of farmers in America, one family received between 1868 and 1893 £400 from Colonies, the people concealed the fact of where the money had come from, they liked it to be thought it was the result of their own efforts, 33554-5, 33564-5, 33566-7.—Everyone knew that everybody else got money from America, 33568.—One man was evicted, but allowed to remain without title, his son of 16 or 16½ borrowed a pound from a neighbour, and went to Scotland, since then he had sent home money which made his father's circumstances more comfortable, two brothers also went, the three were still away, one in Scotland, two in London, 33555-62.—Witness's own uncle would have been evicted were it not for help from America, yet he never told witness himself, 33565.

FLYNN, Mr. THOMAS.

Land Purchase in Parish.

Townland of Kilgariff purchased five years ago by Board; nothing done on it yet to relieve congestion; two estates had been purchased by Land Commission under Ashbourne Act; two at present in hands of Estates Commissioners; one recently purchased by latter at price of from 8 to 20 years' purchase; nothing so far done to relieve congestion there or elsewhere; parish comprised sixteen small estates, 440 holdings; whole parish congested; three-fourths of the holdings uneconomic; industries the only means of benefiting tenants, 33572.—Witness and Father King agreed on this, 33573-4.

Means by which condition of people could be improved.

Condition of people could be improved by following means:—Purchase of holdings by Board or Estates

FLYNN, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

Commissioners; development of industrial resources, as coal and iron ore abounded; construction of means of transit to enable farmers to send produce to market by rail; construction of woollen factory, 33574.—Great wool-raising district, 33574, 33583.—Board gave loan for 100 spinning wheels and sent weaver who taught weaving industry; it would be a profitable business if there were any means of pressing the cloth after it was woven, 33574, 33581.—Witness alluded to congested area compared with Foxford, 33575-6.—No stuff sold because they could not press; it was not smooth enough, 33577-8.—Only one new loom, 33579.—Application had been made to Department of Agriculture and they were promised, but none given; weaver sent once, but not again, 33580.—Looms could be had on loan from Board, 33581.—Woollen mill would be great benefit, 33582.—Much water power, Shannon, Lough Allen, and the Yellow River, 33584.—District wrote to Department about the woollen mill, asking them to equip establishment; they replied it would be considered at a future date, 33585-9.—Board had not been applied to, 33590.—District in question was on east of Lough Allen, below Drumshambo, along Slieve-an-ierin mountain, 33591.

Roads.

Roads wanted; only one road till Board sent assistance; they gave £400 or £500 for one road some years ago, 33591.

Parish Committee.

Parish Committee did a great deal for very poor people; grant should be larger; 70 applicants for last £20; larger grant to be given this year for dairies; nice cottage dairies would be an encouragement, 33593-4.

Creameries v. Butter-making at home.

There was a creamery; witness thought it would not stop; some of the districts were starved, 33595-7.—Everything had to be bought; oil cake for calves, butter for house, etc., 33598.—It would pay better to get 8*d.* a pound for butter than 4½*d.* a gallon for milk, 33599.—Good food sold and inferior bought; 2½ gallons milk yielded a pound of butter; butter bought at 8*d.* or less; 4*d.* or 3½*d.* a gallon paid for milk at the creamery; good butter could be made at home with that 2½ gallons and there would be the buttermilk as well; better value than selling to creamery, 33600, 33604.—Enniskillen the butter market; price paid, 10*d.* a pound, 33601, 33609.—Seldom up to 11*d.* from creamery, 33601.—Expenses of boxes, wrappers and carriage very slight, 33605-8, 33610-11.—There was a certain loss of time in taking butter to market on Tuesday with horse and cart, but it was counted good business, 33611-4.—Witness got 57*s.* last year for butter, 33608.

NEWMAN, Rev. P.

Necessity for Drainage.

Witness attended as deputy of the Leitrim County Council, 33616.—His residence was in Mohill itself, 33617.—He was acquainted with the district scheduled in that parish, that was, the Breandrum electoral division, which was a poor district and particularly in want of drainage, 33618.—Witness referred to big arterial drains, 33619.—Was of opinion that tenants would be able to make their own smaller drains if the principal drains were improved, 33620.—Drainage at present was a river, which got choked up in the winter when soil was washed into it, and there would be growth of grass in spring and autumn when rains were heavy, and river would not take the water away; witness had seen hay covered up by floods, 33622.—Witness believed state of affairs was getting worse, 33623-4.—If drainage were improved and river put in a better state, say, by assistance of Congested Districts Board, it would require to be attended to periodically, but if put in proper condition a little expenditure would be enough to keep it so, 33625.—Witness's idea was that whatever authority dealt with the matter should provide system of drainage and afterward maintain it from year to year, 33626.—Tenants should be helped to keep principal rivers in proper working order, 33627.—It would not be difficult to get sufficient fall for the improved drainage; it was a question of work, 33629-30.—Witness would desire that such body as Congested Districts Board should have authority to improve drainage of that class; was aware that, as law stood, it was exceedingly difficult to get drainage promoted in the country, 33631-2.—Field drainage would not be so difficult; the individual tenants could attend to that if main drains were in proper working order, 33633.—It would be an advantage to the individual farmer if there were facilities for enabling tenants to obtain loans at reasonable interest for drainage of their farms, 33634.—District to which witness referred contained both hill and valley; part of river ran through flat country, 33635-6.—If these field drains were constructed, in district, into a proper main drain witness considered that condition of farms would be greatly improved, 33637-8.—Until such drainage were carried out it was difficult to encourage agriculture to any considerable extent, 33639.—Not very much of poor district referred to was flooded, but from time to time witness seen considerable quantities of hay and meadow flooded, 33640.—There was a fairly large population in district, the old and the very young; as they reached manhood the sons would leave, not being able to get work at home; there were no industries, 33641.—If arterial drainage were promoted, agriculture would be more profitable; to whatever purpose the land were turned it would be well to have it drained, 33642-3.—A little had been done in the district to improve the main drainage during preceding spring, 33644-5.—A main drain had been cleaned, but no new drain opened, 33646-7.—If main drain were made for benefit of tenants whose land it passed through it would be reasonable that tenants should contribute towards keeping it clear each season, but if there were very heavy expenditure it would be hard to expect them to incur it without help, 33649-50.—A week's work for each tenant would not be too heavy; much would depend on nature of work and what required to be done, 33651-2.—If it were question of each tenant giving week's work to maintain his part of drain it would be quite reasonable for Congested Disitricts Board to make that agreement before doing work, 33653.

Roads needed in Breandrum Division.

Part of Breandrum division was badly in need of roads, and tenants should be assisted to get road in that large district where there was no road at all passing through, 33654-5.—In winter, witness did not know how people got their produce in or out; the market was at Mohill, 33655-6.—Their furthest point from a road in this part would be about an English mile, 33657.—Road necessary to benefit the locality should be over two miles in length, 33658.—In winter it was impossible to bring carts to the fields, 33659.—Only one tenant possessed a horse and cart in this district, 33660.—If there were a road the holdings were so small that others might still not have the horse and cart, 33661.—Witness was not aware that district had ever applied to Congested Districts Board for assistance in this matter, 33662.—Thought they had applied to District Council to have road made, but did not recollect answer, 33663-4.—There was Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway to contend with; a gate house would be required, and objections were raised, not that road was not required, but on ground of expense, 33665-6.—Road was much needed, it being very difficult to get through in winter; the road would not be difficult to make, but was question of price, 33666.—It was required to enable people to bring produce to market, manure land, etc.; it was very difficult to bring pigs or cattle to market; witness had been told that if a man had not enough hay for his cattle he could not get it in there; cattle had to be sold before winter came, 33667.—Holdings in this particular district were fairly large, but witness did not know acreage, 33668.

SCHEDULING OF THE WHOLE OF MOHILL UNION AND OF SOUTH LEITRIM PROPOSED.

Witness was member of Mohill District Council, and represented South Leitrim in Parliament, there were 23 electoral divisions in Mohill Union, of which only ten were scheduled as congested, though, to witness's personal knowledge, there was as much poverty in the 13 non-scheduled districts, 33669.—Large holdings in the 13 non-scheduled districts had raised the general valuation per head of population, 33670.—Large number of holdings were very small indeed, in Mohill Union there were 3,205 holdings under £4 valuation, 2,519 over £4 and under £10, 883 over £10 and under £25, and only 141 over £25 valuation, 33671.—Witness had practical experience of whole of South Leitrim, and considered there was not a single part of it which should not be scheduled as congested, 33672.—The standard of congestion was fictitious, the poor law valuation of Mohill Union was £40,000, in which following towns and villages were included—Mohill, Dromod, Cloone, Carrigallen, Fenagh, there were six divisions of Carrick-on-Shannon Union in witness's Parliamentary constituency, of which only one was scheduled as congested, namely, Gortnacullen, these six divisions covered area of 26,931 statute miles, and poor law valuation was £16,493. and, dealing with this district, there were 487 holdings under £4 valuation, 650 over £4 and under £10, 308 over £10 and under £25, and 96 over £25, these divisions included towns of Carrick-on-Shannon, Drumsna, and Leitrim, 33673.—There was portion of Bawnboy Union in constituency of South Leitrim, but witness had not figures as to this district, though he knew that congestion prevailed as much as in any districts scheduled as congested, 33673-4.—Witness had good knowledge of district, as, in addition to being District Councillor for Mohill and representing division in Parliament, his business as auctioneer brought him into contact with farmers; not alone Mohill Union, but whole of South Leitrim, needed to be scheduled as congested, division comprised Mohill Union, six divisions of Carrick-on-Shannon Union, and five or six divisions of Bawnboy Union, 33675.—From existing circumstances, number of small uneconomic holdings, etc., poverty in South Leitrim was such that whole division should be scheduled, 33676.—Witness knew present definition of congestion, dealing with holdings under £7, it came to about thirty shillings per head of population, 33677-8.—Witness maintained that authority dealing with congestion should be able to deal with it wherever found, 33680-1.—Would be glad to vote in favour of giving relieving body discretion to schedule what was necessary, and that all South Leitrim should be scheduled, 33682.—Understood that general definition must apply to whole of Ireland, and that South Leitrim could not be separated, 33683.—Would rather schedule county than enlarge present area of congestion, other parts of Ireland, such as County Longford, of which witness knew a good deal, required to be scheduled, 33684.—This observation applied to special parts of County Longford, in vicinity of Killough, Ballinamuck, and Drumlish, around Durmlish holdings were particularly small and uneconomic, 33685-7.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CARRYING OUT AND MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE.

Different parts of South Leitrim contained large tracts of bog and marsh, and it would be good thing to drain these and plant with timber, as they were not fit for other crops, 33687.—By drainage witness meant arterial drainage, and drainage of small holdings by farmers themselves, 33688.—If arterial drainage were carried out wholly or partly at public expense great majority of holders would be satisfied to make their own claims through holding into arterial drainage, in some cases there would not be fall for the water, 33689.—If Congested Districts Board made cut or arterial drain tenants should undertake to keep it clear, and if they all did it in a body it would only amount to small portions of work, but it might not be taken up in a proper spirit, 33690.—It would be quite reasonable for Board to have power to compel holders benefited by drainage to do work in future, 33691.—There should be organised effort to maintain drainage and central authority to insist on its being done, speaking of parts witness knew, if farmers got these facilities they would be very glad to avail themselves of them, 33692-3.—There were places in this district suffering severely for want of arterial drainage, land was flooded and there was no fall for the water, South Leitrim was one of the wettest districts in Ireland, 33694.—Gentlemen in neighbourhood kept rain gauges, 33695.—Blue clay in many cases came below soil, 33698.—In cutting drains blue clay was not porous, it made very good permanent ditch, 33699-00. It could not well be filled with stones, being an open drain, when it got through four inches of soil, it was very good drain for carrying off water, 33701-2.—It had to be left open, 33703.—As far as field drainage was concerned, loans would be to occupiers from Board of Works, 33704.—If Congested Districts Board or similar body could be empowered to make loans on large scale for arterial drainage of a district it would be great facility, also powers directed towards allowing farmers to avail themselves of arterial drainage, and compelling them to keep it up, while draining their own holdings, should be obtained, 33705.—It would be equally good for public body to make drains or to have advance of money to Rural District Council, for example, so that drain could be made by local authority, it would be better to advance money to small holders, unless arterial drainage were carried out in many districts it would be practically useless for individual farmers to go on draining, there was no fall for the water, 33707.—If district were large it could not be dealt with by one District Council, two or three might be necessary, 33708-9.—There were portions of three rural districts in South Leitrim, Mohill, Carrick-on-Shannon, and Bawnboy, if drainage were being done between Leitrim and Longford it might be necessary to deal with two County Councils, 33709-10.—It looked as if there should be some authority over large sections of country in general control of this class of work, 33711.—Witness was aware that when people asked to have drainage promoted they were generally told to form Drainage Board, which was expensive to incorporate, 33712-3.—It might come very heavy on people in poor districts, in many cases in South Leitrim people who had bought out their holdings had to pay drainage rates, some practically gaining nothing from reduction in price of land on account of drainage charge, witness knew cases where number of farmers got reduction by buying farms, and it went practically to pay drainage rates, 33714.—They did not know that they would be liable to pay such rates, generally landlords had to pay drainage rates until estates were sold, and then they fell on individual occupiers, 33715-6.—Rate referred to was for grants made afterwards for construction of Drainage Board, 33717.—As a rule people living on properties as judicial tenants were more anxious for Drainage Boards to be got up than tenants who had purchased, as latter would have to pay drainage rates, 33718.—If this drainage were made on large scale, from natural reluctance of tenant purchasers to add to rates, it looked as if body promoting drainage should not expect whole of expenditure back again, some of it should be a grant, 33719-20.—There had been Commission lately on this subject, Mr. Wallace gave evidence as representing County Council of this locality, and all present evidence was brought before them 33721-3.—Commission had already reported, report had been issued a week or two previously, 33724.

WANT OF ROADS.

Want of roads in many districts was very marked; roads required to be made by Congested Districts Board or similar body, because County Councils and different Rural District Councils had no power to make these roads, which were practically one-end roads going into country, with no outlet; as member of Mohill District Council witness might say that even if District Council or County Council had power to make roads local public authorities would be reluctant to do so, as rates at present were very high; this portion of Leitrim was in guaranteeing area for Cavan and Leitrim Railway and rates for that now were shilling in the pound, and sometimes went up to two shillings, 33724.—They could get power from Local Government Board if applied for, but objection to increase taxation would remain, 33725.—Witness made general recommendation of roads throughout his constituency from extensive personal knowledge, 33726.—Proposed that Congested Districts Board or similar body should bear a portion of expense, and the rates a portion, 33727.—Roads should be constructed by the lending body and afterwards maintained by local body, 33728. It would be easier for local body to undertake construction of road than of drain; legal difficulties were not so great, 33729-30.—Men who were benefited by these accommodation roads would, if they were employed to do it, give large contribution in labour; there were many cases where small grants were given by Congested Districts Board to Parish Committees and a great deal of labour given, 33731.

TREE-PLANTING ON AN EXTENSIVE SCALE IN BOGGY AND MARSHY DISTRICTS PROPOSED.

In boggy or marshy districts it would be well to plant trees for shelter, timber purposes, and improving the land, 33732-3.—This would involve considerable outlay for drainage previous to planting, 33734. —Areas so planted would ultimately be remunerative, as concerning timber, which was getting scarce in district; also land would not be so damp, which would have beneficial effect on health of community, in which consumption was rather prevalent, 33735, 33738.—This implied extensive planting, 33739.—Turf was geting scarce in some districts, but on average there was a good deal of turbary in South Leitrim, 33736.—Planting for shelter witness advocated for general improvement of country, 33737.—As regarded timber in commercial sense, no timber was sold except for thinning out plantations, with exception of Mr. Clement's Estate; Lord Harlech's was only estate witness knew of where timber was sold for commercial purposes, and then only to small local carpenters, on small scale; the estate was in Mohill Union, near Dromod, 33740.—Planting marshy ground pre-supposed drainage, but having gone through that expense witness believed that planting, rather than grazing, would be most economical way of getting value afterwards, 33741-3.—Witness contemplated planting of land now held by tenants, both for shelter and variety, as well as doing it on large scale, 33744-5.—On almost every farm there was a little corner of practically disused land where trees for shelter could be planted, but unfortunately, tendency of some farmers was to cut down rather than to plant, so there should be encouragement by large system of planting, 33746. —If this were put in practice there ought to be public authority to protect and encourage necessary care of young plantation; unless well fenced it would disappear, 33747.—As general rule, tenants were twice as anxious to cut timber when it belonged to landlord, as they wished to have every possible advantage from land, for which they paid dearly, 33748.—When land had passed from landlord to tenants they generally regarded timber with greater care, 33749.—This could only be altered by educating public opinion; there ought to be instruction for people in remote districts as to great necessity of trees and of preserving them when planted, 33750-1.—As in case of drainage, this would be largely successful or not according to the machinery by which carried out, 33752.—Some body like Congested Districts Board should have power to plant on large scale, making grants for it and taking profits, if any; afterwards they could appoint trustees for proper maintenance, 33753.—Trees so planted would belong to the Board, 33754.—Small farms of occupiers in Leitrim would not permit of their giving up land for planting, but witness was referring to boggy and marshy districts, 33755.—These were in many instances attached to a farm; witness could not say if owners would be willing to have them withdrawn from grazing for number of years, 33756-7.—It would cost about £50 per acre to plant, in witness's opinion, including drainage, for the Irish acre, 33758-9.—There would be fencing-in to be considered in this estimate, general improvements and maintenance for some time, and paying of man in charge, 33760.—Witness would be delighted if it could be done for £10 per acre, with surface drainage only, 33761.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS—PURCHASE BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD OR ANY OTHER AUTHORITY OF LARGE FARMS COMING INTO THE MARKET.

In some cases, where farms were sold, witness would advocate their purchase by Congested Districts Board or some other body to enlarge small holdings, 33762-3.—Witness was not contemplating anything like compulsory purchase of non-residential land; knew from experience that good farms might come into the market, whose purchase, in order to enlarge uneconomic holdings round, would improve position of small farmers in question, 33764.—This was to certain extent done now by Congested Districts Board, but people of Leitrim had no experience if its being done, 33765.—Suggestion was that when estates like Jones' large Estate, sold some 4 or 5 years ago, came into the market they should be split up into farms and these farms bought by some Board, who would send down surveyor to portion them out to the uneconomic holdings and thus enlarge them, this being on the assumption that they could agree with vendor as to price, 33764, 33767-8.—Witness thought that Congested Districts Board or other authority should secure property, if possible, either by private sale or public auction, 33769.

QUESTION OF GIVING CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD THE RIGHT OF PRE-EMPTION.

In case where Congested Districts Board bought property and apportioned it as best they could, being still forced to leave some uneconomic holdings undealt with, if one of new tenants wished to sell, question of pre-emption by Board might come in, but witness did not approve of principle of pre-emption; if landlord wished to buy holding from a tenant Land Commission would often determine value; witness had known cases where right of pre-emption was exercised and where tenants would have got more in open market, 33770-1.—This might open way to holdings becoming small again, but Congested Districts Board might have power over tenants, because if tenant wished to sell farm in ordinary course of events, incoming tenant would be bound to Board in the same way as the selling tenant was for the $68\frac{1}{2}$ years, 33772-3.—Witness would not give Congested Districts Board right of pre-emption absolutely, unless there was some power to fix price, 33774.—It would not be unreasonable to provide that man who got considerable tract of grass land under market price to enlarge holding (there not being enough land to enlarge all uneconomic holdings on the estate), should not be free to sell holding to his neighbour, but should be bound to surrender it to Congested Districts Board at a price in reference to which there should be right of appeal to higher tribunal, 33776.—Right of pre-emption would be retained with object of preventing this land passing away from possibility of serving for relief of congestion in neighbourhood, 33777.—It followed that Court of Appeal would, in fact, have compulsory power on tenant to sell at price fixed in the event of a sale, 33778.—Appeal in case of variance with regard to price would be to authority who would have right to compel tenant to accepted price fixed by itself, 33779.—This was what was done in case of landlord exercising right of pre-emption, 33780—There was compulsion already as far as judicial tenants were concerned, 33781.

OPINION IN FAVOUR OF FIXING OCCUPATION INTEREST AT TIME WHEN LAND WAS BOUGHT FROM CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness would approve of occupation interest being fixed at time of sale in every case of purchase from Congested Districts Board, so that man would know exactly what he was going to get before he sold interest; it would clear matters, 33782-4.—That was position in original 1881 Act which had been abandoned, 33785.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

In some cases in South Leitrim there were large grass farms which landlords occupied themselves and let for grazing, witness thought they would be willing to part with land if sufficient price were paid, 33786. —Grass lands in such circumstances ought to be bought by public body for relieving congestion by enlargement of small holdings, 33787. If such lands could not be obtained for enlargement of holdings by voluntary arrangement, witness thought public would require exercise of compulsion, 33788.—He was speaking of farms attached to demesnes, held outside demesnes on which owner put cattle, or on which eleven months' system prevailed, 33789-90.—Witness was not aware of large farms of grazing lands held by tenants in his constituency, nor of tenants having grazing land valued at over £100, 33791-2.—Knew districts in Roscommon and elsewhere where there were these farms, 33793.—Would apply compulsion to non-residential tenants, as well as to landlord, in same circumstances and for same purposes, 33794.—If tenant were resident and lived by his holding witness would leave him all land attached to holding, no matter how large, not taking portion for relief of congestion, even with adequate compensation, except it were extremely large holding, 33795-6.—If man's usual means of living were trenched upon there should be compensation, same principle should be applied all round, 33797-8.—In case of a man having one holding and buying another to amalgamate with it, which he worked as one farm, but which were separate holdings in poor-rate books, witness thought if he held on different rentals and paid on different poor rate receipts the second farm should not be regarded as residential holding, but farmer should be liable to give it up in return for compensation to enlarge uneconomic holdings, 33799-801.—The two might be one farm to the man himself, but some men if they had twenty farms would regard them as one holding, 33802.—Circumstance of two farms being entered as two separate holdings in rate-books, in case supposed, was not uncommon, man not exceeding twenty acres had often three or four rate receipts, pointing to fact that at one time all these were separate holdings, 33811-3.—Under Griffiths' valuation every holding became stereotyped as to its value for taxation, 33814.—These holdings were fixed in the fifties for taxation purposes, and that was reason why they were now rated separately, even where they had been amalgamated, although it saved labour and expense to have them all in one, 33815.—In case of farmer's son who bought adjoining holding as outlet, the two being worked together, witness repeated that he would leave residential holding untouched, but an adjoining farm could not be regarded as residential holding 33803.—A shopkeeper who bought small farm in neighbourhood as result of industry might be allowed to keep it though business compelled him to live in town, provided tract of land was not large, 33804.—Compulsion might be limited in acquiring non-residential lands by the extent of them, perhaps limit might be 100 acres, 33805-6.—Witness would not touch farm under 100 acres except it went to public auction, where Congested Districts Board might compete and give fair value for it, 33807-9.—If anyone bid higher than Board he should have land, witness did not consider Board or anyone else should buy land above value, 33810.—At present no hard and fast line could be laid down as to compulsory acquisition of land, legislation would be required, 33818-33820.—Whatever Board was going to carry out this scheme should be allowed discretion, 33819.—Phrase "hard and fast line" was used as applying to general circumstances of each case, where there were uneconomic holdings, not as to particular area, 33821-2.

Instruction in Use of Artificial Manures Desirable.

With regard to artificial manures it was desirable that farmers should be instructed in their use, many people in backward districts did not even know of existence of such a thing, 33822-3.—Very little was done at present in way of applying artificial manure, some farmers did a little, 33824.—Instructors went round different districts from Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, but witness thought those districts were not numerous enough, 33825.—Lectures in some cases were well attended, but were not always held in most suitable districts, there were very few holdings with sufficient manure for working, 33826.—Sometimes beneficial results had been experienced from lectures, want of education caused some people to think old-fashioned methods good enough, 33827.

Resident Instructor of more Use than Itinerant Instructor.

Witness had contemplated advantage of having instructors resident in district as compared with itinerant instructors, and thought more benefit would accrue from former, 33828-9.—One practical instructor was needed for different parts of Mohill Union, showing people practical work, 33830.—It would mean enormous staff of instructors, but different districts could be taken on, say one poor law union for two years, until people were sufficiently educated, it was no good coming to district, and then going away and not returning for twelve months, instructor should give lectures constantly for certain period, and when practical results were derived go elsewhere, 33831.—There were in Leitrim the Mohill and Manorhamilton Unions, with portions of Kinlough, Carrick-on-Shannon, and Bawnboy, 33832.—Witness thought tillage was in normal state in Leitrim without much increase or decrease, 33833.—On the whole witness thought system of agriculture was improving, and some men had adopted more modern methods with good results, 33834.

Theoretical Instruction of Little Use Without Practice.—Model Farm Might be Sold When it had Served its Purpose.

Theoretical instruction was little good without practice, witness would like instructor to have farm of average size in central part, and carry out system of tillage or manuring for people's practical instruction, choosing different districts, cast-iron system was not desirable, 33839-41.—A practical man with small farm free to ask people in neighbourhood to observe on his farm how different classes of land were worked and different classes of animals kept, according to suitability might be good system, but could not be permanent unless man could get farm elsewhere, 33842.—If place were well managed as a farm it could be sold when it had served purpose and brought each locality up to fair standing, 33843-4.—There might be failure of crops, but man who gave instruction could not control weather or such causes of failure, 33845-6.

Application of Lime.

As to application of lime, kilns which had been common throughout Leitrim, were disappearing, witness did not approve of application of lime to land without sufficient manure as well; South Leitrim soil was, besides, not suited to use of lime, 33835.—Farmers had not been able to buy enough manure to use with lime, and now approved more of artificial manures, use of which was being substituted for that of lime, 33836-8.

Spraying.

As to spraying, people were not sufficiently enlightened about it, though it had done a great deal of good in that part of the country, it could be done very well by spraying machine, but in many districts people used besoms or brushes of heather for want of machines, which was far less efficacious, they also thought one spraying was sufficient, it was better than nothing, but not enough to protect crop, it should be done in all cases twice, and witness had seen crops sprayed three times repay owner a hundred-fold, 33848.—Even in very wet climate, such as Leitrim, man could always find days fine enough to do spraying, four or five hours would be sufficient, 33849.—One great disadvantage was want of spraying machines, farmers came into towns to hire them, and there often were not enough to go round, three or four farmers ought to join together to get machine, 33850.

Cottage Industries needed.

With regard to cottage industries there were none in South Leitrim, and their promotion would give employment to young men and women who were now forced to go to England or Scotland to earn living, 33851.—Basket-making from osiers could be taught, with weaving, knitting, etc., 33852.—Witness was quite aware that an industry not self-supporting could not be kept up permanently, but would like to see some started, believing there were some which could be hopefully started, 33852-5.—The osier industry and weaving by hand-looms could be tried, 33856.

Lace-Making.

There had been lace industry class, being in charge of the nuns, but it had to be closed, as it got no assistance from Department of Agriculture, 33857.—It was not in a scheduled area, 33859.—The nuns who had learned art of lace-making were quite competent to give instruction, 33860.—Numbers of girls were anxious to go on, but they were crippled for want of funds, 33861.

Basket-Making.

There was land in this district very suitable for growing osiers, 33863.—There were numbers of small farmers who grew osiers for their own purposes and made their own baskets, 33863.—Those made in district now were not class of basket which could be put in market, when peeled the osiers would make ordinary shop baskets, 33864.—Witness believed there would be demand for baskets if well made, so that industry would be substantial one, 33865, 33868.—There was ample land suitable for growing osiers, which, as witness was aware, were one of most profitable crops possible, given demand for them, 33866-7.—Osiers could be grown plentifully on marshy land, 33870.—Witness was not aware that boxes had almost entirely taken place of hampers in many places in England and Ireland, hampers were as much in demand as ever, 33876.—There were no osier beds in the district, witness saw baskets and hampers used as much as ever, 33877-8.—Witness did not know of any successful basket industry in the county, had suggested basket-making from statistics in connection with trade, which he read from time to time, 33879-0.—Did not think project had ever been brought definitely before any public body, 33871.—Suggested it as an improvement, if not a very important one, which could be introduced into that part of South Leitrim, 33872.—Thought these industries could be made to compete in prospects of remuneration, etc., with attractions of United States, at present cottage industries would be great help and would be means of training people for larger industries, 33873.—Lack of employment and unremunerative wages were chief causes of emigration, 33874.—Methods under discussion to raise rate of remuneration and increase extent of employment would be likely to have material effect upon amount of emigration, 33876.

Improvement in Breed of Horses, Cattle, and Poultry and Instruction in Marketing Dairy Produce Suggested.

Breeds of horses, cattle, and poultry should be improved and people instructed how to market eggs, butter, etc., while instruction should also be given in dairying and kindred employments, 33880.—It had been done of late years in Ireland, but witness would like to see more done, 33881.—Witness had seen benefit from instruction in isolated cases, but it had not yet been done in full detail, he would say benefit was commensurate with expenditure, 33883-4.

Parish Committees, additional supervision suggested—Criticism of constitution of Committees.

Witness wished to touch upon matter of Parish Committees and thought more supervision should be exercised over them by Congested Districts Board; he himself lived in congested electoral division, for which he was District Councillor, and was not notified of single meeting of Parish Committee; there were elections from year to year and witness knew for a fact that grants had been denied to people who would have derived more benefit from them than the people who actually received them; these people who were refused would corroborate statement, 33883, 33885, 33890.—Witness considered he should be *ex-officio* member of the Committee as representative of congested district electoral division, 33884.—Shopkeepers were excluded from Committee, but that was not reason, as witness was not shopkeeper, nor any of his family; it was a matter of local spite, 33885-6, 33900.—Witness had not called attention of Congested Districts Board to it till lately, when writing to them for some facts he got list of composition of Parish Committees, etc., 33887.—Case had not yet been sifted by Congested Districts Board, 33889.—Parish Committee was established about three years ago; at first establishment witness was just co-opted member of Rural District Council, but in 1905 was elected for this particular district, 33891-2.—Was not summoned to any proceedings of Committee when it was started in 1904, but in 1905 got communication once or twice and went to one meeting, which had begun before he arrived, and had received no communication since; notice to attend had been received on two occasions, 33893-6.—No notices had been received since September of previous year; witness could not know when meetings were to be held, 33897-8.—Other members were being summoned, 33899.—Witness had not at an early stage brought this under Board's notice, as he hoped right would prevail in the end; coming over from London in March last had called at Board's office in Dublin and got rules of Parish Committees to look into matter, 33901.—Good work had been done by Parish Committees, and money had been well spent in Roscommon, Leitrim, and other places that witness knew; buildings had been improved and so on, 33902.

Migration.

As to question of migration, witness knew and regretted reluctance on part of Irish people to leave holdings; some evicted tenants would not consent to take any farm but that from which they were evicted; some people were glad to migrate, but greater proportion were opposed to it, 33903.—Sentiment had something to do with this; many people, however, never had it proposed to them, 33904.—Witness did not think migration as means of relieving congestion would be hindered by fear on people's part that they would not be well treated by small holders in counties to which they were migrated; Irish people were very hospitable to each other, 33905-8.

Distribution of Land—Claims of Migrants *v.* Sons of Tenants.

When Congested Districts Board purchased big estate the first claim on that farm or ranch would be that of uneconomic holders in district, 33909.—In considering second claim, whether rest of land should be appropriated by Board to migrants from other districts, or to farmers' sons of the county, witness thought local needs of every district should be best suited by following lines recommended to that district; in some localities young men might not apply, 33910-12.—In case of competition for balance of land by these two classes of people, sons of tenants should get it, as otherwise they would emigrate to America, 33913.—Relief of congestion was more urgent claim than that of sons of tenants; if possible, both should be combined; it was hard to know which should have first claim, 33914-6.—It would seem that body dealing with congestion should not be tied down in certain circumstances to giving holdings to sons of tenants, but should have free hand, 33917.—It was hypothetical case and required more evidence to be given; the circumstances did not prevail in witness's district to any great extent, 33918-9.—Some tenants in that district would be willing to migrate to distance if they got larger holdings, but many would not, 33920.—Case of evicted tenants already mentioned applied to others who would not go to other holdings unless their position were to be greatly improved; this was due to want of education, in witness's opinion, 33921-2.—Witness's view was that authority appointed to relieve congestion must give opportunities for people to escape from misery of district, as far as possible, but if people refused to avail themselves of opportunities public responsibility would then end, 33923-4.

Class of Land.

A great deal of the land was very shallow and quite unfit for grazing and meadowing; would produce no crops at all, except for great care bestowed on it by farmers, 33695.—Depth of soil varied from 4 and 5 inches to 9 and 10 inches, and sometimes was less than 4 or 5; cause attributed was that people had had no manure and therefore used to burn land to have ashes for manure, which reduced land to great extent, 33696.—Cultivation by tenant on land referred to was for grass growing, 33697.

WALLACE, Mr. R.

Mohill Union should be Scheduled.

Witness resided at Clanmorris, Dromod, and was appointed there as representing the Mohill Rural

District Council, 33925-6.—Was Chairman of Board of Guardians and of a Parish Committee, member of County Committee and of local Drainage Boards, and Chairman of an Agricultural Bank, considered that Mohill Union should be scheduled as congested district, on ground that it was just as poverty-stricken as area so scheduled, 33927-8.—Parish Committee, of which witness was Chairman, had only one division, Cashel, the smallest in union, adjoining electoral divisons were as congested, in Rooskey, every occupier of land was the owner of it, 33928.—These occupiers had all purchased, and it would be a great boon to them if district were scheduled, that they might get benefits of grant, in Cashel, there would soon be no persons to apply for the grants to Parish Committee, because they would all be supplied, 33929-30.—Position would soon be arrived at that Cashel had done its work as far as Parish Committee could do it, 33931.

Raising Valuation of those eligible for Grants from £7 to £10.

The same principles ought then to be applied to Rooskey, in Cashel also it would be advisable to raise valuation of those available for grants from £7 to £10, as man with latter valuation was often in as much need of grant as former, 33932.

Question of Raising Valuation of Those Eligible for Grants from £7 to £10.

Committee did not help anybody over £7 valuation, but were most anxious to enlarge that limit to £10, even without increasing their funds, 33968-9.—This would decrease amount which could be given in each case, unless grants were increased, which would be desirable, 33970-1.—If Congested Districts Board refused to increase grant for this purpose witness would still be in favour of extending area from £7 to £10, because latter man often needed help equally, some times more than smaller man, 33972.

Discretionary Power for Parish Committee.

Witness thought Parish Committee should have some discretion to deal with men who were unable to take advantage of its help at present by not being able to supply two-thirds of estimate in order to get one-third from Congested Districts Board, 33932.—In case of widow with children who might be unable to do anything for homestead, for example, there should be dispensing powers, 33933-4.—There must be standard but there should be some exceptions, 33935.—Power to make these exceptions might be left entirely to Parish Committee, or to some independent body such as Congested Districts Board, or representation of, and in consultation with Parish Committee, 33936.—Witness would like to see almost whole parish under operations of the Committee, 33937.—The Parish Committee in this district was doing well, witness considered system an excellent one, 33938-9.—They had not yet passed from improvement of homesteads to improvement of farms, drainage had been done in improvement of homestead in some cases, 33940.—Parish Committee could not be improved upon, as machinery through which to give grants and prizes for drainage of poor holdings, 33941.—It took in best men in the parish for the work, and had advantage that local men of public spirit and knowledge had opportunities of suggesting what should be done, 33942-4.—System resulted in getting great deal of work done in proportion to grant, more so than in other systems in vogue at present, 33945.

Sanitary Work of Parish Committee and Public Health Officers.

Grants were not given for improvement of dwellings, in cases where manure heaps were allowed to remain close up to houses, such cases had been found when Parish Committee first started, 33946-7.—It was true that duty of sanitary officers was to see these manure heaps removed, and that Parish Committee was doing what sanitary officers had failed to do, though paid for doing it out of the rates, 33948.—Sanitary officers did not do much in this respect unless their attention was directed to special cases as when there was epidemic, witness did not think work of Parish Committee had made them more active, they did not as a rule do very much, 33949-52.—They brought prosecutions, when ordered by the Board, but prosecutions generally failed, this had happened at Mohill on last occasion, 33953-4.—It was fault of bench of magistrates, rather than of sanitary officers, 33955-6.—The best system was to make certain improvements which people wished for contingent upon these sanitary works being previously carried out, 33957.—No grants were made for the sanitary arrangements, Committee simply refused to proceed until they were done, 33958-9.

Drainage Improvements carried out by Parish Committee.

Drainage, improvements to dwellings and out-offices were also carried out through Parish Committee, 33960.—The main drains passing through witness's electoral division, which was smallest division in Mohill Union, were the ones attended to; Committee could not go outside these, 33961.—The drains took away water which before remained stagnant in the fields, 33962-3.—It was really part of arterial drainage, 33964.—It would be excellent way of spending money to deal with drainage in larger way, but arterial drainage was an expensive thing, 33965.—Net amount of grants made to 31st March, 1905, was £25 8*s.* 4*d.*; witness thought three times that amount of work was done, 33966.

Local Drainage Boards and Drainage Charges.

Witness was member of local Drainage Board; there were two Boards in South Leitrim, the Rinn and Blackriver, and the Eslin, 33973.

Recommendations of Arterial Drainage Commission.

Witness had given evidence a year previously before Arterial Drainage Commission in Dublin, who had recommended that there should be Board of Conservators to take charge of main basin of river and of outlet, this Board to be composed of persons elected by owners and by members of County Council; that drainage rate should be collected by County Council and struck as separate rate; and that for smaller drains there should be Drainage Boards electeds by owners; that for main basin of rivers, or larger part of it, there should be grant from Government Department and that drainage of small tributaries should be paid for by rate struck on lands to be benefited, 33973-4.—From witness's experience of Drainage Boards he concurred generally in this report, 33975.—Existing Drainage Board was statutory body, appointed under Act of Parliament and meeting at stated intervals, 33976, 33985.—Its duties were to maintain all the rivers in state of repair to carry away water in connection with works done forty years ago, 33977.

Expenditure by Board of Works upon Rinn and Blackriver.

About twenty years ago Board failed to keep works in proper state of maintenance and Board of Works in accordance with their powers in such case expended £2,700 upon Rinn and Blackriver; at this time Earl of Granard's Estate was selling in County Leitrim and Longford, and year following all small owners who purchased their lands were taxed to repay this money to Board of Works, with 5 per cent. added, this repayment taking twelve years, and leaving drainage charges very unpopular in locality, 33977, 33999.—Wtiness did not know reason of additional 5 per cent., 33978.—Property was transferred from landlord to tenants, before which transfer landlord had been under certain obligations, 33979-80.—It would not be business of Land Commission to arrange, in settling property, terms on which landlord was to redeem his obligation, as the work involving these charges took place just about time of transfer; the landlord did pay up to a certain date, but tenants did not understand matter, at first looking on work as a boon, 33981-3.—It had not been considered whether Treasury might be applied to to remit this expenditure; they had found Board of Works very difficult to deal with, 34001-2.—Board of Works were acting under Act of Parliament; they were now repaid, 34003-4.—Parish Committee had been prevented from making other improvements by this burden, but now rate was being struck for maintenance, 34005.—When work was undertaken in 1841, it had involved large capital outlay, 34006.—That sum was borrowed from Board of Works, but had long ago been paid off, 34007-8.—Accumulated work of maintenance, having been in arrear, had to be met, and money raised in some way, 34009.—Expenditure was incurred, not as part of original cost of work, but as rendered necessary by neglect of maintenance, 34010.—Witness's point was that memory of what had had to be paid in connection with Drainage Acts acted as deterrent to ratepayers from agreeing to rate which might be levied for various improvements; in expenditure of this £2,700 witness believed that Board of Works squandered money and that £1,000, properly spent by Drainage Board, would have produced more useful work, 34012.

Local Drainage Board and Drainage Charges.

Since then, Drainage Board had levied rates themselves, about £600 for last few years, on the Rinn and Blackriver; on that river and on Eslin, rate of £200 was levied within last few months to do some work, 33983.—Work was still going on on the Eslin, but was completed on the Blackriver, though badly done, being insufficient and not having had enough money expended on it; for the main river there were Government grants, 33984, 33986.—It was not attended to every year, 33987.—On upper portion of drainage district it was proposed to drain about 2,000 acres, but on lower portion, which emptied itself into Shannon, outfall was bad; the more drainage was done on upper portion, the more harm was done to lower portion; water flowed up more quickly than it could get away, and flooded up to Johnson's Bridge, where witness lived, and spread out on to the lands, 33988.—Drainage rate now struck was only for maintenance, 33989, 34013.—The £200 mentioned in this connection was only debt remaining, 34011.—If maintenance were stopped now, the drainage would get into disrepair, bringing about loss of previous expenditure, 34014-5.—Drainage Board, of which witness was member, was called into existence under Act of 1842, work having been done originally by Board of Works, and duty of Board was to maintain those works in proper condition, and for that purpose to tax lands to be improved, 33990.—Works done by Board of Works had not been properly maintained, and it then became necessary to do something, so that Drainage Board was called in; it was not question of capital expenditure but of maintenance, 33991-2.—Drainage Board would not have authority to make fresh drains, or to enlarge drain to smallest degree; there were portions of country much in need of it, that were not on drainage map, but Board had no power to expend a penny on these, 33993.—Board's powers were not constructive, but maintenance powers, 33994.—There was great difficulty in creation of Drainage Board, which was done by large landowners forty years ago, and could hardly be done now, it was so troublesome and expensive, 33995.—It was very difficult to constitute Drainage Boards now, 33996.—Witness approved of recommendation contained in report referred to that large waterways should be cleared by grants from Government, 33997.—Also that small drainage, immediately benefiting occupiers, should be done with some liability to occupiers to pay for such drainage, 33998.—Commission referred to had not recommended that all existing Drainage Boards should be merged in County Council; 34016.—County Council would practically be responsible for collection of drainage rate, as already stated, 34017.

Lace Class.—Failure for lack of Monetary Encouragement.—Teacher not recognised because she had no Certificate.

As to lace class, it had ceased to work because Department had declined to recognise teacher as qualified, and girls whom she taught did not therefore get capitation grant; work turned out realised high price, 34018.—In order to be recognised as qualified the teacher would have to pass examination and get certificate, 34019-20.—The teacher, a Sister of Mercy, had not passed Department's examination, nor got certificate, 34021-2.—She was an excellent worker, 34023.—At first Department was more lenient on this point, afterwards becoming more exacting as to certificates, 34024.—The school collapsed simply because teacher was not recognised as qualified by Department, 34025.—It was great loss to district; from twenty to thirty girls were attending and making money out of it, 34026.—Capitation grants to workers were usually endowments to those in charge of school, 34027.—The teacher was competent, and committee in charge did not appoint another teacher, 34028.—Department had never given grant, nor contributed to teacher's salary, 34029-30.—The school was started without any grant or assistance from Department, 34031.—There was then application to pay ordinary capitation grant that was paid to every school, that each girl attending would get so much a week; this was not paid by Department, 34032-3.—School was started through beneficent action of nuns, it was successful, but when capitation grant was applied for it was refused on ground that there was no recognised teacher, 34034.—School collapsed from want of monetary encouragement; it had been started in hope of receiving this, 34035-7.—They were selling lace and receiving fair price for it, 34038.—The lace-making lasted one and a half years; they received no assistance; only money was that realised by sale of lace, 34040-1.—Position was that amount realised for lace went to workers, and the nuns, and other demands upon them, were unable to continue teacher's services without some recognition from public body, 34042

Reclamation of Bog proposed for Enlargement of Holdings in Rooskey.

With regard to Rooskey electoral division, which witness represented, every man in it owned his land; there were 1,100 acres of bog in hands of landlord, the Earl of Granard; witness considered that if Congested Districts Board would purchase this bog at small outlay and drain it it would be most valuable addition to small holdings in neighbourhood, because, to his own knowledge, such bogs, when drained, produced fine crops of potatoes and oats, and even meadow, 34042.—Each small holder should have small portion for turbary, but when there were large tracts the rest should be vested in trustees, 34043.—There was plenty of turf in neighbourhood, 34044.—It was the surplus which witness recommended for reclamation; it would be too long to wait for cutaway sole, 34045.—There were in Rooskey twenty-three holdings under £4; these were all bought, 34046.—People bought holdings of that size because they occupied them and had no more, 34047.—They purchased under the Ashbourne Act, 34048.—All had turbary, 34049.—Purchase suggested by witness, for benefit of small holders, was with object of reclamation, 34050.—There was nothing but heather on it; these bogs were capable of producing better crops than some mountain land, 34051-2.—The bogs were very deep and the gravel a long way down; it was flat, but could be drained, 34053-5.—Witness thought draining bogs less expensive than draining up-land; it was less laborious to open drains, and as the purchase price would not be large it would not be very expensive proceeding, 34056.—It was not of much service to Earl of Granard; he shot over it, 34057.

Distribution of Land.—Claims of incoming Congests *v.* those of Sons of Tenants.

With evidence of Mr. Smyth, M.P., as to grass lands witness did not altogether concur; with regard to large tract of land purchased in Roscommon for purposes of migration witness did not think that sons of Roscommon farmers should get all that, as was disposition, but that there should be some migration from Donegal, Leitrim, or other congested districts, 34058.—Seriously congested districts, wherever they might be, had first claim on Congested Districts Board, 34059.—Witness gave preference to poverty-stricken districts in neighbourhood of Roscommon, but to exclude everybody but Roscommon people would not be fair, 34060-1.—As between sons of tenants and congests in district, congests had distinctly right to preference; holding might be given to son of tenant as reward if he helped strenously in work of bringing in migrants and getting country settled, 34062-3.—A great many sons of tenants might take active part in carrying out this work, but witness would not give farms to several sons of one farmer, 34064-6.—It would be fair to say that until all heads of families living upon uneconomic holdings and willing to migrate had their claims satisfied, claims of sons of tenants should not be considered, 34067.—Man living with his family on uneconomic holding had

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more claim than young son of tenant, but if son did not get something he would emigrate, 34068.—The father would not migrate, but this did not mean generally that he would go on living in great poverty and distress, necessitating application of occasional special State funds; it might apply to extreme West; things were not in such bad condition, generally, 34070.—Witness was inclined to say that these people should be helped before sons of tenants, 34071.—In case of son who prevailed on parents to make way smooth for incoming congests if land were available, after providing for migrants, he should be considered very favourably, 34072-3.

STEWART, Mr. GEORGE F.

Payments of Rents.

Rents were better paid in Leitrim than in any part of Ireland before sale of Crofton Estate in 1898, on which were 600 tenants round Mohill; out of 2,000 tenants paying £17,000 a year, witness had received practically full year's rent each year for last ten years, 34076-8.

Valuation.

Average of these tenants was £8 10*s.*, though small they were relatively more value than larger farms, as they fetched larger sums where put up for sale, in twenty-five recent cases average of tenants' interest was 23 and 28½ years' purchase, 34078.—On one estate largest rent was £13 14*s.*, highest rent of all was £49, but no other as high as £20, 34079.

Tenant-Right.

Value of a holding could not be measured by tenant-right, but value as security for advance could be measured, 34080, 34085.—Often the smaller the holding the higher the tenant-right, as so many were looking for homes, in Leitrim £10 or £5 farm would fetch more than in other districts, 34082-4.—Security of State was not based on agricultural value, but on ability of population to pay annuity, 34086.—Vacant farms in landlord's possession would sell for as good price as any other, 34087-8.—Tenant-right if sold for more than true value, 34089.—In Donegal farms had been known to fetch 128 and 200 years' purchase, which was absurd, and could not represent true value of holding, only competition in district, 34091-2.—Greater portion of rent did not come from America, as rent was only small proportion of outgoings, 34095.

State Security.

State must base security not upon intrinsic value of land, but upon capability of country for paying annuities, 34096.—Witness thought people in small holdings could generally pay annuities upon them, 34097.—He wished to combat idea that because holdings were small they were therefore uneconomic, and no security to the State, 34099.—There were at present no cases where annuity would not come out of land, 34100.—On Crofton Estate sold in 1898 annuities were very well paid, no application had been made for portion of guarantee fund under previous Act, 34101, 34138.—If holdings would not earn annuity tenant-right might not remain as high in district, or it might make no appreciable difference, 34102.—There was no greater risk of failure to pay annuity on small farm in Leitrim than on big farm in Kildare, 34103.—Average holding in Leitrim was capable of paying rent, 34105.—In witness's experience tenants were honest and paid rents, 34106.—He had no apprehensions with regard to future annuities, 34108.—Large demand for small holdings had enhanced price, 34109.—There was no proof that they would therefore support a family, but it would show security for advance, 34110.—23 to 28 years' purchase were not extravagant prices, 34111.—Competition for small plots was so great that State would not incur any risk, 34116.

Enlargement of Uneconomic Holdings.

Very small holdings should be enlarged before purchase if possible, 34119-20.—If 200-acre farm were divided into twenty ten-acre farms and put up for sale competitors would be much more numerous than if only divided into two farms of 100 acres each, and would fetch proportionately higher price, 34121-2.

STEWART, Mr. GEORGE F.—*continued.*

Crofton Estate.

Crofton Estate had been sold under Act of 1896 on first-term rents, with 4*s.* 9*d.* or 4*s.* 10*d.* reduction on 18½ years' purchase, 34123.—More than £5,000 a year had been sold, and everyone had got turbary, 34126-7.—Which was in most cases included in the rents, 34128-9.—If bog contained too small a supply another bog further off was put into agreement, 34131.—Right of cutting turf was to last as long as bog lasted, 34132.—Land Commission had supervision of transaction, 34134.—Reason why some tenants paid turbary and others did not was that some rents had been fixed in Court, others not, 34135.—Those who had not been into Court had free turbary, 34136.—Small farms afforded good security for reasonable advances made by Land Commission, 34138.—Only town of Mohill and town parks round it had been retained, rest of Crofton estate had been sold, 34140.—Terms of sale had been good, but not better than would be and ought to be got now, 34143.—Interest was at 4 per cent., 34144.—Now it was 3¼ per cent., 34145.—First term tenants would not buy at 23½ years' purchase, they were ready to sell at six shillings and four shillings reduction; six shillings reduction was only 21¼ years' purchase, 34148.—Those who were buying now were paying practicaly the same as Crofton tenants, as different number of years' purchase made up for larger reduction, 34150.—Under Ashbourne Act 21½ years' would equal 17 years' under Act of 1903, 34151.

Untenanted Land in Leitrim.

Creation of peasant proprietory had resulted in making people improve their holdings, in Leitrim there were no grass lands, Mr. Ginnell's Parliamentary Return was misleading, as lands mentioned therein were either bogs, mountain, or water, 34152.—There was no tenanted land on eleven months' system, 34155-6.—Tenants would not leave homes to migrate to untenanted land in other counties, 34156.—Commission had found that people who could migrate themselves were anxious to migrate, 34158.—In whole of district from which witness was collecting £17,000 rent there was no grass farm, 34162.—The grass in Leitrim was to be found in mixed farms, of which there were many, in farms of all sizes the proportion under grass would be as five to two, 36164.—On Clements, Crofton, and Whyte estates no rent had been received for grass farms, although there was grass on all, 34165.—Unless demesnes like Lough Rinn were taken in there was no land suitable for migration in Leitrim, 34166.—There was one farm of 200 acres with a good deal of grass, 34167-8.—At Dromard there was one grass farm which had now been sold to several people, not tenants, but people who had come in and bought it, but it had never been let on eleven months' system, 34169-73.

Mohill Holdings.

In electoral division of Mohill there were 262 holdings, 84 did not exceed £4 valuation, 83 were between that and £10, only one was over £100, nothing over £200, which showed that large grazing farm did not exist, 34175.—Eleven months' grazing did not come on rate-books at all, 34178.—Value of turbary close to each farm in district was very great help to tenants in district, difficulty was to prevent subdivision of farms, 34179.—In migration supply of turf would be essential, 34181.—As well as good water supply, 34182.—There were coal mines in locality, but people never used coal, 34183-5.—Landowners would be willing to sell untenanted land, not demesnes and home farms, at fair prices without compulsion, 34186.

Industries.

Establishment of industries was required to relieve land, Rev. Mr. Digges had promoted creameries, agricultural banks, and bee-keeping, which had been successful, bacon-curing and textile industry would be serviceable, Arigna Mining Company employed over 100 men a day, 34186.—Purchase of estates had

STEWART, Mr. GEORGE F.—*continued.*

been followed by undue cutting of timber, that ought to be regulated, 34186-7.—Bee-keeping had been successful, and could be made more so near bogs, as heather honey fetched best prices, 34188, 34189.—Arigna Mining Company had satisfactory business, 34190.—Coal went as far as Longford, Cavan, and Carrick-on-Shannon, 34191.—Railway to mine would probably increase business, as coal had to be carted three miles, 34193-4, 34202.—Quality of coal was good anthracite, and area large, it was used on the light railway, 34195-201.—More coal could be disposed of if price could be lowered to meet competition with Welsh coal, 34203.

Question of Zones.

Abolition of zones under Act of 1903, even in congested districts, would be fatal to working of Act, landowners would be unwilling to sell if they were uncertain of price, 34204-5, 34215.—Though estates were passing direct from landlord to tenant which needed great improvement, and that was a bad thing if they were rundale farms, 34206-9.—In Crofton Estate there had been inspection, but it had no effect, as every farm passed, 34210.—Perpetuation of rundale could not be a good thing, 34211-2.—Estate even slightly in rundale might need to be improved, 34213.—Zones from landlord's point of view accelerated sales, gave greater certainty, &c., but from tenant's point of view inspection and consequent improvement was better, 34216.—Witness did not know of any case under his management where it would be any harm to sell the estate direct, as he had no very poor estates to deal with, 34218-9.—In his experience Act was working well, and if zones were taken out of it it would check working enormously, 34221.—Act could be amended to deal with particular estates, but if zones generally were abolished landlords would refuse to sell, as they would not know what they were going to get until after re-valuation, 34223.—Party interested in advancing money would know nature of security, as same authority which fixed rent would value farm, as Land Commission and Estates Commissioners were nearly the same, 34224.—It was the element of uncertainty which would hinder sales, 34226-7.—Signing of agreement was basis of landlord's willingness to sell and tenants to buy, and from that time until sale was completed landlord received only interest on purchase money, 34228-30.—If estate was encumbered landlord had to meet charges, and if after inspection Land Commission did not approve, arrears would have accumulated, as interest was less than former rent, if Commissioners did not accept estate landlord had either to sell at low price or to resume possession with arrears, thus accentuating difficulties between landlord and tenant, 34231-2.—Estate Commissioners were an interested party in fixing price, as they had to secure State first of all, 34234-6.—Land Commission represented Treasury, and were pecuniarily interested as trustees, 34237-8.—Land Commission never raised price of farm, but said that either vendor was asking too much, or that it was all right, 34240-1.—Uneconomic holdings should not be stereotyped, but it was possible to maintain zones, and yet get over difficulty of stereotyping poverty, 34242-3.—Abolition of zones would probably stop purchase, 34244.—Under existing law landlords could not re-arrange holdings or change rundale without consent of tenants, 34245-9.—But with consent of tenants it could and had been done, 34250.—It was unfair that one of parties to bargain should fix price, though Commissioners were not buying for themselves, but for State, if there were substantial loss owing to non-payment of annuitiees they would be blamed, 34255.—Commissioners were appointed not to make good bargain, but to discharge a public duty efficiently, 34257.—There was danger of County Councils intervening to stop land purchase if there were default, as default would fall on ratepayers of county, 34258.—That would be as serious as abolition of zones, 34260.—Zones applied only to tenanted land, 34261.—They did not apply to Congested Districts Board purchasers, as improvements on congested estates were desirable, 34262.—Board was an improving authority, 34265.—And had not had any difficulty in dealing with owners, though zones did not apply in their case, 34267.

Mortgaged Estates.

Witness thought it unreasonable that mortgaged estates should be sold cheaper than unencumbered

STEWART, Mr. GEORGE F.—*continued.*

ones, as mortgages were often paid off, and tenants were financially gainers by sale, 34267.—Even though they had exchanged indulgent landlord who did not press for rent for strict State, which demanded punctual payment, 34270-1.—Even if tenant's livelihood were precarious he was gainer, as he got whole place for nothing, 34272.—Generations of same family had lived on farms in the past, and probably would in the future, 34273-4.—Tenants on well-managed properties where there was great strictness were better off than tenants whose landlords allowed them to get into arrears, 34276.—Tenants really lost nothing by being under strict enforcement of payment by State, 34278.—There was no machinery under Act of 1903 for relaxation of obligation in case of unforeseen misfortunes, such as famine or fishery failure, but State would have to meet such a state of affairs, 34280-83.—Purchase system was unfortunate in view of unpreventable contingencies, but it had become necessary, 34284.

Flotation of Money.

Difficulty about flotation of money, which meant charging the counties, was one of the gravest conditions which had to be faced, as it was likely to block sales, Land Stock did not stand at its proper price in relation to Consols, it ought to be 93 instead of 85, as it was, reasons given by stockbrokers seemed inadequate, as both were secured by Government, if Irish Land Stock stood at 93 it would ease whole financial difficulty which arose from loss on flotation of stock, Treasury should remedy defect, 34286.—Mr. Mullins, stockbroker to the Bank of England, said reason for difficulty was that Consols were more quickly realisable than Guaranteed Land Stock, Consols had a special market, many banks were forced to hold their reserves in Consols, and that led to demand, financial arrangements of Act had been taken on basis of stock being taken as worth 95, 34287-8.—Land Stock could be registered both in Bank of England and Bank of Ireland as Consols could, if Chancellor of Exchequer were to buy millions of Irish Land Stock yearly as he bought millions of Consols it would help to put price up, 34289.—In Consols there were £700,000,000, in Irish Land Stock only 15,000,000 so far, 34290.—Chancellor could buy up to 95 without loss, 34291.—Witness was afraid that people in England would think that low price of stock was due to default of payment, which it was not, 34292.—Fear was not that call on guarantee would affect stock, but that purchase would be checked, 34293-4.—As what tenants would gain on one hand they would lose on another, 34295.—People might also have idea that Irish tenants were paying too much for land, 34296.

DOLAN, Rev. PATRICK.

Drainage.

In Aughanas Electoral Division much damage was done by floods from tributaries of Black or Cloone River; drainage needed much attention; about seventy-five parties were aggrieved; to take one example, tenant had meadow and pasture land adjoining one stream, but floods drove in sand and gravel, which injured hay, and some five or six beasts died, and rest of stock had to be sold; losses were sometimes £20 a year; his valuation was slightly over £20 a year, 34297.—Application had been made to Congested Districts Board for help to carry out drainage and they had agreed to pay half, tenants agreeing to do other half; one landlord, Mr. John Madden, of Hilton Park, Clones, refused consent as he was negotiating sale of estate, so Board refused assistance until all legal obligations were satisfied, 34298-9.—Board required consent of landlords to guard against damage resulting from drainage, though tenants had undertaken to incur legal risks on part of Mr. Madden; this delay was causing great suffering, 34300.—Powers were needed to deal with drainage questions, 34301.—People in district had agreed to carry out drainage of river as it passed by their own lands by deepening river and widening banks, 34303-6.—People could manage it themselves assisted by Congested Districts Board, 34307.—Engineers were not required, 34308.—One big piece of blasting was required, but allowance had been made for that, 34311.—Board had no particular obstruction in mind, it was their custom to ask for guarantee, 34312-3. —Local Committee would remain as Standing Committee to look after maintenance from time to time; it would be to interest of people to do it themselves, 34315-9.—There would be no legal powers to compel stupid tenant to do his share, 34320.—But they might be coerced to do their duty, 34322.—Proposed arrangements would have been satisfactory, 34323.—Drainage Board into whose district extra flow was to come were not party to arrangement, 34324.—They had not objected, 34325-7.—Whole thing fell through from want of consent of one landlord, 34328.

Roads.

Roads were badly wanted to enable people to bring produce to market; most of the people lived off main roads, and lanes or passes to their holdings were in very bad condition, 34329.—Congested Districts Board ought to be more liberal to encourage people to improve their lanes; one-sixth of cost was very small grant and not sufficient encouragement, 34330-3.—Larger grants would mean more useful work, 34334. —People did not contribute money, but labour, 34335-6.—These were not county roads, District Council had no control over them and could give no assistance, 34337-43, 34347-8.—Small roads running from one main road to another were in charge of District Council, 34344.—People could not pay higher rates, they had to give labour, 34349.—Example of bad road was that from Cloone to Carrigallen; it was a mile long and over 100 families lived along it; they had great difficulty in getting to main road, 34352.—It was nominally duty of District Council to maintain road, but they could not attend to all roads without putting rates up, so it was only done very occasionally, perhaps once in five years, 34354-7.—If Board gave grant for such road it would be better to give it to county body, 34358-9.—To prevent division of responsibility, 34360.—Roads ought not to be repaired unless county maintained them, 34361.—Another blind road had along sides about thirty families, it had never been made by county, 34363-6.—Parish Committee was adapted to deal with such improvements, 34370.—Cost would be from one to two shillings per yard, 34371.—If half were given by Board Parish Committee would see work carried out, 34372. —Farmers accommodated would have to keep it in repair, 34373.—Grants to Parish Committees were insufficient, in many districts one-third or one-half would be required, as there was great difficulty in getting materials, 34374.

House Improvement.

Proportion of one-sixth allowed by Board was not sufficient to encourage people to improve premises, 34375-6.—Valuation of those helped should be increased from £7 to £10, 34377.

Technical Education.

Domestic Economy should be taught in homes of people practically, not by lectures, 34378-80.—Staff would have to be increased; public lectures were good in theory, but people did not benefit by them in their homes; instructors should go to certain houses and get as many people as possible to benefit by lessons there, 34381-5.

Emigration.

There was great deal of emigration from Leitrim of the young and strong, consequence was that labour was scarce and tillage was going down, 34386-8.—School attendance was affected, as children were taken to the fields to do the work of older boys and girls who had emigrated, 34389-90.

Congested Area.

Extension advocated, 34390.—Whole of Leitrim should be scheduled, 34392, 34397.—Lord Lieutenant had created one scheduled district in neighbourhood formerly, but witness did not know who had power now, 34394.—Lord Lieutenant should have power to deal with any place recommended, 34396.—If district were scheduled Board's idea was to have Parish Committee in every parish, 34399-400.—Some parts of Leitrim were fairly prosperous, but all districts were poor enough to be scheduled, 34402-5.—Congested Districts Board should have absolute discretion as to where Parish Committee should be established, 34406-8.

Farmers' Houses need Improvements.

Means of improvement should be forthcoming; labourers were getting fine houses, but farmers had no opportunity to improve, 34409.—Difficulty of getting loan from Board of Works was very great; loan was limited to three times valuation, 34410-1.—Congested Districts Board did not lend money and never made grants above £5, 34412.

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TRAVERS, Mr. JAMES.

Description of Witness's Farm.

Witness was farmer with farm of twenty-eight statute acres, valuation £12, two to two and a half acres of which were worked with heavy loy, hand labour, rest was grass, and hay and milking cows were kept, 34414-9.—It was Sir Morgan Crofton's Estate, purchased in 1901 at 18 years' purchase by clear tenants and 19 by those in arrears, forty-nine uneconomic holdings were on property of from four to eight Irish acres of poor, wet, undrained land, drainage of Eslin River was badly needed, road was needed through Aughaumcarne bog, 34419.

Turbary.

Turbary had been fixed at 10*s*. per annum for seventy-one years, but when they were going to break cutaway additional 10*s*. had to be paid, 34419.—This was witness's own experience, as he was tenant purchaser and had been to court, turbary had always been separate from rent, 34420-9.—At time of sale £9 10*s*. purchase added to annuity or 19 years' purchase had to be paid for right of turbary, if broken 10*s*. a year had to be paid for cutaway, 34430-9.—Land Commissioners were forcing tenant proprietors to pay more than had been agreed upon if they wanted cutaway to till, 34440-2.—Fresh agreement had to be signed if bog was tilled, 34447.—Explanation was that only right of cutting turf was given, not turf bank itself, which relapsed to landlord, if turf were exhausted tenant had to be provided for elsewhere and fresh agreement had to be made for cultivation of exhausted bog, 344525.—Witness had understood that tenant purchasers bought turf banks, 34457.

Drainage.

Drainage was much needed on part of property, as Eslin River was only partly drained, some people were paying 18*s*. a year towards drainage, when principal river was not drained, only branch, 34457. —Drained portion really benefited another property though Sir Morgan Crofton's tenants had to pay, estates which were affected by bad drainage of Eslin River were Lord Massey's negotiations for sale of which were completed, though money was not advanced, and on which there were thirty-five uneconomic holdings, Peyton's property, not yet purchased, and in which were eight uneconomic holdings, Mr. Ruthven's property, not purchased, and containing forty-three uneconomic holdings, King's property, not purchased, three uneconomic holdings, Colonel Clement's property, not purchased, and with seven uneconomic holdings, Dr. Crofton's property, not purchased, and with three uneconomic holdings, low lands of all three were flooded by River Eslin, roads through bogs were also needed, 34459.

Compulsory Purchase.

Compulsory purchase must be adopted in Connaught before problem of congestion was solved, compulsion on landlord only, 34459-60.—If Estates Commissioners bought compulsorily Commission should be

TRAVERS, MR. JAMES—*continued.*

appointed to fix rent, 34461.—If Commission fixed too high rent emigration would be better, 34462.—If Estates Commissioners took compulsorily they would probably fix fair rent if they examined for themselves, 34463-6.—Witness had not been asked whether he considered his rent fair, but he had to abide by it, 34470.

REYNOLDS, MR. FARRELL.

Bunnybeg and Drumdoo were electoral divisions represented by witness, 34471.

HOLDINGS IN THESE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

Area of Bunnybeg was 3,235 acres, valuation £1,460, there were 58 holdings not exceeding £4, 61 between £4 and £8, 12 between £8 and £12, and 30 over £12, Drumdoo contained 3,841 acres, valuation £1,869, with 60 of the first, 79 of the second, 55 of the third, and 33 of the fourth class of holdings, there were no grazing ranches that could be sub-divided in district, so only relief would be to schedule district and grant relief-in-aid for improvements, 34471.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage operations were greatly needed as tributaries of Shannon flooded large tracts, weir walls of Shannon at Rooskey, &c., should be lowered a foot, which would drain thousands of acres, Eslin River caused great floods, Leitrim was intersected with rivers and drainage was very bad, if rivers were cleaned people would maintain drains through their farms, 34472.

ROADS.

By-roads and passes could not be repaired as no funds were available, if district were scheduled and Congested Districts Board gave some relief people would be encouraged to do more for themselves, as they were prepared to assist, 34472.

SALE OF ESTATES.

Portion of Simpson Estate was sold before Act of 1903 at 15 years' purchase, and some at 17, but portion sold under Act was at 23 years' purchase, 34472.—Sales under Ashbourne Act, such as Lord Granard's and Crofton Estates had been at 16 to 18 years' purchase far better land than was selling under Act of 1903 at 24½ to 27 years' purchase, tenants in arrears were willing to accept any reduction to evade eviction and pressing for payment; on Major Lawder's Estate sale had been direct but purchasers had petitioned Estates Commissioners to exonerate them from liability as they said they were induced to sign agreements they did not understand after indulging too freely in whiskey supplied by landlord's herd, 34475.—Another inducement was patch of bog which tenants were afraid might go to more distant tenants, 34479.—Tenants had not heard terms until they got to landlord's house, 34484.—Sale had been taken out of agent, Captain Darley's hands and given to a man named French, 34485.—Mr. Lawder still held seventy acres of best land, if that could be acquired and distributed it would settle grievances, on Madden, Brady, and Moore Estates, direct purchasers complained of terms 24½ years' purchase, American remittance arrived, 50 per cent. of farmers were said to send children to America so that they might send them help and shopkeepers gave credit till remittance arrived 50 per cent. of farmers were said to depend on children in America, 34475.—Ninety per cent. of rents came from America, 34486.—Twenty or thirty years ago rents were higher and less money came from America, but prices of farm produce had fallen since then, 34487-91.—Returned emigrants sent up price of land, all land purchased in Leitrim was either by American or shopkeepers' money, none with capital realised off farm, 34492-4.—American emigrants got home-sick, wish to have some place where they returned and so purchased farms, 34495-7.

REYNOLDS, MR. FARRELL—*continued.*

RATES.

Rates were 6s. in the pound, poor rate was lower than formerly, but district rates were higher, 34473-5.

INDUSTRIES.

Iron mine, said to be rich, lay in parish of Annaduff, if opened it would give employment to many hundreds of persons, 34475.—If bacon-curing could be started in disused goal in Carrick-on-Shannon it would be great benefit to district as good pigs were raised, 34497.—People of neighbourhood did not put money into it as they were not enterprising enough, 34500.—Returned American emigrants never had energy or enterprise, they seemed to have exhausted their energies in America, 34502.—County Council was very lethargic, 34503.—Whole district of Mohill should be scheduled, 34504.

KELLEHER, MR. WILLIAM.

SALE OF ESTATES.

Witness had nothing to add to other witnesses' evidence about Ruthven Estate, 34507.

DRAINAGE.

Mr. King's property required drainage, 34508.—Also portion of Colonel Clement's 34509.—Also portion of Dr. Crofton's. 34511.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Compulsory purchase was needed to solve problem of congestion in Connaught, 34512.

INDUSTRIES.

Woollen - factory, lace-making or manual instruction might benefit people living on small farms, 34512.—Congested Districts Board should send down expert to see what could be done, 34513.

DIGGES, REV. J. G.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Congested districts had suffered through transfer of agricultural functions from Congested Districts Board to Department of Agriculture, as there was much begun by Board which Department could not carry on; Department's policy was controlled by Council of 104 members, 68 of whom were appointed by Estates Commissioners and they were dominated by shopkeepers, chiefly publicans, whose interests were antagonistic to those of agricultural population; County Councils were notoriously influenced by political and class prejudices, while Board were free from such bias, were in touch with the people, and dealt with their needs promptly and practically, 34514.

BEE-KEEPING.

Bee-keeping was most profitable of minor industries, it demanded small capital and no land, and paid 100 to 150 per cent. under careful management; some men in Ireland made £100 per annum by bee-keeping; witness knew one labourer, John Doyle, who had bought two large farms with profits made off bee-keeping, 34514.—Congested Districts Board had gone in thoroughly for bee-keeping, which had flourished with them, founding associations, advancing loans, etc., and opening depot in Dublin for sale of honey and wax, employing qualified experts, members of Irish Bee-keeping Association, to instruct people: Department's attempt to deal with industry had been little short of disastrous, they had sent out incapable "instructors," refused to recognize existing associations; lately Department had made rule that instructor in horticulture should be instructor in bee-keeping, with result that it was being quite neglected: Department should make County Councils have instructor appointed in each county; he should be qualified by The Examining Board of Irish Bee-keeping Association; associations should be formed; loans at 3 per cent. repayable in three years should be made for purchase of bees and hives, etc., and Department should get into touch with Bee-keepers' Association, 34515.

Agricultural Banks.

Agricultural Banks were registered under Friendly Societies Act, 1896; objects were to assist with capital, educate in true uses of credit and foster mutual co-operation; members elected committee, who granted or refused loans which were made on reproductive objects only; mutual liability was principle, each member being liable for debts of society, this produced caution in management; Department advanced £50 or £100 at 3 per cent., deposits received locally at 4 per cent; joint stock banks advance balance required at 4 per cent.; members were charged 5 per cent. and paid interest when repaying loans at rate of 1*d.* in the pound per month; profits went to reserve fund; Department provided gratis, books, stationery and services of accountant; four banks had been established in district, Farnaught, Mohill, Annaghmore, Johnston's Bridge; Farnaught was established in 1902; had never made bad debt; had membership of 188 in 1906; granted 131 loans, total £834; average loan, £6 7*s.* 2*d.*, overdue loans, nil; £90 worth Ulster seed-potatoes had been distributed among members, repayment to be made within a year; Department had advanced £85 at 3 per cent. and sent inspector to examine seed; these banks had been of great service and had largely assisted to overcome evils of "gombeen" system; Congested Districts Board should establish such banks in every parish in Connaught and their functions should be extended, 34515.

Co-operative Dairies.

Co-operative dairies were registered under Friendly Societies Act, 1896, and governed by committees elected by members, who held one or more £1 shares; maximum dividend at 5 per cent. may be paid; first was started at Mohill in 1886; weakness was absence of winter dairying, which kept staff idle for six months each year and sent customers elsewhere; societies should be appointed in each county to promote winter dairying, with instructor to visit districts, 34515.—Farmers would have to be assisted with capital, 34516.—Amount would depend on how many cattle farm would carry, 34417.—In congested districts want of capital was chief difficulty; money should be advanced at 3 per cent. for erection of separating stations, to be repayable out of profits; in 1905, society had been started at Bornacoola, Johnston's Bridge as separating station; in 1905 they did well; in 1906 they made net profit of £300; after one and a half years' work all expenses had been paid and there was balance to credit, 34518.—Fourpence per gallon for milk in Leitrim was good payment, 34521.—That would work out at 10*d.* or 11*d.* per pound for butter, 34522.—Congested Districts Board might advance money, but Department would not start such work as it might be considered Government trading, 34523.

Pig-Raising.

Pig-raising was important industry in county, but profits went to middleman and retailer, not to farmer; system of bacon-curing co-operative factories was required, which would undertake marketing and would return profits to farmers, less expenses and a maximum dividend upon capital of 5 per cent.; these factories should be provided for by loans by Congested Districts Board, 34523.

Arigna Mining Company.

In Arigna district there was practically inexhaustible supply of bituminous coal, rich iron ore, fire-clay and flags; coal was used on Cavan and Leitrim Railway and if there were facilities it could compete with Scotch and Welsh coal; iron ore was excellent quality; when Cavan and Leitrim Railway was projected in 1883 intention was to extend to mines, but through unfortunate mistake that was not done, as result coal had to be carted, adding 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton to price, 34523.—Arigna Mining Company gave employment to 150 men and boys and paid £5,000 per annum in wages; it was very important that mining industry should be developed; in 1905 Mr. Walter Long, then Chief Secretary, had visited district and Government made free grant of £24,000

for extension of railway to mines and from Dromod to Shannon at Rooskey, yet when proposal came before Leitrim County Council for approval they threw it out; cost of bringing railway within touch of mines would be only £12,000; Congested Districts Board and Department had not helped to remove difficulties in any way; Board should investigate, take over £24,000, construct extensions and guarantee ratepayers against loss on working, this would develop an industry, retard emigration, provide profitable employment, and reduce liabilities of ratepayers, 34524A.—Railway Company was not private company and had on its Board representatives of shareholders and representatives of County Council, so they could not make extension themselves, 34526.—Large population in congested districts would be benefited, so Congested Districts Board should do it, 34528.—Difficulty of company making extension itself was small capital, £5,000, which was exhausted, 34529.—If Government thought it worth while to give £24,000 free grant they must have thought Treasury would gain, 34530.—£12,000 of that was absolutely for extension of Arigna Valley Railway, 34532.—It had nothing to do with Newry extension, 34533.—There had been proposal to carry line from Arigna to Collooney, but that would cost £150,000, 34535.—The £24,000 was given for two extensions, each to have £12,000, 34539.—Other bit was from Dromod to the Shannon to get into touch with Roscommon cattle fairs, 34541.—And to give outlet down the Shannon, as boats could take coal everywhere,, 34542.—The £24,000 had appeared in the estimates, 34543.—Time had elapsed, but it could probably still be had if Government were satisfied that extension would be made; Board should take responsibility, 34545.—Line as now worked was making profit of £30 per mile in spite of some losses, and if entirely mineral portion were added, which always carried full load, there would be little chance of loss, 34547.—If it were sound policy for Government to find £24,000 it should also be good policy to secure ratepayers in regard to working expenses, 34548.—Railway rate was 1*s.* in the pound; shareholders got 5 per cent. guaranteed dividend, 34549.—The Treasury were responsible for 2 per cent. and rates for 3 per cent., 34550.—Profits of railway had averaged £1,400 for last five years, and this per cent. on £200,000 (cost of railway) would amount to £10,000, 34551.—So only one-eighth of dividend was earned, 34552.—Tax had come down from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.*, last year it was 11*d.*, but arrangements for sinking fund had increased it to 1*s.* this year, 34553.—All wear and tear had been deducted from £1,400 profit, 34554.—Shareholders were chieflyreligious communities in county, but shares were on Stock Exchange, 34556.—Shares were ordinary £100 Stock, 34557.—They stood at £6 10*s.* on £5 or £130, 34558.—Treasury would gain in reduction of liability for 2 per cent. if £12,000 were spent on railway, as there would be increase of traffic, 34561.—Treasury had not given grant when line was made £200,000 capital had been raised and it was guaranteed by Treasury and ratepayers; ratepayers coming first and Treasury next, 34562-6.

M'ENROY, Mr. BRYAN.

Character of the People.

Witness was well acquainted with rural district, and knew people to be honest and industrious, 34568.

Compulsory Purchase Advocated.—Exorbitant Prices asked for Land.

Compulsory purchase scheme advocated, 34569.—Act of 1903 after three years fruitless bargaining had failed to settle land question in Ballinamore, 34569-70.—Practically no sales had taken place, 34572.—Exorbitant price had been given in one case, owing to ten or twelve years' arrears, 34571.—Prior to Act of 1903 non-congested Godley estate sold at 16 years' purchase with reductions, in many cases reduced to 13 years on inspection, 34572-3.—Murrough O'Brien estate was sold at 18 years' purchase and congested portion for 15 years' purchase, bonus to be used to bridge differences between landlord and tenant, 34573.—In addition to bonus landlord now wanted two or three years' purchase more, 34573.—Harlech

M'ENROY, Mr. BRYAN—*continued.*

Estate congested, offered for sale about twelve years ago at 20 years' purchase, 34572.—Exorbitant price, compared with Godley Estate, 34572.—After Act of 1903 landlord proposed to sell at reduction of 4*s.* 6*d.* in the £, 34573.

REDUCTION OF RENTS.—FIXING OF JUDICIAL RENTS.

Rack-rents in the 'sixties, rent raised on Harlech Estate three times within ten years, typical condition of all estates in district, 34573-5.—Reduction of rent after Land Act of 1881, landlord made a valuation, and in some cases reduced rent 50 per cent, 34576.—Judicial agreements out of court signed by majority of tenants, 34577.—Large amount of arrears had accrued, 34578.—Terms of valuation sent by Lord Harlech accepted by people, and as arrears disappeared they went into court, 34578.—Many people afraid of going into court, 34580.—This year people got 20 per cent reduction, 4*s.* 7*d.* in the pound, and on some estates 9*s.* in the pound, 34578.—Great improvements had been made on Harlech and other estates, 34578.—Complaints that tenants did not get adequate reduction for improvements, 34578.

DRAINAGE.

Necessity for large drainage scheme, field drainage with closed drains and lime, 34579.—Witness thought it was not advisable for tenants to undertake large scheme until dual ownership was done away with, 34579.—Rents would be raised when holdings were drained and improved, 34580.—People were anxious to buy out at a fair price too poor to give exorbitant prices demanded, 34579.

POVERTY OF PEOPLE, MEDICAL RELIEF TICKETS, &c.

Medical relief tickets had to be supplied, as people were unable to pay the doctor, it took all their money to pay rent, 34580.—Ballinamore school was in a bad condition, its mud wall supported by props, 34580-1.

PARISH COMMITTEE.

Parish Committee scheme had worked well in Ballinamore, 34581.—Very poor people were not benefited, as they could not contribute the necessary proportion in order to take advantage of grants, 34582-4.—Work alluded to was for repairs of houses, etc., 34585.

ROADS.

District was badly off for roads, but limit with regard to new roads had been reached, 34585.—Standard rate was 25 per cent. beyond the rate for the three years prior to passing of Local Government Act, 34585.—Standard rate in Ballinamore was very low because of excessive railway rate which had to be paid at the same time, and was not taken into consideration in calculating standard rate, 34585.—Resolution had been put before Local Government Board, showing how people were handicapped by this practice, 34585.—And prevented from spending money on local improvements, 34585.

M'CARTAN, Mr. JAMES.

CAUSE OF CONGESTION.

Cause of congestion in Ballinamore was exorbitant rents upon the land, 34591.—Tenants forced to go on bogs and mountains, ill-drained and ill-reclaimed, every patch of good land was in the hands of grazier or landlord, 34591.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Remedy was compulsory purchase on terms that would give tenants a chance to live upon the land, 34591, 34593.—Witness advocated compulsory purchase because sale of Godley property after Lord Ashbourne's Act became law had been such a success, 34591.—Average price was fourteen to sixteen years' purchase, 34591.

M'CARTAN, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

IMPROVEMENTS.—EFFECT OF OWNERSHIP.

Improvements made by farmers when they became owners of their holdings, shelter belts planted, land drained and reclaimed, houses built and improved, etc., 34591.—Tenants under landlord rule sometimes had improvements which they themselves had made claimed by landlord, 34591-2.—Ballinamore situated in Bawnboy Union, 34593.

TREASURY GRANT.

Treasury gave grant of £250 to non-congested portion for relief of distress, 34593-4.—Rural district of Ballinamore was equally badly off, but got no help from Treasury, as it was scheduled as congested, 34593-4.

RAILWAY GUARANTEE.

Complaint of railway guarantee of 1*s.* in the £ on narrow gauge railway, 34595, 34601.—Promoters of line gave verbal undertaking to farmers that tax would not exceed 3*d.* in the £, it had been as high as 2*s.* 6*d.*, for the last fifteen years highest rate had been 1*s.* in the £, 34595-7.—Witness paid 4*s.* 3*d.*, 34599.—His valuation was only £4 5*s.*, 34598.—Railway was some benefit to country, 34600.—Convenient for passengers, but train fare was very high, 35602.—Railway was badly designed, and did not connect with coal mines, coal had to be transhipped at Dromod and Belturbet, 34600.

PURCHASE OF NON-RESIDENTIAL HOLDINGS FOR SUB-DIVISION AMONGST TENANTS SUGGESTED.

Purchase of non-residential holdings by Board and sub-division among tenants suggested by witness as an advantage to congested districts, 34604.—Scheduling electoral divisions in rural district of Ballinamore suggested, 34604.

GRAY, Rev. DENIS.

PARTICULARS OF LIFE IN FENAGH.

Fenagh, a typical parish in Leitrim congested districts, land bad, rent high, people deeply in debt to shopkeepers, 34605.—After two judicial fixtures rent still higher than fifty, or even thirty, years ago; on one holding, occupied by three men, rent thirty-five years ago was £5; they improved it by their own exertions, and rent was raised to £40, it was now reduced to £30, after two reductions; four people lived on it now, and had, on an average, twelve acres; one tenant had the whole, originally, it was subdivided privately, and, sub-division was afterwards recognised, 34606-11.—Parish of Fenagh comprised portions of divisions of Rowan, Castlefore, and Fenagh; Rowan and Castlefore scheduled, Fenagh not, it should be scheduled as well as all Leitrim; average valuations of county lowest in Ireland, poverty admitted, needed great care from Board to prevent it becoming a wilderness, was losing its best population by emigration at rate of 1,000 a year; families reared for America, earnings of sons and daughters there were the only means of paying rent, shopkeeper, etc.; no fisheries or industries except poor form of agriculture, no institutions except workhouses; overtaxed ratepayers had to pay nearly 2*s.* in the £ railway guarantee for Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway; coal no cheaper as promised, outsiders paid 11*s.* a ton, guarantors 15*s.* 6*d.*, ratepayers in minority on directorate, 34616.—£77,000 paid by guarantors in last eighteen years to make up deficit and pay 5 per cent. dividends, 34616, 34728.—Poverty operated against Primary education, 9,000 children on rolls, average attendance 59·6, not because they did not value it as many walked miles regularly to night schools; infants attended regularly except in cold weather, when they had no warm clothes, older children had to stay and help get in crops or they would starve in winter, 34616, 34726, 34729.—Compulsion should not be tried, it would take labour from the fields, as there were only the very old and the very young left, 34727, 34729-30.—Carpentry class attended regularly by youths after day's work, 34616.

GRAY, Rev. DENIS—*continued.*

SECOND TERM RENTS NOT ON EQUITABLE BASIS OF PURCHASE OWING TO RACK RENTS.

Few sales under Land Act of 1903, terms prohibitive, 24½ years' purchase or 4*s.* in the £; better land sold under Ashbourne Act at 13 years' with decadal reductions; second term rents not equitable basis of purchase price in parish on account of tenants' improvements and former rack rents, 34616.—O'Beirne Estate at Castlefore offered for 24½ years' purchase, was formerly owned by Mr. Walsh, who did not have low rents; incredible rise in rents after estate came into Mr. O'Beirne's hands, thirty-seven or thirty-eight years ago; rent of Mrs. Gilhooly's holding under Mr. Walsh, £3 2*s.* 6*d.*, under Mr. O'Beirne, £7 15*s.* 3½*d.*, after two judicial reductions, £3 16*s.*; rent of Rodger Leddy's holding, under Mr Walsh, £4 14*s.*, under Mr. O'Beirne, £10 15*s.* 8½*d.*, now £5 17*s.* 6*d.*; rent of Jas. M'Manus holding, under Mr. Walsh, £14 5*s.*, under Mr. O'Beirne, £32 7*s.* 9*d.*, now £15 13*s.*; no turbary attached to holdings on estate, large portion of land reclaimed by tenants from bog, 34616-7.—Operations of Land Commission had nothing to do with increases of rent from time to time of raising by Mr. O'Beirne till 1881, 34694-5. —Purchase made in Encumbered Estates Court, 34619.

MIGRATION.

Migration the most difficult of Board's duties, necessary for relief of congestion, parish priests should be consulted, 34619.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Compulsion the only means of making tenants owners of soil on fair terms; pending compulsion the zones should be abolished and County Councils have power of veto on sales, 34619.—Board should have legal power to buy land required for relief of congestion; there should be a tribunal to value lands and do justice to landlords and tenants and fix fair price, 34620-2, 34720-3.—Landlord would not necessarily get his net income if land were wanted for public good, fair for him to part with it at a loss in that case, 34623-7, 34707-9.—The State had power to take a man's possessions, there were precedents in history, 34628-35, 34639, 34709-10.—Landlord should get fair price, 34640.—Of which tribunal would judge, 34641. Landlord owed restitution to tenants in some cases after exorbitant rents of the past, 34641-2, 34655.—If not he should get fair price and not be a loser through compulsion, 34643-4, 34715.—If a commodity were wanted for public need State had right to acquire it no matter what position owner were left in, 34645-6. —Fuel needed as well as land, 34647-8.—If turf were exhausted State would have right to acquire coal mines for people, fair value should be put on them by tribunal, which was what property represented to owners; State should pay them a price that would return what they derived before, 34649-54.—Owners of land should not be penalised because rents used to be high now they were reduced; one landlord in Fenagh made his tenants future tenants and refused to fix rents, he put on exorbitant rents thirty-five years ago when he purchased property, 34656-7.—Future tenant could not go into court, and could therefore be fleeced by landlord, 34660.—Land Act did not apply to future tenant, no provision for fixing fair rents on them, 34661-3.—One man failed to pay rent, was evicted and re-instated as future tenant, paying three times value of land; witness had spoken to agent about it, he promised to look into matter but did nothing, 34664.—Man had no time to go into court before eviction, 34665.—He was in arrears when Act was passed, and no one in arrears could go into court then, 34666-70.—He had no security of tenure as future tenant, 34672.—Compulsion not to be applied if unnecessary, amicable compromise should be tried first if a man offered to sell at 24½ years' purchase, and tenants did not agree to price, 34674-6.—Compulsion should be applied if necessary for 100 acres of grass land required for relief on congestion, 34677-8.—Tenant farmer would be excluded if residential, 34679-80, 34682.—If a shopkeeper had acquired 100 acres for grazing and did not live on land, compulsion might be applied, 34681, 34714.—If a farmer had a second holding adjoining residential one that should not be taken, injurious to bring everything to dead level, necessary to have someone to employ labourers who lived in the cottages that had been built for them, rent of cottages would otherwise fall on rates, 34683, 34733-6.—Act of 1881 had no retrospective effect, 34691-2.—Witness's views coloured by that consideration, 34693.—All the tenants could not go into court immediately after Act was passed, 34697. Arrears kept them out, 34698.—They could be proceeded against for arrears at any time even after lodging application for fair rent, 34699-700.—Process of eviction could only be carried against them after two years, they could be sued in ordinary court of law for balance, 34701.—Evicted tenants on being restored were future tenants as a rule, could be made judicial tenants by mutual agreement with landlord, 34702-4.—Compensation for disturbance a poor provision for a man's future, his only chance was being fixed to his holding, 34705-6.—Question only arose after 1881, 34725.—Compulsion should apply to tenants with large amount of land as well as to landlords, full compensation not necessary, 34711-3.—Might be taken as a general principle that those from whom land was taken should not be in a worse position than they were before, 34715.—No need for compulsion if land could be obtained at fair price, it was simply a case of reasonable price, 34717-8.—Matter not so formidable as it appeared, 34724.—Compulsion should be applied to landlord, tenant, farmer, and shopkeeper, 34731.—there was a difference between man who worked his own grass and one who let it on eleven months' system, latter should have compulsion applied in any cases, 34732.—Would also apply it to shopkeeper using grazing as accommodation land for townspeople, needs of town not so great as of migrants, 34737-8.—If State carried out a policy involving loss to individuals State should bear loss, 34739.

AMALGAMATION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Amalgamation of Board and Estates Commissioners opposed by witness, both not wanted in Connaught, Commissioners should work in other provinces and Board in Connaught, 34619.—Leitrim, formerly neglected, should have representative on Board, 34619.

BENEFICIAL WORK OF PARISH COMMITTEES.

Parish Committees doing splendid work, sphere of duties and grants should be increased; scheme the best Board had undertaken, work obtained best value, just what congested areas required, material and mental condition of people improved by it, stimulated self-reliance, strengthened economic and social character of people, no other way in which money could be so productively applied, stimulated poor people to make most out of land; had a civilising and educational effect, once people began to improve houses and holdings they would go on; with increased grants under this scheme land in Leitrim could be made to yield double, 34619, 34688.—Absence of labour one cause of land going back, 34684-7.—If farmer were given enough money to enable him to put labour into land and instruction as to use of manures, drainage, stock, etc., land would yield double, 34619, 34689, 34740.—Action of Parish Committee would keep more labour in country, 34690.—If well presided over and efficiently staffed Committees would turn every farm into a garden, 34619.

RENTS SHOULD BE FIXED ON POSSIBILITIES OF LAND AS WORKED BY AN ORDINARY TENANT WITHOUT HELP OF PARISH COMMITTEE.

Rent should not be fixed on the utmost a holding could yield but on its capabilities with an ordinary man, leaving a margin, 34741-7.—Though holding could yield double with extraneous aid of Parish Committee rent should not be fixed higher on account of that, 34748-53.—Extraneous aid was not expected when rents were fixed, 34753-4.—Many could not work land to utmost capability, very unjust for landlord to get benefit of help given by Parish Committee to tenants, 34755-60.—Reduction of rent not contemplated, 34761.—It was too high, and it would be unjust to keep it so on account of help given by Parish Committees, 34762-5.—Man would be able to pay with their help but not without it, 34766.

GRAY, Rev. DENIS—*continued.*

Mineral Resources of Locality.

Mineral resources of locality should be worked, extensive coal fields in Arigna and Slieveanierin, by that means Leitrim could be raised to wealth, high standard of wealth never achieved by agriculture alone; mineral resources should be discovered by putting down bore holes as had been done in India with great success, best coal seams in Arigna reported to have never been reached, bore hole 500 feet deep would probably be beginning of huge development of mining industry in Arigna Valley, and Slieveanierin mountain, 34619.

Compressed Peat Industry.

Compressed peat would be a useful industry, some such industry should be started, want of peat fuel in many parts, price of coal at Arigna prohibitive, compressed peat easily carried long distances, 34619.

Necessity for Drainage and Roads.

Field and arterial drainage and road accommodation urgently needed in Leitrim, twenty lakes in Fenagh parish, with swamps in vicinity; draining two or three feet of water off lakes would make many acres reclaimable, it could be easily done, 34619.

RODDY, Mr. M.

Description of Witness's Farm.

Witness's farm comprised 18 statute acres, valuation £9 or £10, it was bog land worked as mixed farm, 1½ or 2 Irish acres tilled, the rest meadow and grazing, cows kept and grazed in winter for hay, crops fed pigs and supplied house, 34768-71.—Milch cows kept, milk sold at creamery for 3*d.* to 4*d.* a gallon, usually 3·14*d.* to 3·70*d.* a gallon, price never the same two months running, 34772-5.—Cows fed on grass in summer, hay in winter, 34776, 34829-30, 34833.

Calf-Rearing.

Calves given natural milk till eight weeks old, then maize and separated milk when they began to get on, 34776-7.—Not much grown for winter feeding, a few mangolds, cows got some half-threshed straw as well as hay, 34831, 34836.—Calves also fed on hay as well as Indian meal, &c., 34834.—No reason why calves should not be good if fed in that way, in spite of creameries, 34778.—No butter in winter, as cows were dry, 34835.

Home-Made Butter v. Creamery Butter.

Selling milk to creameries made about the same profit as home-made butter, saved labour, if there were good butter-makers at home they would beat creameries, ordinary country butter not up to standard, bad butter makers made more by selling milk to creamery, good deal of bad butter in market, 34779-82.

Usefulness of Instruction given in District up to the Present—Parish Committees the only Valuable Institution.

Department of Agriculture useless up to the present and almost everything else, except Parish Committees, 34810.—Lecturer sent by County Committee no practical use, he came so seldom, 34811.—More useful if Parish Committee administered County Committee's funds, 34812.—Good men on County Committee, 34813-4.—Uselessness of present methods has been pointed out, nothing done to improve them, 34815-7.—Lecturer told them a number of things, such as importance of making manure in winter for cropping in summer, and of having crops of mangolds and turnips to feed cattle in winter, and that ravages of the fly kept back growth of turnips, lecture not practical on the whole, 34837-42.—One experimental plot in district for first time this year, on medium land, such as people had, owner of farm gave labour which he applied according to directions of Committee's expert, there had not been much time to look at it yet, 34818-20.—Not cropped last year, the only experimental plot was half an acre of potatoes, lea field could be cropped, and potatoes planted where oats could not be sown, 34843-4.—Witness had never heard of plots off which crops of turnips, mangolds, etc., were taken, 34845.—Potato plot the first and only one in witness's district, 34844, 34846.

Veterinary Assistance Needed for Cattle.

Veterinary assistance needed for cattle, none in locality, except quack doctor, nearest veterinary surgeon in Boyle or Longford, they seldom came, and charged highly for distance, 34846-8.

Suggestions for Relief of Congestion.

Relief of congestion recommended by Aughnasheelan Branch of League by means of land purchase through Congested Districts Board, migration, reclamation of cutaway bogs to enlarge holdings and assistance to holders to improve productive powers, 34783, 34797.—Parish Committee best agency, limits of their operations should be extended from £7 to £10 valuation, 34784, 34808-9.

Migration.

Some holders in district would migrate a reasonable distance, 10 or even 20 miles, perhaps further, 34785-88.—Difficult to get heads of families to go out of Leitrim, young men might go to any part of Ireland, 34789-90.—No hard and fast line, men with families would not like to go far away from their friends at first, 34791-3.—If several families went together they would go 30 or 40 miles irrespective of county, 34794-5.—Migration would relieve congestion, 34795, 34801.

Enlargement of Holdings by Drainage and Reclamation.

Reclamation of cutaway bogs by some agency like Parish Committee would add to holdings, considerable amount available, 34795-6, 34798-800.—Parish Committee could do a great deal in the way of drainage and reclamation, 34802-3.—Mountainous tracts in Greshlaun, 34804.

Congested Area in Ballinamore.

Whole parish of Ballinamore congested, holdings fairly large in one electoral division, outside that they were mostly under living standard, 34805.—Poor men outside scheduled area as much in need of assistance from Parish Committee as those within, 34806-7.

Objection to Direct Sale Under Act of 1903.

Sales between landlords and tenants should be stopped, under pressure of arrears tenants agreed to a price up to 21½ and 24½ years' purchase in order to get relief from arrears, from the fear of eviction, no security for 24½ years' purchase, 34822, 34825.—Not much buying in this district under last Act, some under previous Acts, 34823.—Annuities could never be got from tenants who had not paid rent for 14 years, estates sold under Act of 1903 at 24½ years', and under previous Acts for 16 or 14 years' purchase, 34824.—Old Acts not objected to, 34826.—Under direct sale under Act of 1903, landlord had upper hand, county would have to pay for poor tenant, 34827.—That had not occurred yet, tenants had agreed to price on some estates because they were in landlord's hands, while on neighbouring estates they would not take either 24½ or 21½ years' purchase, 34828.

KANE, Rev. MATTHEW.

Inadequacy of Grants to Parish Committees.

Ballinamore district congested; people very poor; equally so in non-scheduled districts as in scheduled; district mountainous; crops dependent on weather; potatoes failed last year; Board did nothing except give usual dole to Parish Committees, which were not adequate to needs, 34849-51.—Committees did best they could on their poor means, 34860.—Leitrim got less assistance from Board than any other county, 34868.—Grants to Committees should be increased, and they should be consulted about local schemes, 34869, 34893.

KANE, Rev. MATTHEW—*continued.*

Untenanted Land.

360 acres of untenanted land available for relief of congestion in district, 34851.

Evictions.

Evictions carried out in 1892 with characteristic cruelty by landlord; witness thought all landlords cruel; had never heard of good one; agitation in Stroke in 1892 to get rents reduced after bad year; people unable to pay were evicted; agent was lenient, so special agent was appointed, who burnt people's houses; slated houses built for emergency men put in on 11 months' system, they never paid rent, 34854.

Compulsory Purchase.—Grants to be made from Excess Taxation.

Compulsory purchase remedy for congestion; should be at moderate price; Congested Districts Board should get further grants to be paid out of Treasury; Ireland overtaxed by four millions a year; this sum should be allotted to congested districts; witness thought figure really higher, 34854-9.

Instances of injustice of Landlords.

One landlord before Land Act of 1881 took 4,000 acres of mountain for a grazing ranch for himself; land valuable limestone; fence put round; patches at foot of mountain left to farmers; rent raised 1*s.* in the pound every successive year; one tenant prevented keeping ducks for fear they should eat fry of fish in landlord's pond; another told he would be evicted if he irrigated his field, as fish got out of pond when sluice was opened, 34859-60.—Another agent raised a man's rent £1 because he caught him shooting a magpie, 34860.—Another man made to send his son away because he beat a neighbour's son at boxing; same agent fined tenants who came late with rents; people said he pocketed fines; he also sold landlord's portrait, forcing people to buy it; no peace in country till landlords were bought out, 34860.

Industries.—Cottage Dairies *v.* Creameries.

Drainage and dairies should receive more attention, 34860.—They would be reproductive, 34872.—Home industries necessary to stop emigration; butter-making the only one, and that was being destroyed by the creameries; only one day's milk kept by the farmers, 34872.—Creameries did harm; home-made buttermilk better for children, the best of tonics; better dairies would secure good milk and butter and industries for people who now emigrate, 34860.—

KANE, Rev. MATTHEW—*continued.*

Uniform standard butter could be secured if cottage dairies were built to each house, 34861-2.—Dairies having been built instructresses could be sent, 34863.—Not done before because people could not afford it, 34864.—£8 or £10 required to build dairy; hot water pipes necessary to keep up temperature in winter, 34865-7.—Dairy should be near house, with outside entrance, 34868.—Creamery not so profitable as dairy; creamery started as experiment and was co-operative, no profit, 34873-81.—Price of butter in French War 1*s.* 3*d.* a lb., average price in 1890 11*d.*, 34882-6.—Three gallons of milk to one pound butter, 34887.—3½*d.* to 4*d.* a gallon paid for milk in creamery, 34883.—Cottage dairy better than creamery, 34894.—Witness had been in Leitrim eighteen years, before that in Donegal and Monaghan, 34869.

Protest against breeds of Live Stock introduced by Department of Agriculture.

Department of Agriculture ruining country with regard to breeds of live stock, not suited to country; Board would do better in consultation with Parish Committee to find out local requirements, 34869, 34891.—Breed of carriage horses destroyed by cross-breeding with English; the few donkeys a total failure, unable to carry back load, harder to feed than horses; old Irish donkey carried heavy loads and was easily fed; fowl disease unknown till new breeds were introduced; pigs a failure; old pig with very long snout gave better bacon and used to plough fields in winter; they had not died out, 34870-1.

One agent buying a property borrowed money to do so and doubled rent; tenants had to sow flax every year to pay it; that ruined land, 34870-1.

MULVERY, Mr. PATRICK.

Parish Committees.

Parish Committee of Currabeer got £50 grant; this was the third year of working; eighty applications, fifty-six persons got portion of grant; very poor people got no benefit; discretion should be given to Parish Committee to deal with exceptional cases, which were few; they could not make exceptions at present; seven-eighths of people could fulfil conditions, but there were some who could not; one-fourth value of improvements given by Committee; witness had already pointed out need to Board; something could be done if they would send inspector, 34895-905.

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. VII.

O'HARE, Mr. P.

Congestion in District of Newry.

Portions of estates of Marquis of Downshire, Earl Annesley, Mr. Batt and others in Parishes of Clonallen, Newry, Kilbroney, Drumgath and Clandriff should be dealt with as congested; evictions had occurred on these estates because of impossible rents, 34907.—These were judicial tenants, and Commissioners had fixed rents, 34912-3.—This was in rural districts of Clonallen; people had reclaimed land without assistance from landlords, and as soon as improvements were made rents were raised, even though money for improvements had been made in America, England, or Scotland, 34915.—This was prior to the Act of 1881, 34916.—In Clonallen division many of the holdings were very small, 34920.—In Corrigs average valuation was £4 16*s*., in Byrne £4 16*s*. in Leitrim £4 12*s*., in Tamnaharry £2 15*s*., excluding mountain land, 34921.—In Ballyvalley average valuation was £3 1*s*.; half of townland sold twelve years ago at thirteen years' purchase; now landlord was asking twenty-eight years' purchase for other portion, 34922.—People were very industrious, earning money in England and America, 34923.—Land was largely reclaimed land, and people could not live on holdings if they did not receive money from America, England, or Scotland, 34924-30.—No grass lands were available for enlargement of holdings, 34932.—Valuation would almost coincide with present rent, 34933.—In witness's own case rent for ten acres was £10; in the sixties it was raised to £15; since Act of 1881 he had got two reductions, which brought it down to £9, 349344.—And his valuation was £10 on land, 34935.—Or total valuation £49 10*s*., 34936.—In 1864 witness had applied for lease to build mill on Marquis of Downshire's land; agent had given permission, but before it was built Marquis of Downshire died; agents were changed, and, instead of lease and reduction of rent, witness got a rise of £5 a year, 34937.—Upper Clonallen and Warrenpoint Rural had very low valuation, although not mentioned in Poor Law valuation as under thirty shillings per head, as they had not been given by electoral divisions, 34938-41.—In electoral division of Upper Clonallen number of holdings under £10 valuation was very large, 34943-4.—In Warrenpoint Rural there were not so many, 34945.—In Upper Clonallen before 1903 all estates sold for from sixteen to ten or twelve years' purchase; since 1903 some land had sold from twenty-one to twenty-four years' purchase; tenants had agreed to this to ward off present difficulties, 34945.—If congestion was to be relieved, there should be migration to other districts, 34949-52.—In this district one-fourth of all holdings were under £4, and three-fourths under £10, 34969.—There was very little prospect of improving the land, 34970.—Three-fourths of land was in tillage, and had to be continually tilled; if left in grass moss would rise after three years, 34986-92.—Witness had not been in Mayo or Donegal, though he had been in Kerry; land in Clonallen, Clonduff, and Drumgall was as bad as in Donegal or Mayo, 34993-4.—Economic holding could not be worked without a horse, 34996-8.—If railway were constructed from Newry to Castlewellan and industries were started congestion would be mitigated, 34999-5002.

Industries.

Woollen manufacturies should be started, 34931, 34978.—And a railway made from Newry to Castlewellan, which would enable produce to be brought to markets, 34931.—There were large mountain tracts in neighbourhood for production of sheep for wool, 34954.—No one in district had sufficient capital to start it, 34955-6.—Public money would have to be used by Congested Districts Board or some other body to start the industry, 34959-60.—Though there were grave difficulties and objections to such a practice, as State would be competing with private enterprise, 34961.—In this neighbourhood there was no competition with private trader, 34962.—If public good was

served by State-aided competition nobody ought to object, 34965-6.—Nothing should be started without having prospect of succeeding, 34968.—There should be careful investigation before public money was expended, 34979-80.—Inquiry should be made by Congested Districts Board about Hilltown and Clonallen divisions, 34981.—But industry should only be started if there were a reasonable prospect of its thriving, 34982-3.

Migration.

If industries were not developed only alternative was migration, 34971.—Plan would be for four or six industrious young men, with their families, to migrate to same district in Meath or Westmeath; land which they left would be available for relieving congestion in neighbourhood, 34973-6, 35003-4.—There was splendid pasture land in Meath, 35005.—It ought to be good tillage land, 35006-7.—It had been suggested that it was better soil for grazing than for tillage, as it was heavy and hard to till, but that would probably only be difficulty for a year or two, 35008, 35011.—Farmers of districts would not have any objection to migrating in batches; they would not go individually, 35013-6.

Tillage.

Three-fourths to four-fifths of farms in County Down could be under tillage, 35018.—Rotation of crops was potatoes, oats and hay, 35019-35026.—Land was in pasture for three years, but had to be ploughed after that, as it would be overgrown with moss, 35019A.—First of three years would be upland hay, and other two years pasture, 35020.—When ploughed, oats would go in, 35022.—On small farms flax was sometimes grown; then rotation was oats, flax, potatoes, oats, hay and pasture for two years making seven years' rotation, while other was six, 35023-5—Flax had ceased to a great extent, but more had been sown that year than for ten years, 35025.—No land in County Down was permanently under grass, 35027.—On average farm of twenty acres, stock would be four milch cows, three to eight young stock, and a horse, 35028.—Grazing would have to be supplemented with oats and hay, 35029.—Some turnips were sown in poorer electoral divisions, 35030-1.

Cattle.

Large proportion of stock was sold to England and Scotland as yearlings; they were taken direct from port of Newry, 35033-8.—Greater proportion of cattle exported were two-year-olds; farmers from Meath bought yearlings to bring up, 35039.—Small holders could not live if there were no grazing farms in Ireland, 35040.—As average small holder could not keep stock on his farm much over a year old, 35041-35048.—England and Scotland were the chief markets, 35043.—Large farmers did not export yearlings, 35045.—If all large grazing farms were cut up, small holders would suffer, 35046.—As poverty compels them to sell their yearlings, 35049-50.—Even if they were better off, it would be a national calamity to do away with grazing farms, 35051.—If large numbers were migrated from district, and remaining holdings were enlarged, they could keep more stock, and keep them longer, 35053-4.—Graziers were really middlemen, taking middlemen's profits, so that it would be an advantage for them to disappear, 35055.—Want of capital and insufficient holdings were reasons why farmers could not keep cattle longer, 35058.—The larger the farm the longer the stock may be kept, unless farms are mountainous, 35066.—On good land large farmers finish their stock, 35067-8.—Fifty-acre and thirty-acre farmers could do it on good land by horse-feeding, 35068-71.

Fishermen and Firemen.

Some people in Newry district went to sea for a season, and were called firemen; they fished while crops were in the ground, 35061.—They fished three months of the year and farmed nine months, 35063.—The firemen were also away three or four months, going to America or England, 35064.

LOWRY, Rev. ANDREW.

Congestion.

Downshire, Batt, and Annesley Estates should all come within terms of reference of the Commission; prior to 1879 farmers along Mourne Mountains were very poor, and had to get charitable relief; in 1882 quite half of tenants were deeply in arrears; when Arrears Act was passed, Sitting for administration was procured at Hilltown; a Mr. Burchell, of Kilkenny, presided, and took over a week to get through evidence; land agents opposed claims, but were forced to withdraw, and all arrears were blotted out; now they were unable to meet liabilities owing to the low price of agricultural produce, 35074.—Unions referred to were Newry, Kilkeel, and Banbridge, 35075.—There was difficulty in getting benefit of Arrears Act for all, as payment of November gale of 1881 was a consideration of taking advantage of the Act, and they had difficulty in getting money; Marquis of Downshire's agent forgave the year's rent to many so that they might take advantage of Act, and landlord might get two years' rent, 35079.—Amount advanced under Act was £750,000, 35081.—These tenants of hill holdings who had reclaimed their lands while better land was occupied by English and Scotch settlers were now in nearly as bad a condition as they were when they got relief under Arrears Act, as they got only small relief from Land Court, 35082-6.—Only about 10 per cent. of the rent was not met by external sources; sometimes father, sometimes sons, went away to earn money to pay rent and other expenses, 35087-91.—The general indebtedness was due to hard times, competition from abroad, and low prices of agricultural produce, 35092.—Shop debts were high, 35093.—Land agents had opposed application of Arrears Act, they had written to the people three days before Act came into force, saying that gale due in November, 1881, would have to be paid; in those three days £100 to £150 were collected and lodged in Rathfriland Bank in order that tenants might qualify for advantages of Act, 35095-7.—Act was more advantage to landlord than to tenant, as he got two years' rent paid over to him, 35099.—Indebtedness to shopkeepers was an obstacle to fresh start after application of Arrears Act, 35101-2.—Hilltown Estate, part of Kilcoo, and part of Mayobridge were congested, but not scheduled; average valuation was £4 to £6, and size of holdings five to ten acres, 35109-11.—Even if farmers got their holdings for nothing, it would be impossible to earn a living out of them without external means, 35114-6.—Large agricultural holdings should not be first taken for relief of congestion, but large grazing farms, as tillage farms gave employment to more people, 35167-72.—Both parties in the State were agreed that congestion must be put an end to, 35206.—So Parliament must not shrink from obtaining means necessary to give effect to its policy, 35207.—In Hilltown Estate if portion of demesne were acquired for enlargement of holdings congestion would be relieved, though not got rid of, 35208-10.—Considerations why relief should be given in South Down were—(1) many of the poor people got relief under Leeds Relief Bill; (2) majority of tenants were under £10 valuation; (3) rent was not made out of land, but by sons and daughters of farmers in other lands; (4) railway facilities were needed; (5) evictions had been carried out for nonpayment of impossible rents; (6) in famine years, 1847-9, relief had to be administered in district distress was so great; (7) both Nationalist Unions of Newry and Downpatrick and Unionist Banbridge Unions were agreed that Commission should sit at Castlewellan to hear reasons for scheduling large portions of district; Sir Antony MacDonnell's statement that help would be forthcoming had filled the people with hope, 35211.

Migration.

As people could not get back lands of which they were formerly dispossessed, because they were now the property of others, they would have to leave their own county, 35117-9.—There were no grazing farms, all were agricultural, 35120-1.—It would be better to try and revive bleaching and other industries than to migrate the small farmers of Down to Meath, 35123-5.—Migration to Meath was a very far-fetched remedy, 35162.—Improvement of agriculture and development of industries in their own neighbourhood would make small men much more comfortable than migration, 35163-6.

LOWRY, Rev. ANDREW—*continued.*

Uneconomic Holdings.

Land could not be taken compulsorily from farmers on lower lands to improve holdings on upper lands, 35127-8.—Good purchase terms would render them more economic, and water power of the Bann would provide employment, 35129.—About 300 to 400 holdings had average valuation of £4 to £8, and they ought to have reduced annuities, for even small reduction was great consideration to very poor people, 35131-5.—Security of tenure under system of purchasing ownership would give impetus to exertion, 35136-7.—Even small reduction might make some of the boys and girls stay at home, 35138-9.—Instructors had been sent down from Mr. Plunkett's Department, but they did not reach the people, though they were open to improvement by up-to-date and scientific methods of treatment, 35141-2.—People were intelligent and willing to learn, 35143-4.—People referred to were those whose holdings were partly economic and partly uneconomic; reduction in rent was worth seeking, and ownership induced improvements, 35174-7.—The budget for the year was so small that even that reduction of even 10*s.* made impression on it, and reduction from £5 to £2 10*s.* would be a considerable advantage, 35178-82.

Industries.

Congested Districts Board should encourage industries, both by supporting present industries and starting or reviving others, 35146-7.—Now the people had to go to other countries to earn money, 35160-1.—And it was doubtful how long these external industries would continue, 35173.—Flax had formerly been the great staple industry of the North, but for many years it had ceased to be beneficial to the farmers; Belfast linen merchants were only giving 5*s.* 6*d.* and 6*s.* 6*d.* per stone, as against 10*s.* to 12*s.* in former times; they were importing Belgian flax and paying 12*s.* a stone for it; this depreciation had keenly affected both large and small farmers; granite quarry of Ballymagreghan could be made a thriving industry; stone for Albert Memorial in London had been taken from that quarry; if Messrs. M'Carten and Co., owners and managers, had polishing machinery and steam crane and tramway to port or railway, they could compete with Scotch and English quarries; railway tariff was prohibitive; some time before work had been stopped in this quarry and a large number of young tradesmen had to emigrate; they would return if the industry got a fair chance; stone was first-class, and only needed facilities in transit and up-to-date machinery to make it successful; there was iron ore industry in Decornet Mountains, a few miles from Castlewellan; thirty years ago it had been examined by experts, who pronounced it to be excellent ore; friendly Government could develop it, 35211.—Irish granite had to compete with granite from Aberdeen, Sweeden, and Russia; therefore it was very necessary that some public body should give it encouragement, that transit facilities should be increased, and that expert advice and assistance should be available, 35212-20.—Good livelihood could be made out of quarries if transit were improved; at present Scotch quarries could send to Dublin cheaper, 35222.—New Cathedral in Newry was being built of native granite, 35233.—Native workmen were dressing the stone, 35234.—Orders in hand could not be supplied for want of machinery; 200 or 300 men might be employed if they had polishing machinery, 35235.

Compulsion and Abolition of Zones.

Great need was for reduction between annuity and rent of small holders, 35148.—Zones should be done away with, 35149.—And compulsory clause should be inserted in Act, 35150.—Under zones there could be no inspection which was bad for tenants, 35151.—If loss resulted from carrying out compulsory policy, State ought to bear it, as State had been cause of misfortunes of the people in days gone by, 35152-4.—Mr. Balfour had said that land for which 24½ years' purchase was now asked was worth 14½ years' purchase, and better land had sold under Ashbourne Act for under 15 years' purchase, and witness agreed

LOWRY, REV. ANDREW—*continued.*

with Mr. Balfour's valuation, 35155-7.—If landlords' and tenants' valuations were different, and compulsion were applied, compromise would have to be arrived at, as it would work both ways, 35158-9.—Improvement in condition of people on uneconomic holdings could be brought about by abolition of zone system and establishment of inspection and compulsion, letting people become sole owners at just and fair price, and establishment of industries by Congested Districts Board, 35108.

FLOTATION OF LAND STOCK.

So far instalments had been paid punctually in County Down, and no money had been stopped from local grants owing to losses on flotation of stock, 35184.—As local authority was ultimately the security for payment of instalments, they should have a voice in connection with sale or purchase, 35185.—If Lord Downshire's estate, on which there was rental of £90,000, were sold at twenty years' purchase price would be £1,800,000, loss on flotation of stock would be £270,000; if local authority of County Down made itself responsible for that loss it would be a calamity, 35186-7.—Same might apply to other estates, so very serious state of affairs was created; people should be much more careful than they were as to bargains that they made, but they cared for nothing but present relief, 35189-90.—Shopkeepers and professional men of Ireland were as responsible for repayments as farmers; all classes concerned should have voice in negotiations, 35191-3.

LORD ANNESLEY'S ESTATES.

Parish of Leitrim was under Lord Annesley, and only good land on estate he took from tenants and added to his immense demesne; tenants had to pay high rent for poor land; general belief was that other landlords had agreed to wait and see how Downshire sale would end, so that they might demand same price, 35193.—About thirty-one tenants had been displaced in 1870 in order to add their land to demesne, 35195.—Area of demesne was probably as extensive as area of twelve townlands outside it, 35196. Portion of it was in timber and portion was used for grazing, 35198.—None of it was let as accommodation land to local tenants; part of a road had formerly been opened for convenience of tenants going to market, but that was now closed, and tenants had to go two or three miles round, 35199.—There was large area of congestion contiguous to this huge demesne, largely owing to consolidation of holdings in 1870, 35200-2.—Portion taken in 1870 might be used for improvement of holdings in neighbourhood, 35205.

PURCHASE OF ESTATES.

Sale of Downshire Hilltown Estate was being negotiated; purchase price demanded by Lord Arthur Hill and his agent was 24½ years' purchase, plus bonus; tenants had sent memorial to Estates Commissioners stating that they were unable to pay such a price, 35103-4.—Lord Arthur Hill's policy was to separate poorer portion of estate from richer and to make it a separate estate in order to get the bonus, 35105-7.—Poorer portion, who did not agree to terms, were afraid of being included, 35108.—Under Ashbourne Act six estates had been sold in district; one at thirteen years' purchase, others at fifteen; none more than sixteen; estate sold at thirteen years' purchase comprised better land than that for which 24½ was now asked, 35108.—It was evident that prices would be fixed too high, as parties were receiving and paying away somebody else's money for the moment; in interest of all concerned, a third impartial opinion should be taken before advance was made; under existing circumstances Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board could only question in limited number of cases, though, as Clinton sale had proved, some rents were not worth half the lowest zone price; Irish ratepayers who were responsible for payments, if purchasing tenants failed to pay instalments, were not allowed any voice in transaction, 35211.

TURBARY.

Bogs in this district were now almost exhausted, and this caused great loss and inconvenience, 35211.

LOWRY, REV. ANDREW—*continued.*

CANADIAN CATTLE.

If restrictions on importation of Canadian cattle were removed in near future it would be another cause of serious loss to tenant-farmers, already handicapped by competition from other countries, 35211.

EMIGRATION.

Emigration was not peculiar to Ireland, but it was only country in the world whose population was declining through emigration; in other countries surplus population was emigrating; even in Ulster emigration was as great as in South and West, 35226-30.

M'KENNA, VERY REV. CANON.

VALUATION AND RENTS OF COUNTY MONAGHAN.

Farms of County Monaghan were extremely highly rented, even after two judicial reductions; it was highest rented county in Ireland; reason was that valuation began in 1848, and Castleblayney, Newry, and Armagh Unions were last three finished in 1864 and 1865; prices of farm produce had gone up in intervening years, because of Crimean and American Civil Wars; agricultural valuation in Monaghan was £1 3*s*. 4*d*. per Irish acre; in Kildare £1 2*s*; one result was that rents were very high; in one case rent of five Irish acres was £6 7*s*. 1*d*. in 1844; in 1862 it was £7 18*s*. 11*d*.; in 1867 £11 18*s*. 8*d*.; now it was £5 15*s*.; there were eleven townlands in witness' parish, average height being 700 to 800 feet above sea-level, with cold climate, in which nothing progressed from middle of October to April; land rented at £1 an acre was only worth 19*s*., 35236-7.—Rent of one townland ninety years ago was 200 guineas; now, after second judicial lease, it was £126, a reduction of 40 per cent. on highest rent; about beginning of last century district was a good one for flax-growing, when ground was well cultivated; while that continued rents were increased, and never lowered after; in eleven townlands mentioned, comprising 35,000 acres, there were about 200 families; even second term rents were high; an evicted tenant named Duffy had been reinstated, but had never been able to make rent out of his holding, 35238.—Valuation was no test, as it was far too high; district would require special treatment by Congested Districts Board, or some other body, 35240.

INDUSTRIES.

Formerly there was a great deal of spinning, weaving, bleaching, and corn milling for wheat, 35240.—In 1876 corn-growing and milling were at lowest ebb, 35242.

TURBARY.

Loss of turbary had cleared out a great many people; in one case tenant had bog when rent was £2 15*s*., but when rent was raised to £4 10*s*. 0*d*. was taken away and he was charged 1*s*. a perch, afterwards being raised to 1*s*. 3*d*., and then 2*s*., 35243.—In case of 80 per cent. of people turf was exhausted, 35244.—For fuel they either cut rods or went a distance and paid 4*s*. 6*d*. a perch to people who had a few acres of bog, 35245.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND ABOLITION OF ZONES.

There should be compulsory purchase at a fair price, not on high second term rents; zones for poor land should be abolished, if not people would not be able to pay annuities; want of security was great obstacle to increased energy, for if a man failed to pay his rent all his property in the land was gone; witness gave examples to prove necessity for compulsory sale and inspection; at a certain sale, seventeen years before, inspector from Land Commission had refused to sanction price of some holdings, as they were uneconomic; afterwards agent had tried to coerce tenants into paying difference to landlords, which was illegal; one great benefit of sale was confidence and encouragement given by proprietorship; a man from Scotland purchased about one and a half acres of land which had been bog and built a good house on it. After a while he returned to Scotland,

M'KENNA, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

and house sold for £50; judicial lease had been 18*s.*, but landlord raised it to £1, and changed lease from present to future tenancy; case was taken to court, and judge made him present tenant at rent of £1; in another case same landlord wanted to change second-term judicial rents to first term rents, to increase purchase price; to save the people from such things compulsory purchase at a fair price was the only remedy, 35245.

Future Tenancies.

System of future tenancies was very objectionable; out of about 580 farmers in the parish 92 had purchased under Ashbourne-Balfour Acts, and 60 or 70, or more, were future tenants; most of these were in a terrible condition, as rack-rents of thirty years ago were perpetuated, and people could not get judicial leases; rent was paid by sons or daughters in America or elsewhere, 35245.

High Purchase Prices.

High purchase prices were caused by disproportion between supply and demand; few farms came into the market, and high prices were offered for these by people who had been out of Ireland but wished to spend their last days there; so they offered prices which farmers could not give; in one case farm was sold for £100 when buildings on it were worth £200; landlord claimed £25 or £30 because he had given timber and slates; £100 was all the tenant got; in another case young man had bought farm of ten acres for £145; rent was £9 5*s.*; purchase money would not pay for house and fences or unexhausted manure; it was a fallacy to suppose that high prices for farms was proof that land was valuable in Ireland, 35245.

M'EVOY, Mr. JOHN.

Agricultural Scheme of Department of Agriculture.

Scheme was working well through County Down, but poorest districts did not benefit, as people were too poor to purchase live stock; poor districts should be scheduled under Congested Districts Board, who might help with cattle-breeding stock, 35247.—Agricultural Department had now entire charge of all agricultural work, 35248-9.—Agricultural schemes in County Down gave assistance to Shows, assisted with cattle breeding, gave prizes for growing flax, best kept cottages, and best kept small farms, 35252.—There were no scheduled areas in County Down, so each electoral division contributed to agricultural rate, 35253-4.—Scheme had been prepared by Department of Agriculture to bring good to greatest number, but very poor could only benefit by fowl schemes, as they were too poor to benefit by others, 35255-7.—Premium boars were doing a great deal of good through the country, 35258.—As a rule cattle in Newry district were not finished there, but were either shipped to England or sold to large graziers from Meath or Westmeath at a year or a year and a half old, 35263.

Roads.

Good roads leading to markets would be great help; District Council was unable to entertain applications because of want of funds, 35250.

Tillage.

Witness did not agree with statement that three-fourths or more of farm land in County Down was under tillage, 35262, 35266-7.

QUIN, Very Rev. Canon.

Congestion.

South Armagh was as congested as any place in Ireland except the Rosses of Donegal, parts of Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, and Kerry, and should receive benefits of Congested Districts Board; in Camlough tenants had bought out under different Acts, 35270.—Average valuation of holdings in South Armagh was less than £4; most were from £4 down to £1; mountain regions were all congested; Lower Few was not congested; even if people got land in congested portions for nothing they could not make living out of it, 35273.—South Armagh should be scheduled as congested, 35274-35276.—Witness considered this Commission, as important as Bessborough Commission before Act of 1881, and hoped it would have far-reaching results, 25275.—Congested Districts Board would be more serviceable and profitable to South Armagh than Estates Commissioners, 35277.

Land Purchase.

Witness had negotiated for nearly 3,000 tenants directly with landlords and agents; recently Captain Alexander's estate at Forkhill had been purchased; there were 692 holdings; 559 of these were rented under £4, and down to £2 and £1; 113 holdings ranged from £4 to £10; about twenty were above £10; Johnson Estate, alongside, had 250 holdings; of these 207 were under £4, forty-three between £4 and £10, and two above £10; on Littledale estate, out of sixty-seven holdings, fifty-nine were under £4, and eight between £4 and £10, 35271.—All these were sold; but Richardson's estate, close to Bessbrook, though sold, was not yet signed; average was much the same; on some estates near Crossmaglen average would be less, 35272.—Prices had gone up very much under Act of 1903; about six or seven years ago witness had negotiated purchase of Rev. Mr. Glenny's estate at Warrenpoint; seventeen years' purchase was given on second-term rents; Mrs. Quinn's estate was purchased at same rate, 35305.—Alexander's Estate was purchased, after two years' negotiations, under Act of 1903, at 22½ years' purchase; Listurgan sold at 23½ years' purchase, Mr. Richardson's at 20¾ years' purchase on first term rents; Mr. Littledale's sold at 23 years' purchase; bonus in addition to all these; for good land 24½ years' purchase was equitable, but extravagant for congested land; good lands had sold, and landlords were holding out for high prices on bad lands; if congested districts were not dealt with soon there would be greater row than in 1881; witness suggested no bonus on sales of 24½ years' purchase, but on 18 years' purchase there should be a bonus of about 20 per cent.; 22 years' purchase should receive 14 or 15 per cent.; if this were done, congested areas would soon be sold, 35312.—Bad lands always had small holdings, 35313.—So bonus should be regulated in inverse ratio to quality of land, 35317.—Congested areas should be treated specially favourably, instead of being blocked, as they were, owing to landlords asking extravagant prices; Mr. Sproule, of Sperrin, County Tyrone, was offering his estate at 27¾ years' purchase, reserving the shooting; witness had bought best land from him at 24½ years' purchase, 35318.—Landlord should not lose, and tenant should not lose; State should make up deficiency, 35319-21.—The lower the price, the higher the bonus ought to be, 34322-3.—In sales in his district witness had found tenants, generally speaking, reasonable, but landlords were not; as an example, Colonel Hutcheson Poë, of County Tyrone, was asking 26¼ years' purchase for a bogland estate nine miles from a railway, although the Hope Estate adjoining, the largest in the county, had been sold at seventeen years' purchase; he was finally offered 22½ years' purchase, but refused it; other landlords also refused to sell, and end would be a fight between landlords and tenants; Mr. Boyd, agent from Letterkenny, objected to Estates Commissioners fixing rent, as they represented State, which advanced the money; tribunal ought quickly to be appointed for settlement of the question; once the land question was settled all other things would follow, 35323-4.

Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners.

It was disadvantage to have two Boards doing same class of work in same county, 35278.—If new Bill passed Congested Districts Board would have new powers, which they ought to have, as they had done good work, 35279.—Witness would advocate handing over South Armagh to Board, 35280.—Both

QUIN, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

bodies should co-operate in working for the good of Ireland, 35281.—Board should be confined to area where there was congestion; Commissioners should keep to non-congested areas, 35282.—Estates Commissioners had many functions besides the relief of congestion, 35285.

Migration—Industries.

Large grazing farms of Louth and Meath might be cut up for purposes of migration; but people of those districts might well object that they had plenty of poor people who had been evicted in 1847 and later, who had the first claim on those lands; witness maintained that there was no need for migration if industries were established and encouraged, 35287.—In Bessbrook there was a mill that employed 2,600 girls—only very few men were employed as mechanics; about 1874 Bessbrook quarries were in working order and paying out £1,000 a week; Mr. Richardson had let the quarries to a man named Sturgeon for ten years, at £100 a year; they had never been worked since; they could now be re-opened, as lease was up, and they were back in Mr. Richardson's hands, 35287.—Mr. Sturgeon had leased quarries with object of preventing competition against his own quarries in Newry, 35288-92.—In Lislea district there was a good quarry—if developed it would give employment to 200 or 300 hands; stone was excellent for setts, as it was very hard, and, if properly worked, it would give employment in neighbourhood, and prevent necessity for migration, 35293.—There were skilled workers belonging to neighbourhood; all that was wanted was capital, 35295-305.—Bonus on output for the year would be a good way of encouraging the quarries, 35305.—Shirt-making had been established in Mullaghbawn, and Father Johnston had undertaken to work it out; branch had also been established in Dundalk, but had failed; Mullaghbawn industry was now giving employment to eighty or a hundred girls, earning from eight to ten shillings a week; in Crossmaglen a crochet and other needlework industry had been started by Very Rev. Canon M'Geehy, and that employed from one hundred to two hundred; if these and similar industries were developed they would be more comfortable at home than if they migrated to Meath or Louth, 35305.

M'GUILL, Mr. JAMES.

Congestion.

District south of Newry was congested; in Forkhill Electoral Division average valuation of townland of Carrigans was £3 8*s.*, and of Cloughcara £3 12*s.*; in Jonesboro' division average valuation of Carrickbraad was £3 18*s.*, of Drominta £4 2*s.*; in Killeavy division Townahawn had £3 13*s.*, and Bellinliss £4 7*s.*, and in Lathbergt division Lathbergt townland was £2 18*s.*, and Maphoner £2 13*s.*, and Tullamacrene £4 1*s.*; land for migration was wanted to relieve congestion in these places, 35325.—In these districts there were no areas which could be taken for enlargement of holdings, 35326-8.—And four electoral districts of Forkhill, Killeavy, Jonesboro' and Lathbergt should be scheduled, as in Forkhill 82 per cent. of the holdings were under £10 valuation, in Jonesboro' 85 per cent., and in Killeavy 81 per cent., 35332-3.—In Lathbergt nearly 90 per cent. of holdings were under £10 valuation; these districts should be scheduled in order to have uneconomic holdings attended to, 35334-5.

Drainage.

Arterial drainage would make more land available, as there was much wet lowland, 35329-30.

Valuation.

Holdings with average valuation of £3 8*s.* to £4 1*s.* would yield per head valuation of from 14*s.* to 16*s.*, 35338.—Dividing valuation by population would get about 30*s.* per head valuation, 35339.

BELL, Mr. W. R.

Congestion.

Southern portion of County Armagh was poorest part of county, Jonesboro, Killeavy, Forkhill, Lathbergt; county schemes worked well in better portions of county, but in poorer portions premium bulls had not been taken up at all, and these areas were scheduled; assistance might be obtained, 35340.—As Department would have supplemental schemes for them, 35343.—In electoral divisions of Jonesboro' and Killeavy area was 13,852 acres, including 3,000 acres of mountain, and population was 4,482; in other districts population was as dense, 35369.

Cattle Breeding, etc.

In poorer parts bulls could not be obtained; finally Department lent £60 for purchase of a bull, about three years ago, and it had done much good, 35342.—Witness handed in maps showing portions of district without premium bulls, as people were too poor to buy them; also reports of working of schemes, 35373-4.—Boards of Guardians had purchased good boars, and were in that way improving breed of pigs, 35344.—Horse-breeding had suffered badly, as until this year Department had refused to subsidise half-bred hunter sires; they had now, however, agreed to do it, 35344.

Itinerant Instructors and Experimental Plots.

Itinerant instructors were doing much good in district; they stayed about three weeks in one place, and young and middle-aged farmers attended and received valuable instruction; experimental plots had so far not been a great success; a better plan would be to have several months' continuous instruction; but it took twelve months to get round county, 35345-56.

Industries.

Mullaghbawn Shirt Factory had been assisted by County Committee; salaries of two instructresses from Manchester had been paid by them, 35356.—Poultry-breeding had greatly improved; local shows gave prizes to encourage the people to improve stock, 35357.—Egg stations had been a success, 35359.—Scheme was similar to that carried out by Congested Districts Board in West of Ireland, 35361.—New blood had to be constantly introduced, or breed of poultry would not improve, 35363-6.—Flax-growing had been revived in southern portion of county; County Committee offered prizes for flax, and there were 180 entries last year, 35368.—New industries should only be subsidised for a time, they should then succeed on their own merits, 35370.—Mullaghbawn Shirt Factory had been subsidised by Armagh County Committee until it was well started, 35371-2.

LENNON, Mr. JOHN.

Means of Transit.

Road-making should be encouraged, and railway should be constructed from Newry to Castlewellan, *via* Mayobridge and Hilltown, 35377.

Land Purchase.

Witness knew estate which was sold before Act of 1903 at fifteen years' purchase; another estate was offered since Act of 1903, and landlord wanted 27¾ years'; farmers desired to become owners at fair price; there should be inspection in all cases, 35377.

Tillage on Witness's Farm.

Witness farmed about seventy acres, with valuation of £41, 35376.—Witness tilled all his farm except four or five acres, 35379.—Good deal of land was reclaimed, and rotation of crops was observed; cattle were stall-fed on a small scale, but that was not general practice in neighbourhood, 35381-90.—Stock carried was about five milch cows, four two-year-olds, five or six year-olds, and three horses, 35392.—Witness bred his own two-year-olds, and kept them beyond that if he did not need money, 35393-8.—There was enough manure made, with the addition of artificial manure, 35399-400.

LENNON, Mr. JOHN—*continued*.

Compulsion.

Compulsion should be on landlord as to selling price and on tenant at a fair price, 35401-2.—If landlord and tenant disagreed as to value, Inspector, or some tribunal, would have to settle price, 35403-4.

O'HARE, Mr. JOHN.

Itinerant Instructors of Department of Agriculture.

Lectures held under auspices of Department had been, as a rule, failures, as they were not attended by the people whom they were meant to benefit; the instruction was too technical and impractical, and only young boys came to amuse themselves, though in a limited way some spirit of inquiry had been roused among some farmers, 35405.—Witness's quarrel was with the system, not with instruction, 35406.—He did not agree with Mr. Bell's evidence that lectures had done much good, 35411-14.—Lectures might be made useful if properly conducted, 35415.—Theory should be largely supplemented by practical demonstrations, 35418-23.

Congestion.

District should be scheduled as congested, as roads were bad, peat was scarce, and there were no industries; even granite quarries had ceased to give employment to large numbers of workers; rates were high; Department of Agriculture required one penny in the pound, which was spent on unsuccessful instruction, but could be much better spent by Congested Districts Board on development of industries, 35423.—Holdings were mostly small, and nearly all the farmers had sons and daughters in America; Corrags townland had area of 570 acres, valuation £376 10*s*., average about £4·70; Burren had area of 740 acres, valuation £495, average £4·80 per head; Carrickmacstay, area 515 acres, valuation £299 1*s*., average £4·30, 35431.—These conditions were reproduced in other townlands; Turmonbarry was even worse, as valuation was only £2·15, 35435.—Whole of Warrenpoint Rural was not so bad as that, but many townlands were quite as bad, 35436-39.

Industries.

If Congested Districts Board took charge of district, industries should be started, 35423.—Instruction in such industries as lacework, machine-knitting and "homespuns" should be given; encouragement should be given to brick-making, as clay seemed good; waste portions should be planted with trees, as that would add warmth to district, and there would be value of timber, 35440-4.

Agricultural Teaching in National Schools.

In 1900 teaching of agriculture was taken out of National Schools and handed over to Department, but it would be much greater advantage for it to be taught in Primary Schools, 25426-7.—School gardens should be attached to schools, 35428.—Or boys should have opportunity of studying on lands of practical farmers, 35429-31.

Emigration.

Over one-third of grown-up people had gone away to England, Scotland, or America to earn their living; some came back, but the majority did not, 35432-4.

Land Purchase.

Recently negotiations for sales had been going on in district, but landlords and tenants had been unable to come to terms, 35440.

Compulsion.

It would be fair to compel landlords to sell at reasonable rates; best land should sell at twenty-four or twenty-five years' purchase, but poor land at much less; if bad land were not reduced, annuities could not be paid, and county at large would be responsible, which would be ruinous, 35448-9.

MURPHY, Rev. R. J.

Congestion.

Entire barony of Lower Mourne was congested district under definition of Land Act of 1903; from Newcastle, at one end, to Kilkeel river at the other, as two-thirds of all holdings in townlands in Union of Kilkeel were of £5 or under, 35450-1.—Electoral divisions were Mullertown and Ballykeel, 35452.—Total number of holdings was 1,381, of which 1,018 were rated at £5 and under, 35453.—In townland of Magheragh there were seventy-nine holdings, thirty-eight under £5 and forty-one over, 35454.—In Upper Mourne, from Kilkeel to Causeway Water, bordering Kilbroney, down to Greencastle, there were forty townlands, and all were congested, but not to same extent as Lower Mourne, 35455-9.—Causeway Water was four miles outside Rostrevor, 35460.—In Upper Mourne holdings totalled 1,697, including mountain and lowland, 894 were £5 and under, 35463.—In mountain district there were 605 holdings, 387 were from £5 down, 35464.—In Lower Mourne there were not forty holdings over £10, only fourteen over £20, 35465.—Most land in both districts was poor, damp, and moory, being all reclaimed, and still requiring draining and limeing, 35467.—All reclamation had been done by tenants, whose rent was raised as soon as they improved the land, 35468.—There was no limestone, it was five or six miles away on little islands near Greencastle, 35469-70.—There was no untenanted land for enlargement of holdings and people would not migrate, 35473.—If district were scheduled under Congested Districts Board fishermen would be benefited, land would be reclaimed, and industries fostered, 35475.

Drainage.

Arterial drainage was not required, 35478.—But farm drainage was; people themselves did not do it, because they worked at the stone trade, and it would not pay them to leave that and spend their time in reclaiming the land, 35479-82.—If Congested Districts Board took charge of the work the people of the holdings would help, 35483-5.—If stone trade failed they would have better land if drainage were carried out, 35486-88.—Land was cold and must be drained first and limed afterwards, 35495.—Prize system might encourage people to drain their own farms, but if it interfered with their other work they would not heed the prizes, 35498.—Grant proportionate to the expense would be much more effective, 35502.—If public body helped in this way, people had sufficient agricultural education to make most of the holdings, 35504-5.—If drainage were carried out, people would have holdings to fall back upon if stone quarrying failed; it was disappearing, as Belfast Waterworks had got power of catchment over large area, 35513.

Industries.

In summer men earned eighteen shillings to one pound by working at kerbstone in the quarries; the sett-workers earned twenty-five shillings a week; some years ago they earned £3 per week, 35489.—Ordinary quarrymen earned fourteen shillings a week, 35490.—Quarries that remained now, after Belfast Waterworks catchment, were surface quarries, hard to get at, and with poorer stone, 35514-6.—They were closed in 1902-3, 35517.—Women were engaged in lettering handkerchiefs in their own homes, earning only two or three shillings a week, working from morning till night, 35510-2.—Granite setts were shipped from Annalong, 35527.—People of Lower Mourne worked in the quarries, 35528.—People of Upper Mourne depended on the mountain sheep, 35529.—Mountain grazing belonged to Lord Kilmorey, who let it to some tenants at sixpence per head for sheep, 35530.—County Council helped in cattle-breding and stock had improved, 35508.

Emigration.

There was marked increase of emigration since 1902-3, 35518.—It was much greater than in closing years of last century, 35520.

Turbary.

Valuable peat moss had been lost to the people by closing of the catchment between Newcastle and Kilkeel, thus reducing fuel supply; people had got very little compensation and had now to buy expensive coal, 35521-6.

Land Purchase.

Most of the small holdings of district had been sold through Estates Commissioners at from twenty-one to twenty-four years' purchase, though final settlement had not yet been made, 35531.—Mountain sold at 20 years' purchase and was put under a Committee of Tenants, 35532-3.—Tenants had not received vesting orders and landlord had not received money, so farmers were peasant proprietors, paying interest on purchase, 35534-5.—Small farmers could not do without mountain to graze sheep, 35536.—Sporting rights on mountain were reserved by landlord, 35537. —Trustees would engage herd for the mountains and tenants would pay so much per head for sheep, 35538.—Committee of Trustees had been nominated and sent to Land Commission, 35539.—There had been inspection, as all the tenants had not agreed to buy at the price, twenty-one to twenty-four years' purchase, so estate had to be valued by Estates Commission, 35543-6.—It had not been represented to Commissioners that much of estate was congested, 35547.—They were waiting for their decision regarding the one-fourth minority who did not agree to buy, 35548.—Tenants had had no rights to the mountain, which was let by landlord to a certain man, who sub-let it for sheep-grazing at so much per head, 35550-5.—After sale mountain would belong to tenants as a whole, and trustees would represent tenant and landlord; they would decide number of sheep to be allowed and price per head, 35556.—Payment for sheep would pay annuity for whole mountain after purchase, 35558, 35566.—Trustees were to be responsible to Estates Commissioners for payment of annuity on purchase-money, 35563.—There would be a general vesting order to trustees of tenants, 35565.—Tenants would be responsible, through trustees as their agents; if sheep went down trustees had power to resign, 35567-71.—This mountain included whole of Barony of Mourne Mountains, 35572.—If there were surplus after annuity was paid trustees would be bound to refund to tenants, 35573.—As agreement to that effect would have to be made, 35574.—If there were a struggle between trustees and tenants, trustees would have to give in, 35576-8.—Sheep-rearing was probably as lasting an industry as farming, 35579.—Tenants acquired prospective right for grazing on mountain after signing agreement, 35582.—Though definite agreement as to number of sheep to be grazed was not made, 35584.

Reclamation of Land.

There was no untenanted land for enlargement of holdings, and people would not migrate as they were too much attached to their holdings, but many holdings might be improved if waste land was reclaimed, 35585-90.—Waste land that might be reclaimed was that from the foot of the mountain down to the valley, heather, stones, and moor, but if people had other work to do it would not be worth while trying to reclaim this, 35591-7.

Railways.

People far from a market town suffer for want of transit facilities; this would be remedied if line were made to Kilkeel, or from Mourne to Newry, 35598-9. —There was railway from Newry to Warrenpoint; extension to Rostrevor would greatly benefit fisheries also, 35602-3.—Railway had been mapped out, but nothing came of it, 35604-5.

Fisheries.

Large number of men depended on fishing for a living, white fish in winter and herring in summer; but fisheries were declining, 35606.—Steam trawling had destroyed the winter fishing, 35608.—Consequently about one hundred fishermen go to Scotch summer fishing, 35609.—Questions had been asked in Parliament about the trawling, 35614-9.—Trawlers fished within three-mile limit, coming at night, and making off quickly, and Fishery Board had not taken steps to prevent it, 35615-8.—Mr. Green, head of Fishery Department, had been told about it; he came to Wrackfort to inquire into need for safe slip for boats, and, though he promised help for both, nothing had yet been done, 35620-5, 35628-30.—Annalong used to be port for these fishermen, but it was now used by coasters taking away stone from congested areas, and fishermen could not get in, 35626.—Congested Districts Board could not help with regard to better tackle and boats, only Fishery Department could give assistance of that kind, 35635-6.—Making of slip at Wrackfort was most important consideration, £200 was needed, 35638.

Agricultural Department.

Chief good done by Department was improvement of live stock; people were beginning to see that benefits offered by Department were worth considering, 35639-42.

GREENE, Mr. CHARLES E.

Congestion.

In electoral divisions of Castlewellan land was rough, rocky, and mountainous, and population was declining; they should be treated as congested, to enable advances to be made for improvement of dwellings, etc.; of small occupiers under £20 valuation, 40 per cent. of money so advanced should be free gift; remainder should be re-payable on easy terms, 35644.

Fisheries.

Fishermen of Ardglass, Killough, Strangford and Portaferry needed help to procure good fishing boats and gear, as profits of fisheries were all being secured by Scotch, Manx, and Arklow boats; coastline from Dundrum to Cloughey should be scheduled in order to give this assistance, 35646.—Coast should even be scheduled as far as Donaghadee, 35649-51.—Mr. H. M'Grath, of Portaferry, and Mr. E. M'Quaid, of Ardglass, had sent in statements; former was particularly acquainted with fishing requirements, and had done all he could to assist in developing them, but all the money that had been secured from Department since 1899 was £138, for erection of small pier at Portaferry, 35653.—Mr. Green had offered loans under Fishermen's Loans Act, but people had not been able to accept, as security was required, and they could not get it; fishermen complained greatly of depredations of trawlers and inadequate protection; they asked that three-mile limit might be extended to five, 35656-7.—Share system enabled poor men to get boats; security was not required, and boat remained property of public body giving it out; instalments were repayable as fishery progressed, 35658-62.—Scheme of insurance had been started to protect Department against loss of boats, 35665.

Improvement of Holdings.

Improvement of housing accommodation was greatly needed; money could be borrowed from Board of Works, but proportion of what was required should be free gifts, for which there was precedent in Labourers Act, 35665.—Small farmers under £5 valuation needed assistance as much as labourers, 35666-8. —Labourers' cottages were being erected in Downpatrick Rural District, but small farmers should not be neglected, 35671.—In district where holdings were small there was not same opening for labourers' cottages as where holdings were large, 35674.—In small holding districts inducements ought to be given for improvement of houses, 35676.—Prizes were offered to cottagers under County Scheme, but not to small occupiers, 35677.—Labourers Act was one of most beneficial Acts ever passed, 35679.—Corresponding advantages should be extended to small farmer class, 35680.—Subsidy would be better than prize scheme, 35681-2.

Valuation and Population.

Schedules showing decrease in population since 1881, and valuation of electoral divisions of Castlewellan, Dunmore, Rosconnor, and Seaforde, 35686.

Industries.

In district there was iron ore of good quality, and in Dundrum there was said to be coal, lead, and silver mine; in Kilbeggan there was coal deposit; if these were developed emigration would be prevented, 35686.—If money were given to start, and give necessary instructions, capital would probably

GREENE, Mr. CHARLES E.—*continued.*

be found in district; only industry at present was Castlewellan Quarry; it needed development and up-to-date machinery; it could then employ ten times as many people as at present, 35688.—Iron ore had been shipped to North of England not more than ten years before, 35690.

DONNELLY, Rev. J. J.

Fisheries.

Ardglass had formerly about 400 fishing boats, and annual value of fish was about £60,000; now earlier taking of fish prevented herring fully maturing, and reputation of Ardglass was affected, 35693, 35710-11, 35713, 35772.—Fishermen said there should be a close season for Ardglass from 1st January to 25th May, as fishing was being threatened with total destruction owing to invasion of Scotch and English fleets before fish was fully matured, 35693, 35702, 35713, 35760, 35775, 35778.—Trawlers were doing much damage along the Ardglass coast, notwithstanding efforts of Government to prevent their coming within three-mile limit, 35693, 35774, 35782.—Steam trawlers were all owned by foreigners, 35746.—Trawling limit should be increased from three miles to six miles, as in consequence of natural ditch formed by tides at Dundrum Bay within three-mile limit, fish congregated there, and trawling tore up these shoals, 35693, 35760, 35779.—Extension of three-mile limit was an international question, 35703,.—Government made periodical inquiries, but nothing ever came of them, 35693, 35699, 35700, 35759.—Questions had also been asked in Parliament, but with no result, 35698, 35755.—About thirty-five years ago Government had spent about £25,000 in erecting a quay, but the work was incomplete, because a dangerous rock called Churn Rock had not been removed; fishermen were very much afraid of this rock; they asked that it should be removed, 35693, 35704.—Representations about Churn Rock had been brought before Department of Agriculture, but with no result, 35721.—Not much money was required to remove it, and it would not in any way damage the pier, as it was quite detached, and did not protect the harbour, 35722-35.—Ardglass was fishing market for Cloughey Harbour, Portavogie, and Kilkeel, 35693.—Curing station would be a great benefit to the fishermen, 35693, 35705-7.—Nets with large mesh and nets with small mesh would be required if close season was not established, as they could then compete with English and Scotch fishermen by beginning fishing as early as they did, 35693, 35704, 35772, 35778.—Formerly three steam-boats plied between England and Ardglass, and herring sold for from £1 to £2 per mease; now average price was 7*s.* 6*d.* per mease, 35707.—Scotch and English boats made good business of fishing, because they had good boats and could follow fish round in any weather, 35709-12.—If Ardglass men had same class of boats they also could follow fish round, 35713.—About 100 Northern Irish boats fished in Ardglass Harbour, 35736-8.—Fishermen were very anxious to get larger boats and to have machinery which Scotch and English boats had for hauling up nets, 35745.—Only twelve boats belonged to people of Ardglass, out of all that fished in the harbour, 35749.—Ardglass men depended on sea for livelihood; during winter months they sailed, 35714.—They started preparing boats in March, and season ended in October; then they became sailors in foreign vessels, 35765.—Formerly they were able to make good living during winter by white fishing, but steam trawlers had destroyed that, 35767-8.—They now began fishing in March or April, but their nets were not small enough to begin as early as Scotch and English boats, 35770-72.—Formerly towards end of season fish were caught about ten miles out; now they had to go out thirty miles, 35774.—Even if limit of trawling was extended, men would have to go to sea in winter if white fishing were not successful, 35782.—Removal of coastguard stations from Ballyharnon and Killard had been very bad for fishermen, as trawlers were more daring than ever, 35782-3.

DONNELLY, Rev. J. J.—*continued.*

Congestion.

Portavogie should be limit of scheduled district, not Cloughey, as that was quite as needy district, 35699.

MORROW, Mr. ANDREW.

Agricultural Schemes.

Itinerant instructor held classes and conducted experiments all over country; there were about 100 experimental plots; agricultural classes were held in Downpatrick and Banbridge, 35785.—There were also poultry, horticulture and bee schemes; shows were subsidised, and there were schemes for small farmers and for cottages erected under Labourers Acts, 35786.—Small holdings scheme was divided into three classes, labourers' cottages, holdings under £25 and holdings under £50, prizes of fruit trees and potatoes to value of 12*s.* 6*d.* were given for best-kept labourer's cottage in Downpatrick Union, 35787-8.—£5 holdings were classed under £25 valuation, as very few entered under lower classification, 35790, 35809-11.—Experimental plots were seed tests; people were much interested; report of 1906 was much sought after, 35792-5.—Average attendance at classes was thirty to forty farmers or farmers' sons, 35796-7.—Kilkeel Rural District had fared worse than rest of county under schemes; it was difficult to get anyone to keep a bull, as district was so poor, 35799-800.—Poor districts should have more help than rich ones, if money was available, 35803.—Supplementary scheme, independent of general scheme, should be arranged and worked through County Committee, 35804-5.—Department had special powers in scheduled areas to aid County Committee, 35807.—Special attention should be paid to poorer districts in agriculture and industries, and larger proportionate grant made to them, 35808.—Labourers' Cottage Competition included cottage with garden of one statute acre, 35812-3.—There was no class between that and £25 valuation, 35814.—In labourers' classes there were ten or twelve entries for three or four prizes, 35815.—When next class was fixed below £15 valuation there were so few entries that it was decided to raise it to £25, 35820-3.—Scheme for £50 valuation was well advertised in eleven newspapers, 35826.—County Committee held meetings in Belfast, 35827.—Royal Ulster Agricultural society was for whole of Ulster, 35829.—Only Antrim and Down subscribed to it, 35830.—Sum at disposal of County Committee for whole county was about £3,400, 35831.—Flax scheme had been put out, as it was not successful; there was prize for best scutched flax, but when it was brought to market only two men would buy; nobody would give proper price for good, well-cleaned flax, 35835-42.—It was worth two or three shillings a stone more than the people got for it, 35839.—Flax cultivation would increase if proper prices were paid, 35836.—There were markets at Castlewellan, Rathfriland, and Newry, 35844.—Prices were not regulated by quality and clearness; buyers would not give proper prices, 35845-6.

Technical Classes.

Manual instruction was given, and there were domestic economy classes, 35847.—Carpentry work was taught in evenings, under supervision of practical man, 35848.—There were two sets of tools, and classes lasted for six weeks—three nights at one class and three at another, 35850.—Upper and Lower Mourne had had no classes so far, as all centres had not yet been visited, 35851-2—Only difficulty in poor districts was to get places to hold classes in; in poor district near Mayobridge class was held in National School; in Mayobridge and Killorin successful domestic economy classes were held, 35853.—Manuel instruction scheme had been tried for three years, 35854.—There were four agricultural and three technical instructors, 35855.—But only one manual instructor, 35856.—Witness thought itinerant instruction one of best things that had ever come into county, 35859.—Instructor had begun last year at Dromara and Hillsborough, and then went on to Ballinahinch and Crossgar, 35862-5.—Wheelbarrows, plain gates, anything belonging to farms were made at classes, and

MORROW, Mr. ANDREW—*continued.*

pupils learnt how to handle tools, 35872-5.—Classes were principally attended by farmers' sons, also labourers' sons, in Hillsborough and Dromara, 35876. —If there were more tools and benches instructor could double his classes, 35877.—Domestic economy classes had been started at Kilkeel, and instruction was also being given in embroidery and drawn thread work, 35878.—Classes had also been held at Rostrevor and Hilltown, 35879.—There was one instructress, and about seven centres, 35881.—Technical scheme was small one—£200 from Department and £100 from county, 35882.—Preliminary training of manual instruction should be given in National schools, 35883.

FISHING.

Mr. M'Grath had sent up strong resolution to Fishery Commissioners as to slip, giving boats on share system, and trawling off County Down; Department had answered that they could not help, and that County Down got fair proportion of protection against trawling by the "Helga," 35824.

M'ALEENAN, Mr. JOHN.

CONGESTION.

Witness's knowledge confirmed evidence given by Father Murphy and by Father Lowry, in Newry, as to congestion in Lower Mourne; not one-fifth of holdings were life-supporting; land was very poor, and no improvement of holdings would enable holders to live on them without other means of existence, 35887.

INDUSTRIES.

Poorness of soil was compensated for by natural resources in way of mines and minerals; if they were developed there would be occupation for all; people were enterprising and would take shares if industries could be opened up; there were quarries at Castlewellan and Hilltown; latter granite was cheaper and inferior, and it was difficult to place it on market owing to difficulties of transport, 35887.—If modern machinery were erected local effort would find half cost, if Government gave other half, and demand for stone would be increased without reducing demand for labour, 35888-92.—There was no local capital available, as men who had money had no knowledge of quarrying, 35893.—Dundrum was port for shipping stone; Newcastle would be more convenient if railway continued to pier; railway from Newry through Hilltown would tap quarries and deliver at the sea, 35896. —It should come from Mayobridge, between Hilltown and Rathfriland, across the Bann River down to Burren Bridge, 35897.—Good building sand was found at Hilltown, if it could be cheaply conveyed to Belfast there would be market for it, 35898.—Light railway would give cheap and easy transit, 35899.—Dechomet Mountain Mines had been worked by an English company for some years, but they could not make it pay owing to cost of transit, 35899-902.—New railway from Banbridge to Castlewellan ran near it, and it might be worth while trying to restart it, 35902-4.—Landlords often stood in way of development of industries by demanding unfair rents, 35904.—Under Act of 1903, mines and minerals became vested in Estates Commissioners, and could be used in interests of public for public purposes; but that was not the rule for estates sold under Ashbourne Act, 35905-8.—The ore of this mine was excellent, and it ought to pay if properly started, and with transit facilities, 35909-19.—Quarries were not working, first, because of want of proper transit facilities, secondly, because of want of proper machinery; if these were supplied they could compete with Scotland and elsewhere, 35923-35.—If Government or reliable company took quarries in hand there would probably be some local capital found, 35937-41.—No representations had been made to Department of Agriculture in Dublin respecting these quarries, 35942.

MULLAGHAN, Rev. D.

CONGESTION.

In parish of Kilcoo there were 783 rated valuations; about 500 of these, or 63 per cent., did not reach over £5; if crops failed or friend in America or Great Britain did not send home money people were reduced to misery; not twenty per cent. of farmers of district subsisted on products of land, 35944. —They depended on earnings from children abroad; money made by women of family at embroidery, etc., and sheep grazing; latter industry was threatened because of large catchment areas made over to Belfast Water Companies, without compensation to tenants, 35945.—No arrangement had been made in leases about tenants' right to mountain grazing, but it had been custom for many years, 35946-7.—Belfast Waterworks had appropriated large areas; also Portadown Water Company had done so; some portions had been walled in, 35950-51.—This would affect a great number of sheep farmers, 35952.—There were no large farms in neighbourhood that could be divided for enlargement of small holdings; even if there were farmers would want to divide them among their own children; even as it was, sub-division was going on, and there was danger of as great congestion as ever, 35962-4.

RAILWAYS.

Light railway being made from Newry, by Hilltown, Kilcoo, and Castlewellan, would be of great benefit to district, 35953.—No railway company had been approached with regard to new line required to develop iron ore and quarry industries; Great Northern Company would not favour it as they had a railway from Newry by Scarva, Banbridge, and Portadown in to Newcastle; if line were made it would be a success because of freightage and summer passenger traffic to Newcastle, 35965-8.

DRAINAGE.

Considerable portion of land lay under water for from two to four months of the year, notably in Slievenamore district, which could be reclaimed if river were sunk; some proprietors were prepared to contribute £50 if work were done, 35953.—It was no use playing at the work, it would have to be done thoroughly if done at all, 35954.

RE-AFFORESTING.

Planting trees on rough portions of district should be tried to replace timber cut down, 35954.—If planted thinly sheep might be admitted to graze through them in a few years; tenants thought they could combine planting and grazing, 35956-61.

MURRAY, Mr. PATRICK.

STATUS OF WITNESS.

Witness's valuation was £37 10*s*., acreage 38 statute; he had valued land for twenty-five years for Land Courts, 35970.—He had been asked to value for landlords, but did not, as they refused to take his valuation, 35973.

CONGESTION.

District from Loughislandreavy Mountains down to Ballynahinch should be scheduled, 35974.—It comprised twenty-five townlands in Banbridge and Downpatrick Unions, 35975.—Castlewellan and Lotallion were two of the electoral divisions, 35976.—In townland of Clanvarraghan there were 1,242 acres, valuation £718, under £2 twenty holdings; under £5, 32; under £10, 21; under £20, 8; under £30, 3, and only witness's over £30, 35977.—Lord Annesley had bought wooded portion of estate from a man named Scott, 35979.—Out of 201 acres he held 100 acres in grass, rest was wooded; Bockaderry townland had 1,747 acres, valuation £619, 86 holdings; 23 were under £2 valuation, 30 under £5, 20 under £10, and 12 under £20, 35980.—Formerly hand-loom weaving supplied work for people on small holdings, and turf was plentiful, but that was now changed, and people were hiring out their children and emigrating, 35981-3.—Boys of twelve or thirteen hired themselves out until they earned enough money to take them to America or England; then they sent home money to pay the rent, 35986.—Formerly weaving was carried on for whole flax season, 35987-89.—Foreign competition had also affected the people, and prices of farm produce had fallen, 35992-3.—Witness contended that official returns showing increases of prices were

MURRAY, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

wrong; in 1865 he had sold flax at 12*s.* a stone; now they had to sell better flax at 7*s.* a stone, 35995.—Prices were good when Griffith's valuation was struck in 1863; County Down was most highly valued county in Ireland, 35996.

Industries.

Granite quarries could be developed, and there was good supply of iron ore, 35997.—Iron ore sample gave 75 per cent. of iron, 35998.—A great deal of water power was going to waste, 35999.—Re-afforestry and arterial drainage should also be undertaken, 36001.

M'GOWAN, Rev. E. V.

Congestion in Rathlin.

If Rathlin Island were provided with proper harbour accommodation, that would be solution of many difficulties, 36003.—To this end Commission should urge that the island be taken by the Congested Districts Board, 36004-5.—Much of the land was very infertile, and holdings averaged from five to ten acres; drainage was badly needed, 36045.—Conditions on Rathlin were analogous to those of western islands, and if Congested Districts Board treated it in same way, much good would result, 36146-7.

Fisheries.

Fishing industry was hampered by want of proper boats and by illegal interference of steam trawlers, 36005.—Good fish abounded, but there was no means of curing fish, and so fish were often emptied again into the sea, as in bad weather harbour accommodation was so bad that fish cannot be taken to market, 36018-20.—Curers would not come to the island, on account of difficulties, but they would if there were proper harbour accommodation, 36021-2.—Ling and haddock were caught in winter, and there were great quantities of herring and mackerel, 36023-4.—They could not be taken to Ballycastle owing to the smallness of the boats, 36025-6.—And harbour accommodation on both sides prevented transit, 36028.

Harbour Accommodation.

Good harbour accommodation would mean that cattle could be safely taken to mainland; now they were taken in small boats, and horses had to be thrown on the strand and be put into small boats, and at Ballycastle they had to swim ashore, and were often injured in the process, 36009.—Government had sanctioned grant of £1,000 for improvement of Port Ushet, but there had been delay, and work was not yet begun, 36031-3.—County had also agreed to give grant, 36034, 36043.—Work should be done in summer, as storms would prevent it in winter, 36036.—County Council had committee to look after matter, and they were to visit and inspect, 36037.—It was not question of choosing site, but of improving existing Port of Ushet, 36038-41.—Engineer was coming to inspect, with County Council, 36044.—Proper harbour accommodation on Rathlin and on mainland was the great want, 36172.

Steam Trawling.

Inquiry to be held at Moville into damage done by steam trawling ought to be extended so that Rathlin might be included, 36005.—It would be impossible for Rathlin fishermen to go to Moville to give evidence, 36008.—Steam trawlers could be more easily observed from Rathlin than from the mainland, 36009.

Industries.

Kelp industry suffered greatly from want of proper harbour accommodation, as cargo was injured in transit as boats were so small; if there were large vessels all the kelp could be taken away at one time, 36010.—Formerly it had been an important industry, and it could be restored, 36111.—It was sold in the condition of ashes; fuel was very scarce in the island, as it had to be brought from mainland; dried cowdung was used, 36012.—Limestone quarries had been opened, and gave work to fifteen or twenty persons, 36119-22.—Sewing, embroidery, etc., could be taught by the girls by instructress from County Kerry, 36143-4.—Difficulty was want of premises in which to carry on instruction; hand spinning and knitting stockings might be developed, 36148.—Lady was willing to come free for one month, 36150.—When girls were instructed themselves they could instruct others, 36151-2.—Poultry, fruit culture, and bee-keeping might be profitably encouraged, as climate was not severe and frost did not lie long, 36163-6.—Potatoes were dug up pretty early, 36167-8.

Conditions of Life on Rathlin Island.

Prices were very high on island, as everything had to be brought from the mainland; if larger vessels could come into harbour all provisions would be cheaper; some shopkeepers had boats of their own, 36013-7.—Post came twice a week—Tuesdays and Fridays, 36018.—In 1841 population was 1,010, now it was 368; there were twenty-two townlands and only seventy-four houses, 36112.—After potato famine population was much diminished, 36113.—Present valuation was £888; formerly people cultivated all the island and manufactured all their clothing, 36114-5.—Land had now gone largely from tillage to grass, 36116.—Formerly dense population made them cultivate all available land and develop cottage industries, 36117.—There was not much migratory labour, as people were too much attached to their homes to go away, 36118.

Drainage.

Drainage would greatly benefit the island, as then low lands would afford pasture for cattle, and land would be available for tillage; it would not be difficult to carry out, as there was fall to the sea; in some places there would have to be cuttings through rocks, 36045-8.

Fencing.

Need of adequate fencing was great, as cattle often grazed to edge of cliffs, where there was sweetest grass, and fell over; stone and wire fences were used; security of cattle would add to prosperity of island, 36048-50.—Congested Districts Board had fenced in cliffs in Arranmore Island; same work in Rathlin should be undertaken, 36051-2.

Land Purchase.

Land had not been sold to tenants, but if Congested Districts Board would assist islanders if land were sold, they might get it under more favourable conditions, 36054.—Tenants had entered Land Court to get a reduction, 36056.—In 1881 rental of island amounted to £800 a year, 36057-8.—After passing of Act of 1881 landlord gave some abatement to tenants because they did not go into court, 36060.

Grazing.

Large grazing ranches should be parcelled out among those who had small holdings, 36060-1.—Small holders had no right of grazing on that tract, 36061.—Two holdings in island were above £50, 36063.—Large tract in middle of island had not been tilled for fifty years, 36064, 36068.—Pasture attached to small holdings was very poor, as all good land was cultivated, 36065.—Small holdings had poorest tillage land; best land was on good farms, 36066-7.

Valuation of Holdings.

One half of holdings were under £10, 36069.—Four-fifths under £15, 36070.—Valuation exceeded rental, 36071.—Rental of island was less than half of the £800 of twenty-five years ago, 36072-4.—Tenants were in Court now, but Lay Commissioner had not yet inspected holding, and no decision had been given, 36076.

Enlargement of Holdings.

Grass land might be parcelled out among those who had some of poorest holdings, 36077.—They might serve people at a distance also, 36078.—Redistribution would be better than keeping land in commonage, 36079.—There would still be a large number of small occupiers whose condition would not be improved, M'GOWAN, Rev. E. V.—*continued.*

36081.—Land should be reserved for most deserving cases on island, 36082-4, 36087.—Small occupiers did not live in neighbourhood of grazing lands; those near were not so deserving as some further off, 36086, 36096.—Tenant of grazing land lived on island and had other means of living—a public-house, 36090-3.—Upper portion of grazing land was in hands of several occupiers who had grazing rights, 36094.—In former times people were living on these townlands, 36099.—Some holdings were held in rundale, 36100.—Redistribution of land was very desirable, but redistribution of people was a great difficulty, as they did not wish to leave their homes, 36101-2.—Holders of grass lands would probably part with them at a reasonable price, 36104.

Compulsion.

Principle of compulsion was difficult question, 36105.—Whole island had gone into Court, so if they were disturbed by application of compulsion judicial tenants would have to be dealt with, 36107.—If Congested Districts Board bought island they would have compulsory powers, 36108.—Witness saw no difference between applying compulsion to owners in fee and to judicial tenants, 36109.—Large tillage farms employed labour, so if judicial rights were taken away demand for labour would also be taken away, 36111-2.

Rates—Committee of Agricultural and Technical Education, etc.

Islanders paid agricultural and technical education rate, but got no return of any sort for it, 36123-7.—They also paid sanitary rate for mainland, 36128.—Also police rate, though there were no police on island, 31129.—Very little was expended on roads, not more than from £45 to £50 a year, 36130.—Rathlin should have first claim upon Committee of Agriculture and Technical Education, as it was so backward, 36131.—There was no representative from island on committee, as it would be very difficult for him to attend meetings, 36134-5.—If technical and agricultural work was to be promoted in Rathlin some administration of its own would have to be employed, as communication with mainland was so difficult, 36136-8.—Department of Agriculture should be made acquainted with such facts, 36139.—In some parts of the country local Agricultural Committee appointed sub-committee to deal with certain part of county, 36142.—Good results would be shown if grant were given yearly by County Council, 36143.

Roads.

County expenditure on roads was £47 3*s.* 10*d.*; rate paid on land was 2*s.* 3*d.* in the £; on other hereditaments 3*s.* 8*d*, 36152.—This was not only for maintenance, but for special works, 36153.—The island contributed £132 1*s.* 8*d.*, of which £89 0*s.* 6*d.* is on land, and £43 1*s.* 2*d.* on other hereditaments, so that £132 was paid in order to get back £47, 36155-7.—There were two representatives on the Rural District Council, both belonging to the mainland, but little had been done by any public body for Rathlin, 36159-63.

Savings Bank.

Post Office had agreed to establish Branch Bank on the island; this would be convenience for putting away rent, etc., until it was required, more than for Savings Bank, as people had not much money to save, 36170.

Cattle-breeding.

Agricultural Department had sent one bull some years ago, but it was taken away, and none had replaced it; one, however, was now waiting at Ballycastle to be taken across, 36175.—When bull was taken away it was probably damaged in crossing, and so value deteriorated, and Department had not taken it away at right time, 36176-7.

BYRNE, Mr. JOHN.

Description of Rathlin Island.

Rathlin was six miles long and three-quarters wide, population 368; it had twenty-two townlands, and was electoral division in Ballycastle Rural District; it contained 3,396a. 3r. 38p., of which sixty acres were under water; valuation was £1,025 17*s.*, of which £791 were on land and £234 17*s.* on other hereditaments; about one-sixth of island was in landlord's hands, and let temporarily since 1881, 36183-4.—Land was not let on eleven months' system, but tenants were not judicial tenants, as they did not exist before 1881, 36185-6.—Witness thought that land in landlord's possession might be reserved by landlord without compensation, as he paid rates and taxes, 36187-8.—Landlord would not pay rates for future tenants, 36189.—Altitude varied from sea level to 450 feet; nearest point was five miles from Ballycastle, three from Fairhead, and fourteen from Cantyre; coast line was bold, and climate mild, owing to Gulf Stream; it suffered greatly from storms, especially at harvest time, 36190.—August was wettest month, 36191.—People were occupied in agriculture, fishing, and kelp-making; there were no police or coastguards on island; roads were good, but in some places had very steep gradient, 36192.—They were contract roads, 36193.—And all were on the county, 36195.—Island had at one time been heavily wooded, but now there were no trees, and fuel was exceedingly scarce, the people having to burn sods or dry cow-dung, 36195-7.—Houses were small, over-crowded, ill-ventilated, and insanitary, 36197.—Parish Committee had effected improvements in other places, and if established in Rathlin by Congested Districts Board or some other body would do same there, 36199.—In some cases cattle were kept in houses, but not in the majority, 36200-1.—There were plenty of stones, with which byres for cows could be made, but people had no proper roofing, 36202.

Prize Schemes.

There was no prize scheme for encouragement of islanders; their condition was so poor that they did not come within scheme of mainlanders for small allotments and cottages; they were drifting from bad to worse, 36202-5.

Emigration.

People were not much inclined to migrate, but they had to emigrate, as they could not live on the island, they went to America, but not to Scotland or England, for labour, as those in West did, 36206-8.—If Ballycastle coal mines developed they would go over there, 36209.

Congestion.

People of Rathlin were being encouraged by clergymen and others to hold on a little longer if possible in hope of a change which would enable them to live as well as if they emigrated, 36209.—Better conditions would be good boat accommodation, assistance in providing boats and fishing gear, money at low rate of interest to improve dwellinghouses, offices, etc., assistance in fencing, in addition proper labour accommodation would be needed at Ballycastle, 36210.—Problem of drifting to the towns faced all countries, old and new, but difference between Ireland and other countries was that people left Ireland altogether; they did not drift to Irish towns, with exception of Belfast, 36212-6.—With reasonable expenditure condition of people could be improved to enable islands to support bigger population, 36217.—Long ago people had more money in their hands, 36218-9.—They could not improve much now, as money was very scarce, 36222.—Standard of living had certainly improved, as people wore better clothes, drank tea, and used more tobacco, 36223-6.—Larger population was formerly engaged in fishing than now; three smacks had been known to lie in Ushet Harbour; now there was no chance of improvement unless transit facilities were improved, 36227-30.—Tea averaged about 2*s.* per pound, and not much whiskey was drunk, as there was not much money for it. There was one publichouse on the island, 36231-3.—Police were not required, as violent quarrels were rare, 36234-6.—Re-adjustment of boundaries was urgently needed, and reform in methods of cultivation, as rotation of crops was unknown, and artificial manures or feeding stuffs were rarely used; weeds abounded, and darnel rye-grass was especially pernicious, as it could not be separated from oats and barley, and was ground up with them;

BYRNE, Mr. JOHN—*continued*.

it had a narcotic effect, 36253.—There was no doctor or dispensary on the island; sick people had to do the best they could if weather was bad and Ballycastle doctor could not cross, 36254-7.

Harbour Accommodation.

If there were large fishing boats in island now, only safe anchorage for them would beat Larne or Portrush, 36237.—Ushet was not available, as it was blocked up by stones, 36238-40.—If there were better accommodation people would make an effort to have bigger boats, 36241-3.—Landing facilities and safe anchorage were as necessary at Ballycastle as at Rathlin, 36244.—After visit of Mr. Bryce, when Chief Secretary, Government offered £1,000 to clear out Ushet Harbour and improve Church Bay; County Council was to supplement by £300; but now they heard that only £900 was to be spent, and even that seemed to be indefinitely delayed, 36259-9A.—Ballycastle was the market for all the produce of Rathlin, so that improved harbour accommodation was as necessary there as at Rathlin; Ballintoy was only other harbour within easy reach, and could not be used in some winds, 36260.

Valuation of Holdings.

House and garden only, 14; £5 valuation and under 7; £8 valuation and under 14; £10 valuation and under, 10; £15 valuation and under, 19; £20 valuation and under, 6; £25 valuation and under £50, 5; over £50, 1; island was highly valued compared with other places; it seemed as if inconvenience of access had been omitted altogether; if valued in same proportion as mainland there would be a fall; prices were increasing when Rathlin was valued, 36244-7.—Nearly whole island was held in rundale, and grazing was used alternately by different partners; holdings had not yet been inspected, and there would be great difficulty, as boundaries had not been defined; Sub-Commissioner would have to define them himself, 36248-50.—No permanent arrangement should be made that would perpetuate rundale, 36251.

Industries.

Green crops are very little grown, and fodder for cattle is very scarce during the winter; cattle make little progress as they were so much exposed; dairy management was not understood, and poultry farming was neglected; in Mr. Robert Gage's time these industries were much better than now; he kept good cattle for breeding; some years ago Department of Agriculture sent a bull, but it was left too long on the island, lost condition, and had to be sold at a loss; since then no other bull had been sent, 16258-9.—But another had been promised this year, 16258A.—Horses were bred, but Rathlin received no benefit from halfpenny rate levied by Department; great difficulty was experienced in bringing horses to market; they were often injured in transit; cattle suffered in same way, 36259.—There was good demand for fish at Ballycastle, and it was the market for all other produce of the island; curing establishment was badly needed, as large shoals of fish had to be allowed to go in rough weather, 36260.—Mining industry of Ballycastle should be properly developed, as there was valuable coal there; brick-making was also being developed, and glazed earthenware could be made from silica found there, 36260.—Small creameries might be established, as in Belgium, and in summer cream might be taken to the mainland, and sent to Armoy creamery, 36275.

Education.

Some system of education, teaching children subjects which would be useful to them, such as handicrafts, farming, fish-curing, etc., should be introduced, 36260.

Rates.

Islanders felt aggrieved in being forced to contribute to upkeep of main roads of County Antrim, also in having to pay for sanitary expenses of Ballycastle district, 36260.

BYRNE, Mr. JOHN—*continued*.

Fishing.

The two fishing stations of neighbourhood were Ballycastle and Ballintoy, in both of which landing facilities were bad, 36262-3.—Fishing industry had declined greatly during last thirty years, 36264.—Ballintoy had private harbour belonging to limestone company, but it had been filled up with a storm and needed much improvement, 36265-7.—There was good fishing, and fish was sent to Portrush and Belfast, 36268-9.—Ballycastle had prior claim to expenditure on harbour, as it was harbour for Rathlin, 36270-1.—Both ports were about nine miles from Rathlin, but at Ballycastle there was demand for fish, not at Ballintoy, 36272-4.

LAVERTY, Rev. F.

Congestion.

Witness had lived on Rathlin Island from 1883 to 1887, and in his opinion state of island was steadily getting worse; in Mr. Gage's time everything was more prosperous, as he took an interest in the island; now there was no organisation nor cooperation among the people; if Congested Districts Board could organise cultivation of land, fishing, and cottage industries, improvement would follow, 36276-36290.—Instruction was very necessary, and inducements for improvements, 36277.—Some one was needed to take general charge of the island, to give instruction and assistance, and improvement would soon follow, 36278-9.—Mr. Gage had done all this for the island; after his death the islanders had no leader, 36280-2.—Change of proprietorship of holdings would be no practical remedy by itself; organisation was necessary for improvement, 36284.—In Rathlin, Catholic priest and Protestant clergyman were constantly being changed, and they had not the same power or interest to organise the people as they would have if there for any considerable period, 36285.—Witness endorsed nearly everything Mr. Byrne had said regarding size of holdings and agriculture; the only manure was wrack from beach, and lime had to be brought from mainland, as there was no fuel for limekiln, 36285-6.—Mr. Gage had kept limekiln going, and sold lime to the people; he bought cargo of coal yearly, and people could buy from him; dispensing authority resident on island, was what was needed; formerly there were numbers of sailors, but small vessels had disappeared, as steamers had taken their place; now people were helpless for want of instruction, 36288.—Some kind of District Committee was what the island needed, 36291.—If the people were directed they were intelligent enough to become self-supporting in time, 36292.—Committee would need function to promote industries required by island, 36293.—Instructors from different departments could be sent at different times, but a resident general director was necessary; Mr. Gage had filled that position, 36294.—After instruction and direction had been given the people must stand or fall by themselves, 36295-6.—Formerly Mr. Gage bought kelp, stored it, and shipped it away; now people had to bring their own little stocks separately, and it was often damaged in transit, 36310.

Fishing.

Formerly people depended on fishing, but now nobody lived by fishing only; crabs and lobsters used to be caught, and were very profitable, 36298-9.—Now people did a little at several things, but did not depend on fishing, 36300-1.—If there were fair anchorage fishing could be developed, if loans for boats were given; someone was needed to direct and instruct the people, 36309, 36311.

Industries.

Limestone industry had been started, and employed fifteen men, 36303-4.—The sea ought to be natural outlet for hardy boys, and formerly had been, 36307-8.—Some of the girls went out to service, some worked on farms and helped at kelp, but there were no home industries; the girls were intelligent, and if work were shown to them they would be most willing to do it, 36312-4.—If industries were once organised, people would soon become self-reliant and self-supporting, 36345-6.

LAVERTY, Rev. F.—*continued.*

Emigration and Migration.

Very few of the people had relatives in America; in 1854 300 or 400 people had sailed to America, but they did not seem to have been successful; they were untrained and illiterate, and unable to compete with city life, 36305-6.—People living on south end of Rathlin would go to America sooner than to the north end, 36315.—When Mr. Gage was landlord he banished wrong-doers to Ireland, 36316.—People would not leave, because they loved their homes, 36319.—If a man were offered better land he might go, but people did not like moving, 36323-5.—People would probably have no objection to migrating to contiguous land, but they would object to going to other end of island, 36334-8.

Land Tenure.

Rundale was universal on the island, and was a most unsatisfactory state of affairs; only remedy would be to give every man his own farm in the one place, which would require re-adjustment of boundaries on the whole island, 36326-33.—Mr. Gage had not tried to do away with it; he had found it there, and it was not easy to disturb it; it was always difficult to please people when changes were being made, 36339-42.

Department of Agriculture *v.* Congested Districts Board.

If help of Department of Agriculture depended on grant from County Council it would not be fair to ask local assistance from such poor people as there were in Rathlin Island, but island might be given over to Congested Districts Board, as Clare Island had been, and properly organised, or Department could appoint and finance special sub-committee independently of County Committee; probably specially constituted committee would be most satisfactory, 36347-63.

KERR, Rev. MONTGOMERIE.

Fencing.

Fencing of dangerous cliffs was greatly needed, as animals were frequently lost; farmers themselves could not do necessary work, but they could give time and assistance; stone or wire fences were needed, 36365-6.

Improvements.

Houses were too small, generally having only kitchen and bedroom, with clay floor and thatched roof, 36366. —Places for keeping cattle were very poor, 36367.—Small outlay would improve houses, and people would give their time and labour, 36369-70.—Parish Committee's methods would probably answer very well, 36371.—Farm implements were very antiquated, 36372.—Organisation and loans to be paid by instalments would improve matters greatly; fencing would allow children to go to school, which they could not do now, as they had to watch the cattle, 36372-3.—School attendance was exceptionally bad in Rathlin, fifty-four being on roll, only thirty being in average attendance, 36374-6.—Local Committee to organise things was greatly needed, 36379-80.

Harbour Accommodation—Communications with Mainland.

Harbour was greatly needed; Mr. Bryce, when Chief Secretary, had promised grant, and County Council and Agricultural Board had given their proportions, but nothing had yet been done, 36377-9. —If harbours were improved subsidy would have to be offered to induce coasting steamers to call, 36382-4. —At present there was no place where coasting steamer could lie to take cattle, etc., on board, 36385.—Ushet was rather small for a steamer, though a pier had been run up for steamers that carried limestone to Scotland, 36385A.—Winter storms would prevent regular communication under best of circumstances, 36387.—Time for sending away cattle was from April to October, 36388.

Roads.

Good road running through the island was greatly needed, as in some places gradient was very steep, 36379.

KERR, Rev. MONTGOMERIE—*continued.*

Land Purchase.

In Mr. Gage's time they were asked to sell land, but some legal point prevented sale, 36392.—It would not be profitable to transfer land to tenants without improvement of holdings, as that would stereotype bad conditions, 36393-4.—If Congested Districts Board bought first they would improve everything before re-selling, 36395.—Until land was purchased and improved by them, or some other body, there was little chance of improvement, 36396-9.

WOODSIDE, Mr. ROBERT.

Harbour Accommodation.

In 1899 Antrim County Council formed a Pier and Harbour Committee; harbours people of Ballycastle division were interested in Ballycastle, Ballintoy and Rathlin; difficulty was that £300 was limit of expenditure allowed on one harbour, 36400; £300 had been spent on Ballycastle four years ago, half of which was given by Department of Agriculture; Church Bay was next considered, but idea of improvement was abandoned, as it would cost too much; Ushet was then considered, as it was a natural harbour; but it had been filled up at one time to prevent smuggling; it could be made available for large fishing boats, 36401, 36404.—It was only three miles across from Fair Head, and sheltered from the north; if boats could not come into Church Bay they could come into Ushet, 36405.—If cleared fifty or sixty-ton vessels could come in, 36406.—Disadvantage of Church Bay was that it was open to north-west, 36408.—Doon was another natural harbour, but it had not been surveyed, and cost of improvement was not known, 36409-10.—Cause of delay with reference to work to be done with Government and County Council grants was that no grant had yet been made; inquiries were being made by the Treasury, and representations were being sent to the Lord Lieutenant; but, so far, neither Treasury grant nor County Council contribution had been actually given; witness had written to Sir James Dougherty, Assistant Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, and explained that Council grant could only be £300, 36411.—There seemed to be some doubt as to whether Treasury would give £1,000 in addition to £300 of County Council, or only £700, to make up £1,000 altogether, 36412-3, 36418-20.—Mr. Oliver was to come and examine Ballintoy on 30th September; they hoped to get him to Ushet, 36413, 36424.—Department of Agriculture had been approached repeatedly, 36415, 36422.—County Council was prohibited, under Section 67 of Grand Juries Act of 1836, from contributing more than £300, 36417. —Department of Agriculture might give contribution if they knew that Treasury and County Council were also contributing, 36421.—Mr. Lane and Mr. Oliver had made survey of Ushet, and Mr. Brett had made estimate for improvements, but witness had not seen report, 36423.—County Council recognised that unless Ballycastle Harbour was improved it was useless to improve Rathlin, 36427-8.—Witness did not know whether Government understood that, 36429.—There was plenty of fish if only men could get out, and land it after catching, 36429.—County Council was in sympathy with the island, and was doing what it could; it had provided three boats, 36433.

M'GOWAN, Rev. J.

Harbour Accommodation.

Witness had been administrator of Rathlin from 1897 to 1899; proper harbour accommodation on the island and at Ballycastle was urgently needed; Ballycastle Harbour, since the "improvements" had been rendered more dangerous than before, as a high wall shut out view, and sailors could not see where they were going, 36434.

Transit Facilities.

Good broad road was needed for conveyance of produce across island, 36435.—If Congested Districts Board could help people to get good

M'GOWAN, Rev. J.—*continued.*

boats a great need would be supplied; formerly there was good cattle boat, but it was now lying high and dry at Ushet, because there was no proper harbour accommodation either on mainland or island; it could carry horses and cattle standing, 36435-6—It was a good boat, and could stand any sea, with proper harbour accommodation, 36437.—If weather was good cattle could be walked into boat; but at Ballycastle it was so shallow that boat had to be tilted on its side; it drew about three feet, 36438-9.—Boat was in use about one year, but then got into disrepair, and people had no means of repairing it, 36441.—Boat would again be available if repaired, and if Ballycastle Harbour were deepened, 36443-4.—It cost £52, 36445.—It could carry six horses standing, 36447.

Improvement of Holdings.

It would be a great matter if grass land could be broken up and added to existing holdings; land lying uncultivated for sixty years showed no tendency to return to heather, 36447.—On one large stock farm in north-west called Kebb, no one now lived; formerly seven families lived there in comfort; Kilpatrick was another instance; there were traces of cultivation on both; if all could be used for enlargement of holdings it would be a great benefit, 36449.—Far more fodder could be raised if land were cultivated, 36451.—Some men who sent cattle to graze would have holdings enlarged, and have more produce in the end, 36453.—There was some mountain grazing, and re-adjustment all round would effect great improvement, 36454-5.—About 120 acres were available, and if small holders had three or four acres added he would gain immensely as, with proper cultivation of fodder, more cattle could be reared, 36456-61.—Houses were in bad condition, and so were outoffices, 36463.

Migration.

If people were sent far away from their homesteads houses would have to be put up for them, which would be expensive, 36449.

Industries.

There were no industries on island now, though formerly people had made everything they required, including shoes, twine for fishing lines, and fishing nets, 36461.—They grew flax for the twine; girls were intelligent, and did well in service in Belfast; they could be usefully employed at home industries, 36462.

Drainage.

Drainage was much needed, as whole island was waterlogged; much land could be made available for cultivation, and climate would be moderated by drainage, which would be much more useful than water walls; the fall was big enough to allow good drainage, 36462-3.

Fishing.

Trawlers did great damage to fishing, as they came at nightfall and dragged away nets and lines of local people, and spoiled fishing beds; there was plenty of fish if there were fishing boats and tackle and curing station for disposing of them afterwards, and that would keep young men on the island, 36463

Cattle-Breeding.

Agricultural Board have done something for improvement of strain, but many people thought that hardier breed of cattle than shorthorns would do better, such as the Ayrshire, 36463-4.

Fencing.

Fencing edges of cliffs was greatly required, as animals fell over into the sea, thus causing great loss to poor men, 36464.

Credit System.

Credit system crippled people very much; they bought nearly everything on credit, and prices and interest were high, 36464.—There was no credit bank, 36465.—Only remedy would be money advanced by Congested Districts Board on easy terms, 36466.—System of credit banks had succeeded well elsewhere, and ought to in Rathlin, 36467.

Emigration.

Emigration in real sense was almost unknown in island; even after the famine people had not gone to United States or Australia, but went in sailing vessels to Argentine, and died of yellow fever; at any rate there was never any trace of them, 36467-9.

M'QUIG, Mr. JOHN.

Harbour Accommodation.

Ushet Harbour needed clearing, as it was blocked up with loose stones, 36471.—If cleared there would be about seven feet at the top in low water, 36472.—Big boats could be kept there if it was cleared, 36473.—Large boat had been lying there for two years, riding at anchor, 36474-5.—Reason why boat built at Portrush was not used was that there was no depth of water for loading it, 36476-7.—She would draw five feet when loaded, 36478.—There were only two feet of water in harbour at present, 36480.—If properly cleared, large steamer could go into harbour, 36483.—But that would be useless unless Ballycastle Harbour was cleared, 36484-5.—It would be possible to take cattle to Larne if boats were big enough, 36486.—Cod, ling, and the common glasson were caught, 36489-91.

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN (of Mig).

Cattle-Breeding.

Witness farmed 7½ acres (Irish), and had another small piece from landlord on eleven months' system, 36493-5.—Greatest difficulty was transport of cattle which were bred on the island, as harbour accommodation was so bad both on mainland and island; inferior cattle had to be bred, as people could not afford feeding stuff for good cattle, 36496.—Bull was great advantage, but cattle were hard to feed, as the breed was too good; more hardy breed would suit island better, 36497-500.—Some sheep were kept on island, but witness had lost all his over the cliffs, as they had been tempted too near edge by sweet grass, 36502-5.—Great need was fencing of cliffs; some stone fencing had been put up, 36506-7.

Farm Stock.

Witness kept two cows; he had bought shorthorns in Ballycastle, paying £12 10*s.*, for a trial, but he had to give her a good deal of inside feeding, buying linseed cake, etc., in Ballycastle, 36508-10.—He also grew some turnips, 36511.—No others on island treated cattle in this way, as they had inferior cattle; witness found it did not pay, he would have to get rid of his, 36512-5.—He tilled all of his land that was worth tilling, 36516-9.—Witness made just enough butter for his family, 36521.—He sold calves at about one year old, 36528.—He had to take what price he could get in Ballycastle, as it would not pay him to bring it back, 36529-32.

Horses.

Horses were much injured when being taken over to sell, as they had to be tied, and leather straps had to be put on pasterns, 36533.—Horses were bred on the island in spite of the difficulties of transport, 36534.—A stallion was kept by one man on island for use of people, but it was not changed sufficiently often, 36535-6.—Poor men on island were not able to buy horses, but it encouraged them to breed their own horses, 36537.

Fishing.

Witness eked out his living by fishing; he caught enough for his family, and if weather was fine and

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

catch was good he tried to take surplus to Ballycastle, but they had to be sold very cheaply, 36539.—Sometimes when lines were left out trawlers came and swept all away, 36540.—Complaint had been made to Fishery Board, as this was within the three-mile limit, 36541-2.—There was only one coastguard boat, and trawlers came frequently, mostly Scotch and English fishermen, coming without lights and carrying all before them, 36543-50.—Witness had himself nearly been run down by trawler without lights one night when fishing, 36543, 36551-3.—Cod and ling were caught in the Sound; there was also hake on north of island, 36554-5.

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN (of Cragmacreggan).

WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness's valuation was £6; rent, £6 3*s.* 4*d.*; acreage five Irish acres, with a little grazing land besides, 36558-61.

FENCING.

Fencing was badly needed to save cattle from falling over cliffs, 36562.—Stone fences could be erected in some places, but in others there was no way of getting the stone along the rocks, 36600-2.—Wire fences would be best, as in Scotland, though that was not as good protection as stone, 36604-5.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage was needed, as water lay on land and there was no outfall, 36562-4.—Witness drained some himself, but soakage was required to carry water away, 36565.

ROADS.

There were no roads to houses, 36565.—Witness was half a mile from public road; he could get cart to his house in some way, but it was difficult, 36565-8.

FARM STOCK.

Witness kept cow and horse, 36569.—He kept calf just a year, occasionally two calves, 36570.—It was very seldom that second calf was born before first was disposed of, so that there were never three beasts beside the horse, 36571-3.

CROPS.

Corn, barley, potatoes and some beans were grown and used by witness and his family; it was not much use selling potatoes out of Ireland, and people had not good seed, 36574-80.

FISHING.

Fishing would be better industry than farming if properly developed; curing station was badly needed, 36582.—Witness fished in small boat for lobsters, and crabs in summer; lobsters were sold in Manchester and London, after being taken to Ballycastle, but sometimes they died if train was missed or other delay occurred, 36583-6.—Bait lines were often swept away by trawlers, 36590.—Mackerel fishing was best in the Three Kingdoms, 36606—When caught they had to be taken to mainland and sold, but if a day old they were no use, 36608-9.—Representations had not been made to Department about mackerel fishing, 36610.—Witness had been to Scotland in his own boat, but had not caught any fish, 36612-4.—He had gone on this side of the Mull of Cantyre; it was more convenient there, as harbours were good, 36616-21.—If effort were made to make Department aware of good mackerel fishing it might be way of inducing authorities to construct required piers, 36622-4.—Herrings were caught from May till September, 36625.—Sometimes till November, 36626.—Mackerel were there nearly all winter, 36627.—There was plenty of fish if there were harbour accommodation, 36629.—Scotch would come and compete if there were good shelter; only way of being equal with them would be to have better boats, 36630-1.

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

FOOD SUPPLIES.

There were small grocers' shops on island, 36593.—People made their own bread from oats or flour, 36595-36598.—When mail boats came they brought bread from mainland, 36569.—Tea was 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per pound, 36599.

GLASS, Mr. JAMES.

WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness's valuation was £8; rent, £7; he farmed ten Irish acres, 36634.—Witness's house was too small for his family of eleven; it had only one room, 36649-52.

FENCING.

Fencing was what was most required; witness had lost during last six years three mares, and sheep and cows, 36635.—His grazing came down to sea, 36636.—Wire fencing was only kind that could be put up, 36637.—Stones could not be carted for stone fences, 36639.—If money were granted there could not be choice between fencing and harbour improvement at Ballycastle, as both were needed, 36640-1.—Harbour accommodation was greatly needed at Ballycastle and Rathlin, 36642.

FISHING.

Mackerel had been very plentiful for last four or five years, 36644.—Herring also was abundant, but there was no way of catching either at present, 36645-6.—Until piers were improved it was useless to buy nets, 36647-8.

FARM STOCK.

Witness kept two cows and one horse, selling calves when about one year old, 36654-7.

TILLAGE.

Witness kept more than half of his land in tillage; he grew potatoes, corn, and barley; winter feeding for stock was only hay; he had milk for his children during winter, oatmeal porridge was used on island while people had their own meal, 36659-64.

MANNER OF LIVING.

A good many people got money from children who worked on mainland, though most had to live on what there was on island, 36667-8.—It would be impossible to get on without fish, as salted fish helped to keep people alive in the winter, 36670-2.

POTATO CROP.

Potato crop of last year was not very good, 36673.—No spraying was ever done in island, 36674-6.—Blight was bad last year, 36677.—Spraying was practised on mainland, 36678.—If island committee were formed they might encourage spraying, 36679.

WANT OF ORGANISER.

Witness was young man working on his father's farm when Mr. Gage was alive; island was much worse off since his death, 36680-2.—Some authority or body should be appointed to take his place, 36683-4.

WILLIAMS, Mr. WILLIAM

WITNESS'S MODE OF LIVING.

Witness had small farm on eleven months' system, with no other land except some grazing from Rev. Mr. Kerr, on which some cattle grazed; he had house and garden, 36687-90.—If grazing land were divided up witness would have to keep fewer cattle, 36691.—He had seven acres at £7 10*s.* 2*d.* rent, 36692-3.—

WILLIAMS, Mr. WILLIAM.—*continued.*

It did not pay, 36695.—Land on Rathlin was much too dear, 36697.—Witness could not go into court as his land was under eleven months' system, 36698.—He tilled whole of seven acres, and paid rent to Mr. Gage's agent; grazing was Rev. Mr. Kerr's, 36699-701.—He kept two cows, three yearlings, and one old horse, 36702.—He grew potatoes, turnips, beans, and oats, 36704.—Cattle were house-fed in winter, 36705.

Harbour Accommodation.

Harbour accommodation was greatly needed on both sides; witness had commission from Post Office and Lights Board for running boat twice a week to Ballycastle; Ballycastle was worse off than Rathlin, 36706.—One winter £40 worth of boats were lost in it, 36707.—Witness had also contract from Ballast Office in Dublin, 36708.

Fisheries.

Herring and mackerel were very plentiful, but they could not be caught, 36710.—Formerly fisheries were much better than now, as people lived by them, 36735-6.

Mr. Gage.

Mr. Gage's management and sympathetic treatment of the people had good results, 36713.—Apparently island was not in as good condition now as then, though if Mr. Gage's rule were brought back it was doubtful whether younger generation would be as amenable to his rule as older one had been, 36714-6.

Land Tenure.

Rents were paid yearly some time before Christmas; all tenants held on same conditions, 36717-9.—Witness had been sixteen years in his holding; there was no house on his farm, but he had got one not far away, 36720-1.—Agreement had been signed by tenants for eleven months' system, but stock was not turned out every year, as that would do no good, 36722-4.

State of Rathlin.

Witness did not think island was going back, nor yet forward; in 1852 things were worse than now, but this year was particularly hard one, 36727-8.—Not many tenants were in arrears; in 1853 Mr. Gage had paid passage of many emigrants; some of these had since been heard from, 36729-30.—Witness thought that standard of living had advanced on the island, and if younger generation had to go back to those days they would be still more discontented, 36737-42.—Considering all the losses and misfortunes of the people, it was wonderful that they were not more in arrears than they were, 36743-4.

Griffith's Valuation.

At time of Griffith's valuation times were improving, people were well clothed, flax was grown and spun at home; there was not much money in circulation, but expenses were less.

M'CONNELL, Mr. CHARLES.

Department of Agriculture and County Committee.

Halfpenny in the £1 rate was struck for agricultural purposes; County Committee had worked on lines adopted in Congested Districts Board's area; sires and bulls had been introduced into Cushendall district, 36747.—They were purchased by Department and lent to district through County Committee with two or three years to pay back price, 36748.—Improvement had gone on since 1902, 36750.—Further improvement would be possible if there were funds; poultry station had been established at Cushendall; sheep-breeding should be encouraged; nothing had been done as yet, 36751.—If Department made funds available County Committee would make good use of them, 36754.

M'CONNELL, Mr. CHARLES—*continued.*

Congestion.

District was congested, but not scheduled, as it ought to be; farms were very small, and could not make a decent living without help from America or Australia, 36755-7.—Cushendall, from Cushleak to Garronpoint, was exceptionally poor district, 36790-1.—Many young people went abroad or to sea who might be better employed at home, 36792.—County Council recognised that district required special aid, 36806.—And would develop poorer districts if they had funds, 36807a.—Ratepayers of better-off districts would be glad to help poorer parts, 36808.—Land was very poor and difficult to get at; many farmers taking pork to Ballymena market had to spend two days over it, 36811.—Farming was only industry, 36812.—Thirty-six per cent. of holdings were under £10, 36813.—In Ballymena Union 39 per cent. were under £10, in Ballycastle 31, 36815-6.

Fishing.

There were no facilities for fishing in district, so lads went to sea or to Glasgow, etc., for employment; at Cushendun harbour had been filled up, and there was now no local fishing population, though there would be if there were accommodation; County Council was limited to expenditure of £300 for pier improvement, and that had been granted to Rathlin; Cushendun, Ballintoy, and Cushendall were just as needy, 36759-61.—Provision of harbours and piers for fishing accommodation was most necessary, 36826.

Railways.

Railway should be extended from Parkmore to Cushendall, about six miles further on, 36762-3.—Traffic on county road from Parkmore to Waterfoot, port from which iron ore was shipped, was excessive; road cost £500 to £600 a year in excess of ordinary grant on account of iron ore traffic; railway would save this, and county would be justified in guaranteeing promoters, 36764.—It was half county charge, and would supply wants of whole county in matter of traffic facilities, and tourist and iron ore traffic would justify guarantee; it would give market to Cushendall, 36765-6.—Northern Counties Company had not been approached, but memorial had been presented to Midland Company, but witness did not know reply, 36767-8.—Market would follow railway, and industries might be established, 36769.—Extension of railway to Cushendall was very important, 36826.

Sheep.

Sheep were kept on mountains above Cushendall; wool was sent to Glasgow and Belfast; if it could be manufactured in district it would give employment, 36770-1.—Occupiers of Glens of Antrim had sheep, 36776.—Improvement in breed would be chiefly for benefit of small holders; larger ones could look after themselves, 36805.

Iron Ore.

Seventy or seventy-five men were employed in Glenravel iron ore mine, and there were probably twice as many in other mines, 36772-3.—Cartage had diminished since traction engine had been put upon road; it cut up road, and farmers had to pay for repairs, 36774-5.

Industries.

There was lime industry at Carnlough, 36778.—A doubtful industry for chemical products also, 36779.—There was no industry for women, 36781.—There was no technical scheme in operation, 36782.—Manual instructor had been appointed, who taught carpentry, etc., 36787.—Instruction in domestic science would be very useful, 36789.—Establishment of local industries was one of needs of district, 36826.

Stock Schemes.

Sires and bulls were supplied to this district, but not to County Down; pony sires and Galloway bulls were best for this district, 36783.—Terms on which they were given were applicable to district only, 36784.—If scheme could be further developed it would pay, 36785.

M'CONNELL, Mr. CHARLES—*continued.*

Emigration.

Young men who went to sea left place altogether, 36793.—Young women went to America, 36795.—In Ballymena there were industries, and young women found employment at home, 36796.—Belfast was as strange a place to the young women of the Glens as was America, 36797.—They preferred America, 36798-9.—If young men had fishing facilities they could earn more at home than by going to sea, 36802.—It would be better for themselves and district if they could remain at home, 36803.

Technical Instruction.

Manual instruction was begun two years before; man was paid £100 a year and expenses, and stayed six or eight weeks in one centre, 36818-20.—There had been no official report yet, as work was in its infancy, but it taught men to be handy, etc., 36821-2.—Ballymena had technical school, so instructor did not go there, 36823.—Instructor just proposed to lay foundation of a trade, 36824.—In winter young men could do many things about farms that would otherwise have to be done by paid men, if they had had no instruction, 36825.

BLACK, Mr. ALEXANDER.

Congestion.

Poverty of districts of Cushendall and Cushleak was due to uneconomic holdings; this was due to three causes: (1) judicial rents were too high; (2) land was difficult to cultivate owing to height of mountain sides, work having to be done with spade; (3) difficulty of marketing produce, owing to distance, bad roads, and lack of railway accommodation, 36829.—Farmers could only make rent by using labour of families who worked for nothing, and using money sent by friends in America, 36830.—On steep mountain sides up-to-date tools could not be used on agricultural land, 36831-2.

Land Purchase.

Holdings had not been bought out, as people could not afford to buy at present rents, 36833-4.—Majority were second term rents, too high for basis of purchase, 36835-6.—Landlords in general knew very little about the value of their land; they would feel aggrieved if they had to sell at fewer years' purchase than others, 36837.—Even resident landlords did not often inspect their farms, 36839-41.—Judicial rents were too high; rent fixing in these poor districts would require special treatment by Land Commissioners they should take into consideration difficulty of cultivating land, instead of taking exact value, 36842-5.—Commissioners' system prevented them from making such allowance, 36846-47A.—Griffith's valuation was higher there than in any part of country, consequently farmers had to pay high rates, 36848.—Sub-Commissioner apparently did not take all these things into consideration, 36849-50.—Very few farms had been sold, and they fetched a large price; most farms were handed down from father to son, 36906-7.—Witness could not give any purchase prices, 36908-10.—In what negotiations there were landlords and tenants could not come to terms, 36911-3.—Witness had known of one case where landlord offered to sell at 24½ years' purchase on first term rents, on condition that there was no bargaining, tenants must either refuse or accept, 36915-7.—One property in Antrim had been sold under Ashbourne Act at twenty years' purchase, 36918-21.—Witness did not know of anything that had enhanced value of land in Antrim to justify increase of five years' purchase, 36922-5.—Witness suggested that land should be fairly valued by independent Government body such as Congested Districts Board, and bought out under Act of 1903, 36970-1.—Basis of purchase might be amount of security divided into number of years' purchase, 36972.—Government body should decide the number of years' purchase, 36973.

Valuation.

Witness was sheep farmer, with holding of £3,600, with only a couple of acres tillage, 36851-3.—Not a judicial tenant, 36854.—In Pink Schedule proximity to market was taken into consideration; where rent was fixed, valuer visited and inspected land; landlord had nothing to do with fixing rent, 36855-60.—Commissioners took difficulties into consideration to a certain extent, but not fully, 36863-36888.—Rents were much below valuation, one example being: valuation £63, rent £25, 36864.—Same schedule ruled determining of prices all over Ireland, 36866.—Man with practical knowledge of farming and impartial as between tenant and landlord would not be likely to fix rent too high, 36891.—Commissioners had not enough knowledge of farming generally in difficult place to fix rent quite fairly, 36894.—They valued on a system for whole country, 36895.—There was nothing to be said against *personnel* of Sub-Commission; the only thing was, they did not take local circumstances into consideration, 36896-8.—In time of Griffith's valuation farmers broke down oftener than they did now; most of them went to America, 36902.—Standard of living was higher now, and wages had risen; lands had fallen and prices had risen, so no one was better off, 36903-5.

Methods of Cultivation.

Horse was kept on £10 holdings as a rule, 36867.—Land was too steep to plough, so had to be cultivated with spade; amount of arable land was small for size of holding; farmers had to try to cultivate every bit of it that they could, 36869-70.—Farmers could not afford to keep up-to-date tools such as spring grubbers, turnip sowers, etc.; farm implements had improved, but these farmers could not afford them, 36871-4.—They understood the tools, but could not buy them, 36876-7.—Turnip-hoe cost from £2 to £2 10*s.*, 36879.—It would be advantage if Department or someone else provided for hiring out of these implements, people to repay in certain number of years, 36882-3.—Or to give the implements at cost price, repayment to extend over certain number of years, 36884-5.—Land had great tendency to go back to its original state, dry land to whins and wet land to rushes; it required working up if full value was to be got out of it, 36886.—Steepness of hills solved question of drainage to some extent, 36887.

Standard of Living.

About 1,852 people used very little tea, and manufactured their own clothes, 36926-7.—These things would now cost a good deal; formerly people lived more on potatoes and oatmeal, 36928.—Living altogether was more costly now than half a century ago, 36931-4.—Sanitary dwellings should be erected for farmers as well as for labourers; loans should be granted, 36986.

Cost of Labour.

Boys who formerly got £3 for half-year now got £12, 36935.—But labour-saving machinery had come into use, 36936.—If small holders of £10 or £12 valuation had to hire labour they went to the wall, 36938.—English system of farming was different from Irish, 36940.—Sheep were kept by large farmers; small men did not try them, 36941.—Big farms were generally held on lease, as in Scotland, not on eleven months' system, as grazing farms in south were held, 36943-5.

Compulsion.

If compulsion was adopted price ought to be fixed on fair and square principle; it was all a question of price, 36947-52.—Compulsion was already applied to occupiers of land for railway purposes, 36954.—And under Labourers Act, 36955.—State had said that dual ownership and congestion must disappear, so they would have to take the best steps to effect this, 36957-8.—If any loss was incurred, whole State should bear the loss, 36974-36976.—It would not be right to leave people with less income than before, 36975.—If farmer had bought land too dear he had no right to expect help from State, 36977.—Fair value should be guaranteed, 36979.

Industries.

Wool was sent to Scotland, through brokers in Glasgow, 36959-60.—Landlords of district were Earl of Antrim and Lord Londonderry, 36962.—If woollen

BLACK, Mr. ALEXANDER.—*continued.*

industry were established it would probably be successful, 6963.—Mill at Cushendull had failed for want of facilities for putting material on market, 36965.—Shipping facilities would not be required for raw wool, but for manufactured, if industry were started, and for other things; it was now shipped at Ballycastle in coasting steamers belonging to Mr. M'Ildowie, 36966-9.

Fishing.

Fishing in slack season would help to keep young men at home, 36980.—Plenty of herrings were to be caught if there were facilities, 36982A-4.—Piers and boats would be required both at Cushendall and Cushendun, 36987.—Evidence would be given of class of piers required, 36990.

DOBBS, Mr. S. M.

Cushendall Dispensary District.

District contained 42,681 acres; 6,500 acres were turf and barren mountain, 20,955 acres were mountain grazing, 11,309 pasture, 113 plantations; only 3,804 acres were arable; of this, 970 acres were fair, level, alluvial land, 36994.—Climate was cold, as aspect was north-easterly, 36995.—Rainfall 48 inches, 36996.

Valuation.

Population in 1901, 2,298; valuation £3 12*s.* 6*d.* per head; valuation was misleading, as derelict mills, mines, railways and quarries, etc., were highly valued; deducting three holdings over £100, valuation was less than £11 per holding; Antrim was highest valued land in Ireland, 36999.—Reason was Griffith's valuation had begun in the South in famine times, and finished in North-east thirteen years after, when prices were rising; best standard of comparison with West was second term judicial rents, 37000.—Valuation of different Commissioners varied greatly; in townland of Tamlaght valuation was £167 15*s.*, and rent £80 7*s.*, judicial rent, 37001-2.—Mr. J. N. Black's farm was valued at £63 17*s.*; rent was £25, 37003.—In Glendun valuation was £880, rent £517 0*s.* 8*d.*, 37004.—Average of rent was half valuation, 37006.—Average valuation was £11; if rent were £5, valuation would be down to £5, or little more than standard of congestion, 37007.

Congestion.

A local Committee had been meeting for last three weeks to gather as much information as possible about congestion generally to submit to Commission, and had made report, 36992-3.—Poverty and congestion were chiefly due to absence of means of communication; there was no land available for migration, but land would support population if there were outlet for farmers' produce and fishing facilities; narrow gauge railway ended on top of mountain seven miles from place it is supposed to serve; passenger service was bad, and goods rate enormous, from Larne to Portrush; over fifty miles of wild coast there was no harbour; results were—(1) farmers had to take less for produce, (2) shopkeepers had to charge more for goods, (3) fishermen could do no good, as there was no safe anchorage, 37007-8.—(4) No industry could flourish with delays and expense of carriage; (5) limestone and iron ore were plentiful and good, but scarcely worked; (6) tourists scarcely visited the place; remedies were—(1) Harbour and extension of railway to Cushendall; (2) good road to Cushleake; (3) extension of Parkmore Railway to Cushendall, six or seven miles; terminus of iron ore railway was four miles from Cushendall, 37009-12.—There were no engineering difficulties in way of extending railway line, it had been surveyed, 37014.—Extension of railway would help to develop fishing industry, and facilitate putting farm produce on market, 37055.

DOBBS, Mr. S. M.—*continued.*

Harbour Accommodation.

There were fine sites where harbour could be erected; harbour and railway were connected, as shipment of iron ore would be chief feature, 37013.

Drainage.

Glenariff River should be drained, as 300 acres of best land were often flooded, 37013.—Surface drainage where people had commonage would be difficult, 37051.

Industries.

Woollen industry might be established, and re-afforestation carried out, 37013.—Men employed in mines lived mostly on Ballymena side, 37019.—Parkmore Station was nearest to mines, 37020.

Sheep.

Agricultural Department's returns showed about 19,900 sheep in district, 37015.—Mountains were in common, 37016.—Mountains were only fit for sheep grazing; nothing but black-faced sheep could live on hills, 37017-9.—Wool was sold through brokers in Glasgow, and it was sent by either Larne or Belfast, 37018.—Sheep and cattle were put on same mountain in summer; it would be better for farmers if holdings were separated, 37052.—Under existing circumstances breed could not be improved, 37053.—There were no shepherds on mountains, 37054.

Emigration.

Young girls emigrated to America; they did not go to Belfast, 37021.—There was no English or Scotch emigration, 37023.—Not even for the harvest, 37025.—Young men would do better if they stayed at home and fished instead of going to other countries, 37025.—Fish could only be caught by following it, 37026.

Divisions of Union.

Division of union was costly, as part of it was in Larne Union; one of most congested districts was Ardclims, in Larne, 37026.—Local Government Board fixed boundaries, which did not vary, 37027-8.

Land Purchase.

There had been one sale to about twelve tenants at 4*s.* in the £ on second term rents, 37029.—Witness did not think that any serious offers had been made, either to buy or sell, 37031-41.—4*s.* in the £ on first term rents was an extravagant price, 37042.—2*s.* in the £ on second term rents fixed in 1896 was also extravagant, 37046.

Cattle.

Cattle were generally sold from eighteen months to two years; that was cattle on small holdings, 37056-7.

TRAILL, Mr. WILLIAM A.

Iron Ore Industry and Transit Facilities.

Witness had been associated with iron ore industry while working on His Majesty's Geological Survey, from 1875 to 1882; beauty of scenery had also struck him greatly; iron ore industry had been developed to a certain extent by opening of mines at Cargan, Parkmore, etc.; ore was carried through Ballymena to Belfast, thence shipped to Barrow; cheap sea freights compensated for high rates to Belfast; mineral railway from Ballymena was owned by Northern Counties Railway Company, and they wished traffic to come over their lines; ore was 24*s.* to 27*s.* a ton, so long railway carriage could be afforded, and at that time Antrim iron ore was specially adapted for making of steel on account of its freedom from sulphur and phosphorus; about 1875 to 1880 London Company took royalties along Glenariff valley, and constructed narrow gauge railway from Red Bay up to head of Glenariff valley, and constructed concrete pier, giving deep water at all tides; £95,000 was spent, as Company expected to ship 200,000 tons per annum; greatest amount they actually did ship was 15,000 in any one year; there were object-

TRAILL, Mr. WILLIAM A.—*continued.*

tions to shipment from Belfast, and price of iron ore fell; overhead railway was constructed from mines to Red Bay at cost of £40,000, but it never worked properly; some said cables were wrong; others thought they had been maliciously cut, but witness thought cable wires were too light and broke under weight of iron ore, 37060-2.—Carting and traction carriage to Red Bay had cut up roads badly, and excessive upkeep had to be paid by ratepayers, not mine-owners; in 1880 Parliamentary plans for short railway between Parkmore and Glenariff were carried through; an Act of Parliament and running powers over Red Bay Railway as far as Ballymena were carried through, in spite of opposition of Northern Counties Railway, 37062.—Nothing ever came of it, as prices fell from 26*s.* to 8*s.*; English Company found it would not pay, and project was abandoned, 37063-6, 37068-9.—Of late years there had been some improvement in iron ore industry, and tourist traffic was developing, 37067.—Those mines were not working, but Parkmore ones were, 37070-1.—Pier at Red Bay had been very substantially built; system was to telegraph of steamer to Larne Harbour, twenty-five miles away, and it was there in one and a-half to two hours, 37073-6.—Witness held same views as in 1880, that only way to develop district was to connect Red Bay railway at Parkmore with old Glenariff railway, 37076.—Cost would be about £25,000, 37078.—Distance six miles, 37079.—£25,000 would not complete pier and railway, 37080.—About seventy-five men were now employed in iron ore works, and it might be developed in other places, 37082-4.—If line was re-created it should not only be mineral line, but to develop tourist traffic as well; tourist traffic increased sale of all products in neighbourhood, 37085-8.—Company had closed up because of fall in prices, and they were not likely to come back again, 37089-90.—Industry could be revived if proper harbour and pier were erected, 37092.—If there were terminal station at Red Bay, Cushendall would be distant a little over two miles along level road, and iron ore could be shipped either at Glenariff pier or from Red Bay pier; it would not be easy to extend railway from Retreat to Cushendall as engineering difficulties were too great; other project could be carried through with grant from Congested Districts Board and Baronial Guarantee for £10,000, 37093.

M'ALLISTER, Mr. DANIEL.

Railway Rates.

Railway rates were particularly high against Cushendall on account of want of competition, 37095-6.—Small steamer had been brought from Derry, but it did not pay for want of traffic, 37096.—Pressure had been brought to bear on railway company, but they would not reduce rates, 37097-8.—Matter had not been brought before Railway Commission now sitting in Dublin, as it was not easy for persons living so far away to go to Dublin to give evidence, 37099-102.—Only thing Congested Districts Commission could do was to send copy of evidence to Railway Commission, or district could write to Secretary of Railway Commission, 37103.—If pier were restored and steamer could call there was better chance of better treatment, 37104-8.

M'CORMICK, Mr. PATRICK.

Holding of Witness.

Witness held thirty acres and eighteen acres; present rent was £7 2*s.* and £5 14*s.* 4*d.*, valuation, £11 and £8 2*s.*, rent being below valuation, 37112.

Cushleake District.

Cushleake ran for seven miles along north coast of County Antrim, contained twenty-three townlands, and constituted electoral division in Ballycastle Rural District; valuation was £1,273 11*s.*, population 421; district was mountainous, upper portion devoted to sheep-farming and lower to cultivation; land under plough was very steep and had to be done single furrow; reaping machines could not be used, and difficulty of manuring and taking off crop was great; it was about nine miles from Ballycastle, nearest railway station; people were greatly in need of help from Congested Districts Board or some other body; people were getting tired of trying to force a living from the land, and young people did not want to stay on land; holdings were large enough to be economic, but were in remote district, and had many natural disadvantages, so there was not sufficient capital to justify advantage being taken of scheme of Department of Agriculture, 37112B.

Cattle Breeding.

Galloways rarely turned out good cows; cross-bred bull would suit district better; Department of Agriculture did not encourage use of any but pure-bred bulls; if stock could be improved introduction of bull which would suit conditions, stores might be greatly improved, trade with Great Britain improved, and craving for Canadian cattle removed; if latter were introduced, small mountain farmer would disappear, and Ireland would become, despite every effort, a series of ranches; sheep also needed new blood, 37112B.—Farmers generally sold stores after two years, 37120.—They kept them inside in winter and feed them on green crops and turnips, 37121-3.

Horse Breeding.

Schemes of Department had not been a success; influence of South of Ireland breeders who were on Advisory Committee of Department was in favour of breeding hunters, which was right for the South, but hackney breeding suited North better; Department should give more heed to wishes of influential minority; mares of Cushleake were too small to be selected and too big to be classed as ponies to come under Cushendall Pony Scheme, 37112B.—Unsuccessful throughbreds had been introduced by Committee of Department of Agriculture, 37113.—Animals might have done for good level land, with good grass, but they were not suited to braes of Cushleake, 37115-6.—Local Agricultural Committee had been in favour of keeping hackney supplied by Department, but he was taken away, 37118.

Poultry.

Poultry were kept in fair numbers, but there was difficulty in putting produce on market, 37112B.

Roads.

There was one road running through district, and it was a bad one, with very steep gradients; 5 cwt. was most a horse could take over it; carting to and from market was very difficult, 37112B.—There were only minor roads, 37164.—Under Grand Jury system people only had to pay what district cost, 37166.—An entirely new road would be needed, following for short distance one in existence, 37174-6.

Crops.

Beans and flax used to be grown, but former dropped out on account of fall in price, and bean aphis attacked latter; now price of yarn had so much increased that spinners ought to pay better prices, but they would not, 37112B.—If district were scheduled, witness suggested that people should be taken into confidence of Board, and that their wishes should not be overruled, as had so often been done in the past, 37112B.

Taxation.

Cushleake had much to complain of in matter of taxation, they were forced into scheme of main roads by which district lost about £200 a year; Local Government Board had forced them to contribute towards upkeep of Belfast roads; Cushleake was also included in area of charge for sanitary expenses at Cushendall, costing 4½*d.* in pound for 35 years, 37112B.—This was for Cushendall sewerage, 37168.—There had been Local Government Inquiry, and all districts outside Cushendall had signed protest, 37169-70.

M'CORMICK, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Stock on Farms.

Witness kept three cows, one horse, and fifty sheep, which grazed in commonage on mountain, 37126-9.—Calves were sold at six months old, 37131.—Fairs were held at Cushendall, Cushendun, Glenariff, and Waterfoot, 37134.—Stock then taken to Ballymena, Ballycastle, Larne, and Ballymoney, 37135.—It would not pay to sell stock as yearlings, it paid better to sell them as two-year-olds, 37142-3-6.—Good two-year-old would sell for £6, yearling £3, 37147-8.—Upland grazing enabled stock to be kept for two years, 37159-60.

Land.

People were leaving or selling farms, 37150.—Small farm of £6 rent had sold for £120, 37151.—Man who bought wanted to add to his own holding, 37152-4.—When sod was ploughed land was turned down a foot; it had to be kept up as well as possible, 37161-3.

O'BOYLE, Mr. JOHN.

Grazing Rights

Witness occupied, with others, 146 acres of grazing; he wanted this Commission to assign 54 acres to him exclusively, and he would pay expenses; as the other holders did not agree, Commission could do nothing, 37177-81.

M'AULEY, Mr. BERNARD.

Roads.

Good road was a necessity, 37182A.—It was needed from Tullynacrilly to Mallards, and would benefit eighteen tenants, 37183.—About a mile and a half should be made, 37184.—People would be able to till land better, as now manure had to be carried on their backs, 37185.—They had also to carry turf home, 37186.—If Commission assisted, Council would take it up, 37188.—If some body advanced portion of expenses, Rural District Council would probably find balance, 37190.—People were without road, even though they were paying for roads all over country, and sanitary expenses of Cushendall, 37194-7.

Transit Facilities.

Farmers were at great loss owing to want of transit facilities, 37182A, 37201.—Improvement of roads and railways was great question, 37202-3.

Industries.

Industries such as weaving should be revived, 37197.—Commission had no power to give help, and could not recommend industries unless there were chance of their being self-supporting, 37198-200.

O'NEILL, Mr. T. J.

Roads and Pier.

Road in Cushleake was very poor; new road could be made from Cushendun or Marrow Point, as far as the hill, about seven miles in length, 37205.—It had not been brought before District Council, 37206, 37213.—Cost would be £6,000, 37207.—Council would not go in for such large expenditure without assistance, 37208.—Recommendation of grants lay beyond province of Commission, 34209-10.—This road would benefit 150 people directly, 37212.—And 500 or 600 altogether; there would be no heavy cutting, 37215.—£6,000 was not great cost for a new road, 37217.—Cushendall people suggested new pier; they wanted line railway extended down to it, 37219-20.

M'CLOY, Mr. ALEXANDER.

Witness was farmer; he had 32 statute acres; rent was £7 10*s.*, valuation, £12 on land, and £2 10*s.* on buildings, 37223.

Transit Facilities.

Markets were inconvenient on account of bad roads, 37224.—Witness supported evidence already given, 37225.—Fallownacrilly road was very poor, and people were badly handicapped in bringing produce to market. 37226-7.—Ballymena was nearest market, twenty miles away, to which it was very difficult to take produce, 37230-1.

Land Purchase.

Two townlands, Turkilly and Gruig, were purchased about two years previously, at twenty-four years' purchase of second term judicial rents, 37231.—Under Act of 1903, 37232.—Price was too high, 37233.—On Glanville Estate Captain Dixon had proposed sale at reduction of 4*s.* in the £; tenants wanted 4*s.* 6*d.*; offer had not been accepted, 37234.—There were between ninety and a hundred tenants, with average of £10 valuation, 37235-6.—Smallest holding would be about six acres, 37237.—Witness had no mountain commonage along with his thirty-two acres, 37239.

Cattle Sales.

Cattle were sold at all ages, whenever there was likely to be most profit, 37240.—Witness's experience was that they were chiefly sold at two or three years, 37241.—They were fed in winter on hay, straw, turnips and cabbage, less turnips than other things, and no mangols, 37242-6.—Sale at six months would mean very small price, and there would be no manure for farms, 37247-8.

M'CAMBRIDGE, Mr. J.

Holding of Witness.

Witness's farm was twenty-six statute acres; rent was £14 4*s.*; valuation £20 10*s.*, 37251.—All could be tilled, and was occasionally, in rotation of crops, 37252-3.

Railway.

Farmers lost greatly through lack of railway to Cushendall and proper harbour, 37254.—Small farmer lost more in proportion than large, as he had no market for produce, 37255.—Flax and butter had to be taken to Ballymena, and two days were lost, 37256.—Carting was cheaper than taking to nearest railway station, 37258.—If railway were extended buyers would come and make market for butter and flax, 37259.—Existing railway was of no service, 37260-2.

Butter-making.

Farmers made their own butter in kits, as there was no creamery and no dairy, 37263.—Witness kept four cows, 37264.—And churned twice a week in summer, 37265.—Ordinary price was 8*d.* per lb., sometimes 10*d.*, 37266.—If it could be sold fresh the price would be better; but there was no market for fresh butter; if Cushleake-road were made better prices could be obtained from tourists, 37267-8.

Roads.

Tourists would come to Cushendall if there were road, 37269.—At present many went to Ballycastle, but did not go on; also to Portrush; but, as there was no road, they did not come on, 37270-1.—Scenery was good, but place was inaccessible, 37272-5.

M'CAMBRIDGE, Mr. J.—*continued.*

Stock.

Stock should sell as yearlings if properly fed, 37276-7.—Some who had grazing lands kept them to sell as two-year-olds, 37279.—Yearlings fetched £3 10*s.*, two-year-olds £5 or £6, 37280-1.—A two-year-old was really six quarters, not two years old, 37282.—Grass feeding was more depended on than house feeding, 37284.—Calves improved greatly on grass, so it was best to sell them at six quarters, 37285.—Prosperity of small holders depended on price of yearlings or eighteen months old beasts; if market for these was destroyed small holders would be enormously injured, 37288-9.—They were now bought by Ballymena buyers at Cushendall, and sold again to graziers, 37290-1.—They were probably not sold to English or Scotch buyers until they were three years old, 37292.

DE LURGY, Mr. HUGH.

Need for Railways.

It was difficult to let houses in Cushendall during summer months, owing to poor travelling facilities, 37297.—Belfast business-men would not send their families there, as they themselves could not run down to spend week-ends with them, 37298.—Witness wished to support evidence in favour of line from Glenariff to Cushendall, in order to develop house-letting and building there, 37298-300.—Sir Daniel Dixon had done something to develop building during last few years, 37301.

M'NEILL, Captain JAMES.

Holdings of Witness.

Witness had thirty-six acres in one holding and fifteen acres in another; rent of first £17 18*s.*, of second £8 13*s.*; valuations £44 and £15 10*s.*, 37303.

Drainage.

Drainage of Glenariff River was very important; formerly it had been drained, but now had silted up again, as no arrangement had been made for keeping it clear, 37304-7.—It should be cleared again, and some provision made for keeping it clear, 37308-12.—Thirty-six tenants would profit by it; at present they lost about £300 a year, as arable land was affected, 37313.—Witness grazed his own land and kept it in meadow, 37314.—Cost of drain would be about £1,000, 37316.—Side drain was occasionally cleared out by tenants, but river was too much for them, 37319.—Landlords spent £3,450 in 1852, and £400 in 1875; since then nothing has been done, 37321.—Matter was brought before Drainage Commission, 37323, 37325.

GRAHAM, Mr. JAMES.

Drainage.

Witness held 30 acres, rent £21, valuation £31 12s., 31736.—Injury was caused by flooding of river, 36 holdings were injured with annual loss of £380, 37327-8.—£1,000 would be needed, 37329.—After work was done arrangement should be made for keeping it clear, 37330-1.—Maintenance rate should be struck, or small amount added to annuities, 37332-4.—It went wrong eighteen years ago, 37337.—As result of large flood and subsequent cutting for making walks, 37338.

BLACK, Mr. DENIS.

Congestion.

Witness had 54 acres, rent was £18 10*s.*, valuation £28 12s., 37340.—Glendun electoral division contained twenty-three townlands, with sixty-eight holdings, of which twenty-seven were less than £5 and thirty less than £10, 37341.—Proportion of land fit for cultivation was small, only 225 acres were under cultivation, on average of three acres per holding, seventy-nine acres had gone out of cultivation within past six years, land was infertile, only fit for grazing sheep, 37342.—Witness knew of no local remedy for relief of congestion, there were only two large farms in neighbourhood, 37345-6.—Witness only wanted to bring condition of people before Commission, 37349-51.

Sheep.

Sheep died in numbers in winter from exposure, 37343.—There was no road accommodation for fifteen families, 37344.

MURRAY, Mr. PATRICK.

Congestion.

Witness rented seventy acres for £5 4*s.* 6*d.*, at valuation of £10 5*s.*, 37354.—Glens of Antrim was about poorest district in Ireland, worse than Connemara and West Donegal, 37355-9.

Road.

Road should be run on south-east side of Glen where there was no road at all, there was dangerous mountain and river to cross, 37360.—Length would be about four miles, 37362.—Necessity for road had not been brought before District Council, 37363.

Stock on Farm.

Witness kept two cows and a horse, 37364.—Cows did not calve every year, 37366.—Milk was all consumed by family, 37367.—Only two acres were ploughed out of seventy, as all had to be done by spade labour, 37369.—A few cattle were taken, some years perhaps twenty, others only fifteen or twelve 37370-2.—Cattle could not live on this land, 37373.—Eighteen pence per head was paid for sheep, 37375.—All the corn witness grew went to feeding horse and was not sufficient, 37381.—Three acres more ought to be cultivated, but it would not pay him to do it, 37382.—Calves had to be sold at all ages, as witness needed money, 37384-5

M'KINLEY, Mr. DENIS.

Need for Roads.

District was very poor, which was partly caused by want of road accommodation, as an illustration tenders for labourers' cottages had been £475 as against £265 in other districts owing to difficulty of getting material to district, what road there was was in very dangerous condition and unless prompt action was taken by scheduling district, or by some other remedy there would be no population left, 37386-7.—Road should begin at Cushendall and end at Ballyvoy, 37388.

SPIERS, Mr. JAMES.

Fishing.

Witness fished with draft nets and got herrings in December, and sometimes flat fish, whiting, 37393-5.—Boat was open boat that took four hands, 37396.—Fishing could be developed if there were accommodation for keeping boats, witness had lost smack of ten tons for want of shelter, 37399-401.—All fishing was on a very small scale, 37402.—Scotch fishermen did not come on account of want of accommodation, 37403.—Numbers would stay at home if fishing industry were developed, 37412.

FINLAY, Mr. MAURICE.

Fishing and Harbour Accommodation.

Witness fished for all kinds of fish in all seasons of the year from 20-foot open boat, larger boat could not be used for want of harbour accommodation, 37413. —Herring abounded round that coast, but they could not be properly caught as small boats could not go out far enough, 37415-8.—Lobsters were plentiful, 37419.—Unless harbour accommodation were provided fishing could not be developed, as no one would buy boats simply to have them smashed, 37420-2.—Fish was as plentiful as ever, except salmon, which was not properly protected, 37424-6.—There was salmon fishing on Glendun River, 37426.

TREANOR, Mr. PATRICK.

Nature of Land.

Witness was well acquainted with country from Pomeroy to Broughderg, and Greencastle, and neighbourhood of Carrickmore, 37433, 37439.—Quality of land was uniformly poor, some holdings fairly large, many very small; occupiers hampered by lack of labour and capital, 37433, 37463.

Agricultural and Technical Instruction Schemes.

Agricultural and technical itinerant instruction schemes of County Committee had been working in district with beneficial results, 37433.—Lectures and personal visits of instructors had encouraged improvement, great deal of useful information had been given to farmers about seeds, manures, drainage, and improved methods of feeding stock, etc., 37433.—People had been brought into touch with work and resources of Department, 37433.—Witness specially referred to agricultural and horticultural work and bee-keeping work was in a pioneer stage and districts difficult of access, 37435-6.—Experimental plots served as a good object lesson to people in immediate vicinity, 37433.—Facilities offered to small farmers and cottagers tended to increase interest in appearance of their homes, 37433.—Cultivation of vegetables increasing, 37433.

Poultry.

Considerable increase and improvement in poultry industry due to establishment of egg stations and turkey and goose stations, etc., 37433, 37436, 37438.—Classes of instruction held in Pomeroy on fattening poultry and preparing for market were well attended and resulted in great improvement, 37433-4.—Eggs were brought to Cookstown for market, 37437.—Many small farmers dependent on produce of fowls, 37437, 37440.

Live Stock Schemes.

Premium bulls and boars located at Pomeroy, Greencastle, Doons, and other places had improved class of stock, 37441, 37443.—More animals could be profitably placed if funds permitted, 37441—Scheme had been in operation about four years, 37442.—Every year more farmers were taking advantage of it, 37444.—Better price obtained for young stock, 37445, 37450.—Age when sold from six quarters to two years old, 37446.—Average price for a six-quarters beast, £10, 37451.—Usually bought by jobbers and shipped to English and Scotch markets, or by large farmers and put on to grass, 37447-8.—Farmer from Pomeroy shipped fifty to sixty head every month, 37449.—Witness would be glad if all the people could avail themselves of these schemes, but some were too poor to derive any benefit, 37454-6. —Cottage and small farm prize scheme was a stimulus and encouragement to poorer districts, advice given by judges on inspection of holdings often helpful to competitors, 37441.

Potato-Spraying.

People in Pomeroy district were at first reluctant to spray, until they saw the advantage of it, the whole country side was now sprayed, there would be no potatoes but for the spraying, 37457-62.

TREANOR, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Improvement Schemes.

Districts round Pomeroy were difficult of access, and people had little or no capital to improve holdings and could not get labour; witness suggested that special schemes should be tried in poorer districts, 37463.—Present system applicable if due regard was paid to needs of areas smaller than a rural district, 37463, 37466.—State aid might be given, 37468-70.—Money advanced at low rate of interest to poorer farmers, 37464, 37472.—Land was given as security, 37465.—Educational system of self-help established, scheme might be costly but considerable improvement would be effected in small area, 37467.—Emigration of young people prevented if encouragement were given at home, 37470, 37492.

Spade Labour.

Many holdings were too hilly to be worked by a horse, 37474.—In a twenty-acre holding of arable land probably only half could be worked by spade, 37475-6, 37484.—Young men who used to do spade labour had emigrated, 37440, 37479, 37485.—No inducement for them at home, 37481-3, 37489, 37491.—For want of labour hilly land was now in grass and of very poor quality, 37477.—Wages had gone up during last thirty years, and no farmers could now afford to pay such wages as would induce young men to remain in Ireland, 37480, 37486-90.

M'CANN, Rev. THOMAS.

Question of Improvement in Breed of Cattle and Poultry.

No improvement had resulted in Kildress district from working of Agricultural Department, 37499.—Shorthorns were supplied but that class of cattle was unsuitable for mountainous districts; premium bull died after being about a year in locality, and had not been replaced, 37500-10.—Department had supplied fowls for last four years but it took considerable time to effect improvement, and so far none was visible, 37499, 37511-5.—Fowls usually supplied to better-off farmers, 37516-7.—No noticeable improvement in district from itinerant instruction, 37518.

Description of Kildress District.

District of Upper Kildress formed a wild belt of country between Cookstown and Strabane, part of it in Dungannon Union, 37494-6, 37519-20.—Total area 7,000 acres, a great part of the land was mountainous and unfit for cultivation, 37521.—So called arable land was largely reclaimed bog, and with exception of two townlands was poor and unproductive, 37519.

Grazing.

Grazing land was rough, with soft marshes between hills, which were dangerous for cattle, and the mountains were too cold in winter, considering acreage the number of sheep kept was very small, 37521-2, 37622, 37626.—Notwithstanding good price sheep fetched at present time it did not pay to keep them, 37527.—Land had been bought as a speculation for grazing sheep but had changed hands several times; no one could make it pay, 37522-5.

Valuation of Holdings.

There were over 700 rated properties in Kildress district; 6·7 per cent. were £10 valuation and over, 74·6 per cent. were £6 valuation and under, average valuation £4 13*s.*; average valuation per acre 4*s.* 1½*d.*, 37528.—In Killeenan electoral division 96 per cent. of holdings were under £10 valuation, valuation per head £1 8*s.* 1*d.*, 37529.—In Beaghmore 87 per cent. of holdings were under £10 valuation, valuation per head £1 10*s.* 6*d.*, 37530-1.

Condition of Land and People.

Farms were usually not more than twelve acres in extent, with soil so poor that bare necessaries could not be provided; farming the only industry in district, 27531.—Numbers of farms unoccupied and uncultivated; young people emigrated, and farmers

M'CANN, Rev. THOMAS—*continued.*

had gone to England and Scotland, but remained nominally tenants if they paid up arrears of rent, 37532-6, 37540.—In some cases farms were abandoned, tenant evicted by landlord and land taken over by person paying up arrears, 37539.—Or farms were let for grazing for a small sum to a neighbouring tenant, rent then often remained unpaid, 37543-4.—Applications for abandoned farms sometimes made to landlord by neighbouring tenants, 37545-8.—Two-thirds of population dependent on money sent by relations from America and elsewhere, or obliged to hire out children, 37548.—Boys employed herding in summer months at ten years of age; boys and girls hired out from fourteen years of age, 37549-51.—People were industrious and anxious to co-operate in any scheme for their improvement; under present conditions if they were rent free two-thirds of people could not make a decent living off the land, 37573.—Horses could not be used on small holdings, many farms could not be worked by a horse, 37609.—Formation of a Parish Committee had been suggested, 37627.

Education.

School attendance satisfactory, children attended school up to fourteen years of age, 37552-5.—Compulsory Education Act had been in force about two years in rural district of Kildress and worked well, 37556-60.

Potato Crop.

Potatoes were principal food of people; effects of bad season were disastrous, 37561.—Potatoes were sprayed last year but crop was very bad in mountain district, potatoes unfit for human use, 37562-7.

Turbary.

Turf abundant in poor districts, 37571-2.—In many instances bog was within area of holding but on some estates tenants were not allowed to cut turf for sale, 37570.—Farmers frequently carted turf nine miles to Cookstown and sold it for 2*s*. 6*d*. or 2*s*. a load in order to make a little money, 37567-9.

Land Purchase.

Only two townlands had come to an agreement with landlord to buy out under Ashbourne Act, and these witness thought had bought too dear, 37573, 37581.—Price paid was 24 years' purchase on second term rents, plus bonus, 37576-7.—Average price in County Tyrone under former Acts was 17 years' purchase, 37578-9.

Derelict Farms.

No derelict farms on these townlands, 37582-5.—They were mostly situated in townland of Killeenan, 37587.—Considerable arrears of rent owing on derelict farms, 37590.—But poor tenants usually managed to pay their rent; they received money from their sons who had settled permanently in England or Scotland, 37591-3.—Negotiations for purchase of land were going on, farmers offered 22 and 22½ years' purchase but landlords would not come to terms, 37588-9.

Drainage.

Congested Districts Board could do a great deal for small farmers by giving help towards draining land, providing suitable manures and lime; limestone, years ago, was supplied free by landlord and land then was more productive, 37594.—Field drainage required not a large scheme of arterial drainage, 37596-7, 37600-2.—Witness did not advise farmers to undertake responsibility of a loan as they had no means of repaying, 37598.

Industries.

Board might start a woollen industry or factory in district which witness thought would be self-supporting in time, 37594, 37616-8.—Adjoining districts of Broughderg and Greencastle were good for sheep and would help to supply wool, 37623.—Excellent water power available; there were the rivers Kildress and Loughderg, 37624-5.

M'CANN, Rev. THOMAS—*continued.*

Railway.

Construction of light railway between Cookstown and Strabane suggested to open up hilly district, 37497, 37603-6.—Great advantage to farmers as they would have facilities for reaching market town of Cookstown, 37608.—Proposed termini Cookstown, and either Donemana or Strabane, 37607.

Enlargement of Holdings.

No grass lands in Kildress district available for enlargement of holdings, 37610, 37620-1.—Witness suggested improvement in holding itself, 37610.—Condition might be bettered, 37611.—But considering low valuation it would be difficult with greatest improvement to make holdings economic, 37612-4.—Unless people had some industry or factory to supplement what they could make from the land, 37615.

M'GEOWN, Rev. MICHAEL.

Description of Land.

Witness recommended scheduling parish of Greencastle as a congested area, 37628-9.—Poverty of district shown by farmers carting turf for sale to Cookstown; only produce of land they had for sale, 37633.—Whole parish much exposed to storms; mean height 700 feet above sea level, 37600.—Land rough and mountainous, wet and marshy in places, drainage absolutely necessary; soil unproductive unless well limed; no other manure so suitable; farmers who kept no horse had great difficulty in fetching lime from Cookstown, 37630.—Geological formation of Greencastle probably whinstone with a blue sub-soil, 37631-2.—Roads very hilly; serious obstacle to cultivation of farms, 37633.—Land had been largely reclaimed from rough mountain sides, 37635.—Unless kept under cultivation it returned to its original state, which was the tendency of all reclaimed land, 37635-41.

Valuation of Holdings.

Government valuation was about 2*s*. per acre, including valuation of houses; holdings small and not self-supporting, 37642.—Not an economic farm in whole parish, 37643.—Instance of man in Beaghmore district with holding of 60 acres unable to support himself and family without hiring out children, 37642-3, 37676.—429 holdings in parish; only 49 were of £10 valuation and over, and few of these were self-supporting, 37643, 37677-89.—Six holdings were under £10 valuation, and 25 holdings were valued at £2 and under, 37677-8.—108 holdings were not over 20 acres in area, and about 14 holdings were not over 10 acres, 37677.—In townland of Broughderg 10 per cent. was arable land, and about 15 per cent. in the rest of parish, 37677.

Diet and Means of Livelihood.

Mode of living very simple; potatoes and oats main support of people; when crops failed they were almost reduced to starvation, 37643.—No industries to fall back upon, 37643.—People tried to live on their small holdings, 37678.—Young people emigrated to earn a livelihood, 37643.—They sent home money to pay rent and help support younger children, who were often hired out at eight years of age, 37643.—People were industrious and anxious to advance themselves, 37643.

Creamery.

Creamery was started by witness with co-operation of people and some assistance from Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, 37643, 37675.—People gave their labour and collected stones for building, 37643.—Class of cattle were hardy and able to live on poor pasture, 37645.—Before creamery was established people were handicapped for want of accommodation, etc.; butter was sold at 5*d*. and 6*d*. a pound; present price 1*s*., 37643, 37647, 37657-8.—Last year creamery ranked fourth in Ireland, 37643, 37648.—Turnover was £5,000, 37643-4.—Less 10 per cent. for working expenses, 37651-2.—Each house made £15 on an average, 37653-4.—Sufficient butter and milk saved for

M'GEOWN, Rev. MICHAEL—*continued.*

consumption of family, 37659-60.—Separated milk used for feeding calves, 37661.—Separated milk plus linseed meal equivalent to ordinary milk for feeding calves when they were four weeks old; witness was not of opinion that system of creameries caused deterioration in cattle, 37662-9.—Farmers obliged to till to provide fodder for cattle in winter; witness had never found creameries lowered amount of tillage, 37670-1.—Supply of milk kept up during winter, 37672.—But green crops for winter feeding were insufficient owing to poor quality of soil; only 10 to 15 per cent. of land cultivated, 37673.

Parish Committees.

Witness was chairman of Inishowen Parish Committee for a few months, and suggested that Commission should place parish of Greencastle under Congested Districts Board; a great deal might be done by Board to ameliorate condition of people through a Parish Committee, 37675.—Congested Districts Board and Irish Agricultural Organisation Society the only two bodies who had done much for poor of Ireland, 37676.

Debt.

Some people were a good deal in debt to shopkeepers, 37679.—Agricultural Bank had been established, and people were improving and beginning to make cash payments, 37680-1.

MORRIS, Mr. SOLOMON.

Condition of Houses.

Dwellings in Greencastle district needed improvements which could be effected with little expense; sites required draining, windows enlarging, etc.; in some cases another room added, 37691.—Witness had known families of thirteen or fourteen people dwelling in two rooms, 37693-5.—Calves sometimes brought into houses, but not pigs, 37692, 37696-8.—Manure heaps should be removed further from dwellings and cess-pools drained and closed, 37699.—Witness was not aware that sanitary officers had done anything in the matter in this district, 37700-4.—Sanitary conditions were well looked after in towns; if Greencastle was placed under Congested Districts Board and people encouraged they would remove manure heaps themselves in order to get a grant from Parish Committee, 37706-7.—Witness also suggested houses being lime-washed every year, and occasionally disinfected, 37709.

Inspection of Outhouses, Dairies.

Improvement required in outhouses more than in dwellings; great mortality among animals due to inadequate shelter in winter and want of expert assistance, 37709, 37716.—Appointment of resident veterinary surgeon as inspector of outhouses and dairies suggested, whose duty would be to insist on cleanliness, suggest improvements, and see that they were carried out, 37709, 37711-4, 37717-8.—Salary of officer to be contributed partly by locality and partly by Congested Districts Board, supplemented by fees for special cases, 37718.

Drainage.

Crops would be much improved if land was properly drained, and locality would be much healthier; witness suggested that financial assistance should be given for work, 37718-23.—Drainage was first step towards reclamation, and could be effected cheaply in Greencastle, 37718.—In some places drains were stopped, 37719-20.—Due partly to ignorance of small farmers and also to lack of means, 37724-7.—Land would pay cost of drainage, and people should be encouraged to try it, 37725-30.

Agricultural Instruction—Prize Scheme.

General improvement needed in agricultural system; people would carry out work if they were instructed and advised by Parish Committee, 37734-8.—Lectures from itinerant instructors had not much effect, frequently lecturer had no knowledge of particular wants of locality; competent resident instructor working a farm himself would be a great advantage, 37739-46.—Prizes given for reclamation of mountain land would stimulate people, but grant to cover part of expenditure would be better, 37731-3.

MORRIS, Mr. SOLOMON—*continued.*

Irish Agricultural Society.

People were much indebted to Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for expert assistance in erection of creamery; Agricultural Department had also assisted, 37747.

Parish Committee.

Witness was of opinion that improvements would be carried through without much difficulty if Parish Committee were formed in connection with Congested Districts Board, 37747.—People of Greencastle were industrious and anxious to co-operate in any scheme for their improvement, 37747.—Witness hoped something would be done for these peasants to keep them at home and prevent emigration, 37747.

Arrears.

Large amount of arrears on several estates which had accumulated since the early eighties; farmers found it difficult to get bare necessaries, 47747.—Land in Greencastle mostly held by tenants under judicial second term rents, 37748-50.

Live Stock.

Farmers sometimes obliged to sell stock at six to eighteen months; when possible they kept them till two or three years old; great difficulty was to get stuff for winter feeding, 37751-3, 37759-60.—Stock usually sold to graziers for fattening, sometimes shipped to England and Scotland, 37754-5.—Farming the only industry in Greencastle, 37756-7.—Coal was worked at Coalisland, twelve miles away, 37758.

STACK, Rev. T. L. F.

Position of Drumquin.

Drumquin village situated in parish of Longfield, County Tyrone, 9 miles west of Omagh, 10 miles south-west of Newtownstewart, 16 miles north-east of Lower Lough Erne, 37763.—One electoral division in Omagh Union and another in Castlederg Union, 37762.

Minerals.

District contained considerable undeveloped mineral wealth; limestone, freestone, and seams of coal found on western side; indications of iron and mica; garnets found in mountain stream, 37766.—Surveys had been made for construction of canal from Lough Erne to Drumquin, 37766-7.

Acreage and Valuation.

Rents lower than valuation; average rating worked out low; valuation made by Griffith's Commissioners too high; Commissioners probably influenced by temporary improvement in prices of agricultural produce, 37765.—Total acreage of parish 32,446 acres; valuation £6,626; average valuation 4*s.* 1*d.* per acre; many townlands only averaged 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per acre; for example, Meenbog had an acreage of 881 acres; valuation £46 15*s.*; average 1*s.* per acre; Meenadoan, acreage 731 acres; valuation £36 5*s.*; average 1*s.* per acre; Castlecraig, acreage 543 acres; valuation £21 10*s.*; average valuation 9*d.* per acre; Tully, acreage 747 acres; valuation £20; average valuation 6*d.* per acre; Ally, acreage 1,144 acres; valuation £22; average valuation 4½*d.* per acre, 37768.

Decline in Population.

In 1871 Drumquin had over 400 inhabitants; at last Census number was reduced to 250; Census returns for whole parish showed a loss of 1,418 in two decades, being a decline of 26 per cent., 37768, 37792.—Decline due to decay of agriculture and want

STACK, Rev. T. L. F.—*continued.*

of permanent industries, 37769, 37776.—District entirely agricultural, land half mountain and half bog, incapable of supporting people dependent on it, 37764, 37769.

Debt.

Opinion that only 20 per cent. of the people were in solvent condition, 37769, 37792.—Some received money from friends abroad; women had to earn money by sewing, 37769.—Credit system largely used, 37772.—Money borrowed on bills from local banks renewed over and over again at six or eight per cent., 37769-71.—Large amount still owing to Drumquin Loan Fund Society, 37772.

Causes of Decay in Agricultural Industry.

Trade and agricultural industry greatly handicapped in Drumquin for want of transit facilities; nearest railway station at Omagh nine miles away, 37763-4.—Drumquin crossing nearest point railway touched, 37764.—Drumquin was of considerable importance in last century; situated on coach route between Londonderry and Enniskillen; markets and fairs were prosperous; local industries, tanning leather and small woollen mills; since advent of railway population had steadily declined, 37764.—Railway rates excessive; witness wished to emphasise the fact he pointed out to Viceregal Commission—viz., rates to Omagh were four times rate per ton to terminal stations like Londonderry and Belfast; price of corn worked out 4·4 times per ton mile greater from Derry to Omagh than from Derry to Dublin, 37773-5.—Reduction of 50 per cent. in charges of railway companies could easily be made, and would mean 5*s*. per statute acre all round to Irish farmers, 37794.—Witness suggested State buying out shareholders and railways being worked by central department; if that was too expensive Iveagh-Pirrie scheme of motor communication might be tried as in England, 37795.—Free trade largely responsible for decay of agriculture, 37800-4.—Also the enormous taxation of England, 37814-6, 37820-1.—Witness did not admit that system of landlordism had had a prejudicial effect, 37814, 37818-9.—Intemperate habits of people a contributory cause to decay, 37802.—Thirteen millions of money spent annually on alcohol; indirect loss two or three times that sum, 37802.—Witness was not sure of actual amount of liquor consumed in Ireland, but more alcohol was consumed in Denmark than in United Kingdom, 37826.—Temperance cause had improved generally over Ireland, but there was not much improvement in Drumquin, 37822-5, 37827-8.

Improvements in Agricultural Industry suggested.

Development of agricultural industry would be means of rescuing Ireland, 37778.—Thirty years ago Denmark was practically bankrupt, 37778.—Now it ranked as fourth richest country per head of population in the world, 37778-9.—Present prosperity due to development of agriculture; climate and soil of Ireland 25 per cent. better than that of Denmark, 37779.—Witness suggested starting a model Danish farm in Drumquin, instruction being given concurrently in improved methods of agriculture, 37779-81, 37794.—Farm could be purchased economically, and would produce better price when sold, 37779-80.—Danish farmers were highly trained; average man was able to support his family in comfort, and save £50 a year, 37781.—Yield of milk in Denmark had largely increased owing to magnificent system of inspection, 37781.—Bad cows weeded out; proper bulls kept; breed of cattle improved; witness suggested Government inspection of dairies and cow-sheds on similar lines in Ireland, 37781, 37794.—Prosperity of Denmark in great measure due to its system of protection; tariffs not very high; small duties on manufactured articles; articles of food-stuffs admitted free, 37782-4.—Protection badly needed in Ireland, 37783.

Scheduling Congested Areas.

Witness suggested that parishes of East and West Longfield should be scheduled as congested, and put under protection of Congested Districts Board, 37777, 37786-7.—District was not quite so badly off as scheduled area of Kilgarven, County Kerry; standard of living had improved during last twenty years, but under present conditions district was not able to support population, 37788-93.

Improvements Suggested.

Re-afforestation a great advantage; would provide employment, improve climate, and give valuable produce, 37796.—Efficient control of rivers should be obtained, and lakes held up to prevent disastrous floods, which did enormous amount of damage, 37796-8.—Holdings under £4 valuation might be made economic if worked on Danish system, 37805.—Help being given to people to form co-operative societies and dairies, 37806.—Witness was owner of a creamery originally started as a co-operative auxiliary creamery under Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; difficulties arose with regard to machinery; law suit threatened, so witness purchased concern, and it was now converted into central creamery, with three auxiliaries of its own; present turnover about £12,000, 37807-13.

Geological Survey.

An attempt should be made to ascertain actual capabilities of district; geological survey not an accurate guide; witness suggested holes being sunk for several hundred feet, with good machinery; twenty years ago geological survey in India reported no coal was to be found; engineers obtained permission to try for coal, and six million tons of coal had been raised within last few years, 37794.

DONNELLY, Mr. ALEXANDER.

Transit Facilities.

Wished to draw attention to proposed railway from Cookstown to Donemana, 37831.—As a solicitor witness represented districts of Kildress, Greencastle, Rooskey, Gortin, and Donemana, one continuous district extending to borders of County Derry and down to Mountfield, 37831.—Very exposed locality, rugged and mountainous, 37831.—Transit facilities badly needed, 37831-2.—No means of rapid communication; Great Northern Railway skirted extreme borders of district, 37831.—Farmers had great difficulty in bringing produce to market owing to hilly nature of country, 37831.—Sixteen miles by road to Omagh, Strabane, or Cookstown, 37831.—Difficult also to obtain lime, which was essential for reclamation of land; no lime in central districts; farmers had to fetch it from Cookstown, 37832.

Abandoned Farms.

Several families in Gortin district could not make a living on farms; people emigrated to America and left holdings in hands of auctioneer to be set for grazing on eleven months' system; money used to pay rent and taxes; in some cases old people left on farms and received money from America for rent, 37832-7.

Quality of Land.

Land of extremely coarse quality, difficult to work; question whether improvement in land would be sufficient to repay outlay necessary for drainage, etc., 37838-41.

M'ALEER, Mr. PATRICK.

Roads.

Witness recommended construction of good common roads to bogs; farmers unable to get a sufficient quantity of turf in wet season; much discomfort caused by insufficient supply of fuel, 37845.—County roads also in bad condition, duty of County Council to look after them, but nothing had been done; money offered for repairs not sufficient to induce contractor to undertake work, 37845.

M'ALEER, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Tree Planting.

Large tracts of land incapable of reclamation which might be planted with suitable trees to form shelter belts; hedges planted on holdings, etc., would improve appearance of country, and eventually become source of profit to owner; land was much exposed to storms in winter and spring; 800 feet above sea level; crops suffered for want of shelter, 37845-51.

Industries.

Witness suggested introduction of up-to-date handlooms; there was a large quantity of wool available, 20,000 sheep within radius of 6 or 8 miles, 37852, 37854.—Homespuns could be manufactured; ready sale would be found, as influential people interested themselves in sale of such goods, 37852, 37856-7.—Lace-making could be introduced and would provide employment for young girls now obliged to emigrate; properly qualified instructor could be obtained for small amount; great benefit conferred on Dromore, County Tyrone, by introduction of lace-making.—Peat moss litter industry could be established if country had proper transit facilities, inexhaustible supply of bog, 37858.—Construction of railway through district would be of untold benefit to inhabitants; great difficulty in procuring lime and other necessary commodities under present conditions, 37858.

CONWAY, Mr. PATRICK.

Rundale System.

Rundale system applied principally to M'Mahon estate; five or six townlands and about one hundred tenants effected in Greencastle parish, 37861, 37865. Most pernicious system, and caused much litigation, 37861.—Greater portion of parish was striped in 1836 or 1837, 37863.—Portion now in rundale had never been re-striped, 37864.—People were tired of rundale system, and would do anything to get rid of it, 37862.—Compulsory powers necessary to effect a re-arrangement of holdings, 37866-70A.

MacFARLANE, Mr. JAMES.

Transit Facilities for Cookstown.

Want of transit facilities a great drawback to establishment of industries, 37875.—Hand loom industry died out ten years ago; creamery had been started, but was hampered in distribution of produce; good water power which had been used for grinding Indian corn; fine wheels now idle because of cost of cartage; cheaper to send by rail from Cookstown to Belfast than to cart stuff by road from Doons to Cookstown, distance of five miles, 37875-6.—Witness suggested a light railway to open up district, 37877, 37891.—Route suggested from Cookstown through Greencastle and Gortin to Donemana, about thirty miles, 37878-9.—Railway would accommodate three creameries, Doons, Greencastle, and Gortin; turnover of Doon's creamery about £5,000 a year.—Father M'Geown did good work in starting Greencastle creamery, 37891.—Railway would also enable people to get lime, 37877.

Flax Industry.

Flax industry had greatly declined, 37880.—Free trade had had a great deal to do with it; Russian flax was brought in free; there should be a duty on foreign flax coming in, 37881, 37885, 37891.—That would encourage flax-growing industry in Ireland; not more than 8*s.* a stone on an average paid for flax; spinners could give double if they wished, 37881, 37886.—They would not pay Irish farmers a big price when they could get Russian flax at a cheap rate, 37887.—Russian farmer got his labour for little or nothing, people little more than slaves, 37882-4.—Price of yarn in Russia went up last week and price of Russian flax came down, 37888.—Price depended on supply, 37889.—Belgium was producing better class of flax than any other country, 37892-3.—Great deal depended on water in Belgium; they had a river thirty miles long; it was not so good at both ends as it was in the centre, 37895.—Irish flax much better than Russian flax, which was very coarse, 37896-7.—Some Irish flax was as good as the Belgian, but it did not fetch as good a price, 37898-9.—Large quantity could not be got together; in Belgium tons of the one quality could be obtained, 37900.—For last two years they had been getting good seed in Ireland which was beneficial, 37894.—Belgian seed was brought into Belfast and sold, 37901.

DORIS, Mr. JOHN.

Townlands of Limehill and Momore.

Witness appeared for portion of Cookstown Union, the townlands of Limehill and Momore, in electoral division of Rock and Pomeroy; farmers here situated in same circumstances as those in Parish of Kildress, only land was not so rocky nor so much moorland; 700 or 800 feet above sea level, it was exposed, and had been reclaimed; people all very poor, and had a great struggle to eke out an existence; particulars witness wished to point out were:—

—	Acreage.			Number of Holdings.	Total Valuation.		Average Valuation per Holding.	Valuation per Head.		Average Valuation per Acre.	
								About			
	A.	R.	P.		£	s.		£	s.	s.	d.
Limehill .	1.436	3	20	97	409	1	Little over £4.	1	17	5	8
Momore .	529	2	18	40	227	15	About £5 10*s.*	2	6	7	8
Bondahessia	583	3	20	42	189	7	Under £4 10*s.*	2	0	6	5
Edendoit .	343	3	12	34	137	10	£4.	1	10	8	0
Turnaskea .	164	0	4	15	95	10	Under £6 6*s.* 8*d.*	3	16	11	7
Coronaney .	205	0	3	35	170	0	Under £5.	7	13	11	1
Goitendarragh.	228	3	12	20	109	8	Under £5 10*s.*	3	10	9	7

Industries.

Industries should be started in the country to keep the people at home, and districts mentioned should all be scheduled as congested areas, 37909.—District was almost all congested; 75 per cent. of holdings in Pomeroy were under £10 valuation, 37910-11.—There were a number of industries in Donegal, such as needlework and woollen industry, which had made a great improvement; similar industries should be started in this district, 37912.—These industries did not afford much employment for men; object was to provide employment to keep men from emigrating; re-afforestation would improve the country and soften the climate, 37913.

New Railway Between Cookstown and Strabane Would Open up Industries.

If proposed new railway from Cookstown to Strabane were made it would open up other industries; splendid water power in the district, there was the Broughderg River and another running in the direction of Cookstown, and if this railway were made it was hoped that industries such as there were at Sion Mills, Bessbrook and Greenvale would be established; large amount of peat towards Broughderg, and with railway running through district very probably a peat industry would spring up; people would be able to cut and dry their turf and sent it by rail to Cookstown or elsewhere, and get lime in return to improve their land; more opportunities to find labour, both for men and women, if this railway were opened up, 37913.

Potato Spraying.

People had done all they could in the way of potato spraying; they were very quick to take up any new method likely to be beneficial, but, notwithstanding spraying, potato crop had been a failure; potatoes were soapy and hardly fit for use, 37913.—Spraying had been done in dry weather, but in some cases it was nearly impossible to do it in

DORIS, MR. JOHN.—*continued.*

dry weather; another thing against it was the frost or mist which gathered on the mountain; spraying in the lowlands, without this drawback, had more effect; soil was deeper and better, and produced a better crop, 37914.

THE WOOLLEN INDUSTRY AND THE PROPOSED RAILWAY.

One witness had spoken of the great number of mountain sheep and the large quantity of wool which would be available for woollen industry; if there were a woollen industry in the district people could keep the wool at home and get better price for it, instead of exporting it to England and Scotland or selling it to some of the local firms; new railway would bring district more in touch with Donegal, and would bring sheep along in direction of Belfast; a friend of witness's (Mr. Quinn) was the pioneer in opening up sheep markets of Donegal; he made markets for them, and went to Donegal and bought sheep in hundreds, and with all the disadvantages of having no railway he brought them to Newry, Louth, and Meath, 37914.—Donegal had railways running through it and connecting at Strabane with G.N.R., so were able to reach Newry, Louth, and Meath; if new railway were made they would be brought into better touch with Belfast, 37915.

LAND PURCHASE.

These poor people had not the benefits of land purchase; while landlords of good land were selling, landlords of congested districts refused to sell, except at an exorbitant price, 37915, 37924-6.—Colonel Hutcheson Poë had offered to sell at 24½ years' purchase, and would take no less; tenants, through Canon Quinn, offered 22½ years' purchase on second term rents, but he would not take it; in witness's opinion 17½ years' purchase was quite sufficient; Colonel Lowry had asked 25 years' purchase, and tenants had offered 22¼; Hope's Estate, bordering Colonel Poë's was sold before Land Act of 1903, at 17 years' purchase on second term rents; land on this estate was mountainous and congested, and much the same quality as on Colonel Poë's estate; nearly 2,000 tenants on the estate, and all fairly prosperous, notwithstanding that the annuity would be 4 per cent., as against 3¼, 37916-7.—Ballinascreen Estate, which was of medium land, sold at 19 years' purchase on first term rents, and there was no game reservation, 37917.

REMUNERATION DERIVED FROM GAME RESERVATION AND LETTING SHOOTING TO SPORTSMEN.

Tenants now protected game, and derived a good income from letting shooting to sportsmen, 37917.—Everyone was interested in watching the game, 37918.—Each tenant looked after game on his own land because he knew he would derive certain income by so doing, 37919, 37922.—People must club together to let shooting and divide proceeds; that was the only way of managing it, 37923.

QUINN, MR. FRANCIS.

WANT OF RAILWAY FACILITIES AT ARDBOE.

Railway facilities were needed; new railway was required from Cookstown to Ardboe, a distance of about eight miles, but if run on to the old Cross of Ardboe it would be ten miles, 37928-30.—Midland Railway Company of England had admitted this grievance, and it would be well if district were listed under Congested Districts Board, so that some assistance towards the scheme would come from them, 37928, 37937.—Necessity for this line had been admitted over twenty years ago; route was mapped out by late Sir Charles Lanyon, and money for work almost voted, but there was a hitch; it was thought that there might be water communication to Cookstown; grievance still unremedied; it had been admitted in Belfast, where people went chiefly for supplies, 37928.—Nothing had been done since route had been mapped out twenty years ago; railway company seemed unwilling to put down money and make this piece of railway, which was so badly needed, 37952.—They considered the line necessary, but had not made it, 37933-4.—Company would be willing to do something, but it would take £50,000 to make a railway, and they were unwilling to spend the money, 37935.

HARBINSON, MR. W. J.

NO MEADOWING IN DISTRICT OF COOKSTOWN.

Great drawback to people in Cookstown was that they had no meadowing, and in seasons of drought they were impoverished trying to keep their cattle, having no fodder for winter feeding, 37942, 37957.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO PEOPLE OF POORER DISTRICTS.

They also suffered from want of knowledge in the use of artificial manures and fertilisers, etc.; Agricultural Board had not given attention to these particular places and instructing the people in use of these things; painful to observe their want of knowledge, 37942, 37975-7.—People also behind in knowledge of cattle breeding and rearing; Agricultural Board had given far more attention to breeding of high-class pedigree cattle in Tullyhogue and Stewartstown districts, because results created more applause, and had more money to show than in the case of the people in mountain districts; drainage was also most defective; in Kildress district there were boulders and large stones; apparatus should be lent out by County Council under County Surveyor at net cost of explosives so as to have these blown up, 37942.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR PURPOSES OF MIGRATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Father M'Cann had said there were no lands available for purpose of migration, 37943.—There was plenty of land available in witness's district; Agricultural Board had bought Loughroy Manor and Glebe when these were on the market recently; there were 143 acres, and Board had paid at rate of £13 14*s.* 6*d.* an acre; it was purchased for purpose of establishing a dairy farm, but as they could get any amount of land elsewhere suitable for dairy farms, Agricultural Board should have transferred this holding to Congested Districts Board, who could have split it up into farms of twenty acres and relieved congestion in Kildress district by migrating tenants to these new farms, 37944, 37949-51, 37960.—Place was not being used as a dairy farm; nothing yet completed, 37945.—Killymoon Estate, consisting of 600 acres, was offered for sale a few years ago; it would be a good place for purpose of migration, 37945-7, 37952.—The Mountrays held it in fee, 37948.—Then there were 150 acres at Stewartstown, 37952.

QUESTION OF ENLARGING PRESENT UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Some witnesses had said that scarcely any improvements in the conditions of agricultural holdings would enable farmers to live by their holdings; witness did not agree, 37958-9.—Land abandoned in Kildress would be of service for enlarging neighbouring holdings; holdings were not capable of supporting young people, who were obliged to emigrate; but if two or three were turned into one matters would greatly improve, 37964.—People in Kildress had not enough of the class of land they possessed; a man with an ordinary farm of fifteen or twenty acres could have three dairy cows, but he would want forage for the winter and would have to go to market and buy it at an outside price; there were seasons when the country was bankrupt by farmers having to buy fodder in the early spring, 37965.—Enlargement of these holdings in Kildress would enable holders to have more hay, fodder, and rough grazing, and with development of the creameries farmers required to have sufficient forage for the winter, 37966.—Twenty-four acres would give these people good economic holding, 37967.—In many cases they worked ten and twelve or fourteen acres, which was not sufficient for a dairy farm; district specially suited for dairy farming; one of the best in Ulster, 37968.—If one of these men with his family had two more farms added

HARBINSON, Mr. W. J.—*continued.*

to his so as to make holding of about thirty acres, he could work it well without assistance, 37969, 37971-2.—Mostly all tillage land, 37970.—These grass lands were all near at hand, some within ten minutes' walk of Cookstown, others only two or three miles from the town; lands like Loughrey Manor and Killymoon Park if portioned out among the farmers would not only benefit a district by relieving congestion, but would bring farming population beside the town, 37961.

Employment of Children of Farmers in Linen Mills.

There were two or three big manufacturers of linen fabrics, and children of farmers could find employment in mills, 37961, 37963.—Splendid linen mills in Cookstown; Messrs. Adair were the finest linen manufacturers, and stood highest in the trade in Ulster, 37962.

Agricultural Shows.

Witness subscribed to local shows, 37954.—Small farmers derived no benefit from the shows in this district; in other districts Agricultural Board was catering for the farmers who had the finer class of cattle; they should also help small farmers in poorer districts and give as much attention to class of cattle that would suit their land as they did to cattle of rich farmers, 37955.—Sum of £150 had been spent in substantial grants at these shows; £70 was given for horse-breeding; small farmer under £15 valuation had no chance whatever against large farmer over £60 in valuation, 37956.—Witness did not believe such districts as Kildress, where so much congestion existed, got more than 6*d.* in the £, 37957.—No class for different valuation, so that small men had sections all to themselves; Rev. Dr. Carter established these shows, and witness had done his best to encourage them and get people in poor districts to come in and take advantage of them, 37973.—There should be classes for farmers under £10 valuation and for farmers under £4 valuation as there were in every other part of the country, 37974.—Local Committee gave contribution to the shows, and should see that such classes were provided; this district had been the pioneer of shorthorn breed of cattle; much money had been made since Agricultural Committee had introduced these shows, because cattle sold for £300 and £400 had been sent out to South America; all the attention was paid to that class of cattle, and poor unfortunate people in mountain districts were left without any assistance, 37975.—Department sent down an inspector to these shows, but people had obtained very little information, 37976.—They sent one to Cookstown shows, but people did not get any advantage; it would take an instructor every day in the week, because of the want of knowledge of these people with regard to use of grasses, especially clover, 37977.

LEEPER, Mr. WILLIAM.

District Should be Scheduled as Congested.

Witness was a linen manufacturer in John Sunning and Sons' factory at Cookstown, 37978, 37995-6.—He resided on the edge of the district that had applied to be scheduled as congested, 37979.—District was a very poor one, and consisted of twenty-one townlands, and had an area of about 22,000 acres, and valuation of £4,200; witness thought that district ought to be scheduled as congested, and treated apart from the rest of the county in any scheme; it did not benefit sufficiently from present scheme, 37980, 37987.—It would require more aid than richer districts if people were to be kept in it, 37981.

Agricultural Shows.

There should be some supplemental aid given independent of the general funds, to help a poor district; a scheme was formulated by which residents of this area competed among themselves for certain prizes at agricultural shows, but there was no competition and the scheme was abandoned, 37984-6.

LEEPER, Mr. WILLIAM—*continued.*

Parish Committee Suggested.

Parish Committee would be more in the nature of the work that witness would suggest.

Question of Industries.

Witness did not agree with evidence that had been given concerning industries and establishment of industries; sufficient employees could not be found for work already in existence; it would be necessary to start new industries, 37987-8, 37999-8000

Scarcity of Labour and Railway Rates.

Scarcity of labour and railway rates one great drawback to the extension of such a mill as witness's, 38005.—People living in congested areas could not be induced to come in to work; they preferred to go to America or England or Scotland, 37988.—Work was chiefly for women; men would not have same inducement to come in, but there would be ample work for them too, 37989-90.

Effect of Migration Scheme.

If migration scheme were carried out which would bring some of the people down to the grass land that was near there would be no improvement; with twenty acres of land no one would be sent out to work on neighbouring farms, 37991.—If they had so much land they would need all the help, 37992.—It would help young men on the farm, but women would not work in a mill from a farm of that size, 37993-4.—Women were recruited from Cookstown and from country districts, from small farmers who were going to the bad; country districts had become greatly depleted in population, and people were going straight to America and Canada, and it was very difficult to get workers, 37998.—No probability of any such thing as a mill being planted down in district like Kildress, where farms were insufficient; two-thirds of production obtained in Belfast, only one-third in Cookstown; rates from Belfast, and the necessity of bringing coal, etc., handicapped industry so much that it was cheaper to produce a piece of cloth in Belfast, although labour was cheaper in Cookstown, 38001-2.—If it was put out in Kildress there would be cartage in addition, 38002.—People came to the mill from half a mile round, 38003-4.

Market for Produce.

Market was all over the world; England and America the two principal markets; goods bought in Belfast markets, and all passed through Belfast port going away, 38006.

CRAWFORD, Mr. WALTER R.

Agricultural Schemes.

Witness desired to correct Mr. Harbinson's statement about money going from the Agricultural Committee to larger farmers at the shows; such was not the fact; classes were provided at all the shows in the county for small farmers under certain valuation, and this money was altogether given in prizes to smaller farmers, and Show Committees bore all expense of administering funds, 38010.—Board insisted on it, and for Kildress and what are called the poorer districts of the county, the Committee gave a special grant, which was offered to farmers of a certain valuation, 38011.—There was no competition at any of the shows, and the classes were abandoned, 38012, 38021.—It had been tried at Omagh, Cookstown, and Strabane, 38017.—No class for holdings so low as £10, 38018-9, 38021.

Witness did not think it was the case that fifty-three per cent. of the holdings in his district were under £10 valuation, 38017.—All money of Agricultural Committee was apportioned according to valuation, and each district, as far as possible, and County Committee spent money on that basis in each district; Cookstown Union, in the matter of nominations of mares and premiums of bulls, got so many, according to the valuation, 38022.—The higher the valuation the higher the grant; therefore, the richer the union the larger the benefits, 38023-4.—It was not

CRAWFORD, Mr. WALTER R.—*continued.*

the duty of the richer farmers to be taxed to help the people in congested districts; that was a matter altogether for the Government; any aid should come from Government direct, 38025.—Poorer district did get larger amount than richer county in proportion to valuation, because, if they contributed £1 of rates, they got 25*s.* of grant, and there were other counties that got 30*s.*, 38026, 38041.—Valuations in Cookstown were lower, but people were better off than in parts of Sligo with higher valuation, 38029.

Subsidy from the Department depended upon the county contribution, 38030.—County Committee made an arrangement to allocate subsidy in proportion to amount of rate from different districts, 38031.—Principle followed by County Committee in allocating various schemes was that the poorer districts had special attention paid to them; bulls had been placed in these districts, and boars, as far as possible, where they could get them taken up, 38032, 38039.—Poor districts should receive better treatment than richer districts of that rural district, and they did so, as far as County Tyrone County Committee were concerned, 38033.—There should be supplemental schemes in this district, as there were in various districts in West of Ireland; but Government or the Department should do it, not the other ratepayers in the same county, 38034.

Fresh start might be worth a trial, to have a category of prizes for the numerous classes of low valuation, under £6 or £5; but competition would not be obtained; what people wanted was education, 38035.—Prizes for drainage might be carried out, 38037.—Bail given as far as possible to each union for money raised in the union for agricultural purposes, 38038.—Money raised in richer districts was allocated for those districts; it all went into one fund, 38040.—Reason poorer districts did not avail themselves of the superior bulls was that the Agricultural Committee insisted on their purchase at one of these shows, and the payment of £40 before they could get a premium, and people were unable to invest £40 in a bull, 38042-3.

CLARKE, Mr. PETER.

Area, Population, Valuation.

Witness represented Strabane No. 1 Rural District Council; he resided at Plumbridge, 38044-5.—Strabane No. 1 Rural District consisted of twenty electoral divisions; the total area was 136,992 acres 0 roods 39 perches; population in 1901 was 25,396; total valuation, £69,276 9*s.*; population in 1891 was 27,524; witness had been instructed to deal only with very poor divisions; he selected seven—Lislea, Plumbridge, Glenroan, Glenchiel, Mount Hamilton, Stranagalwilly, and Loughash, 38049.

Lislea Division.

Lislea Division lay westward from Gortin, between Newtownstewart and the border, 3853-4.—It was largely mountainous; 45 per cent. of the land had been reclaimed by tenants, remainder was heather and grazing; area of Lislea was 6,807 acres 0 roods 18 perches; population, 798; valuation, £1,154 16*s.*, or £1 8*s.* 9*d.* per head; this was the valuation when the Act of 1891 was passed, and the division could therefore be scheduled, 38049-51, 38068.

Industries.

Most of the soil was not very productive, and as a consequence farmers saved turf in summer and disposed of it in Strabane and Newtownstewart; much of the road was hilly and unprotected by hedges, making transport of turf difficult, 38052, 38054.—Sewing underclothing was Lislea's only industry, 38054.

Necessity for Arterial Drainage.

Arterial drainage was greatly needed; if it were supplied some tenants would be willing to do the field drainage; others would be too poor, 38054-6, 38060-1, 38069.—But a loan on reasonable terms might induce them to carry out the work, 38057.—There were no evidences that this district had formerly been drained, 38058-9.—Arterial drainage should be opened by public authority; the expense was too great for the local bodies; in this division many tenants had to get loans from loan fund, 38062-3.

Size of Holdings in Ballynasolis and Crocknaclady.

Witness did not know size of Lislea holdings under £10 valuation, but in Ballynasolis an area of 925 acres had a population of seventy-one, representing about twenty families; here there would be about twelve acres per person, 38064-7. Crocknaclady, in Lislea, contained 374 acres 1 rood 2 perches; population fifty-six, making about six acres per person; valuation was £40, 38068.

Plumbridge Division.

Plumbridge was also mountainous; much land had been reclaimed from cutaway bog-land; holdings were small and rundale, and therefore troublesome to manage; buildings could not be placed suitably; the children were needed to herd the small plots, so that compulsory education was a great hardship; Plumbridge contained 5,591 acres 2 roods 21 perches; population, 872; valuation, £1,674 2*s.*, 38070-2.—The high valuation was due to Plumbridge village, where there were fifteen shopkeepers and eleven publicans, whose houses were valued high, and also to two parochial houses and a manse, 38073-6.—Otherwise the division was extremely poor; most of the people borrowed from the loan fund; an auctioneer in the town had £3,991 19*s.* 9*d.* out in bills and £1,445 16*s.* 1*d.* in mortgages, and charged a high rate of interest, 38076-82.—In reckoning the average valuation it would be well to exclude the valuation of houses in the town, to reduce the average valuation of the division, 38076.

Glenroan Division.

Glenroan electoral division, in the same parish as Plumbridge, was cold and mountainous; there might be a few fertile holms along the water; area was 5,033 acres 2 roods 19 perches; population, 575; valuation, £987 15*s.*, or about £1 12*s.* per head; roads were very hilly; of two main roads on either side the river, one led from Strabane to Draperstown, Magherafelt, and Belfast; this road having opened up the place, the other sprang up; generally speaking roads were stop-ended and fourth-class; in this division the best roads were second-class, the rest third and fourth class; in one townland the area was 929 acres 1 rood 23 perches; population, 112; valuation, £85 2*s.*; in another townland area was 2,152 acres 0 roods 31 perches; population, 237; valuation, £66 8*s.*, 38082.—The only industry in Glenroan Division was sewing underclothing, 38083-4.

Glenchiel Division.

Glenchiel electoral division was mountainous, with poor soil; area, 8,159 acres 1 rood 2 perches; population, 774; valuation, £1,126 17*s.*, or £1 9*s.* per head, 38084.—Glenchiel lay north-east of Gortin, towards Draperstown, 38086-7.

Markets for Glenroan and Glenchiel.

Markets for produce of Glenroan and Glenchiel were Cookstown, Omagh and Strabane; two days were needed for going to and from Strabane; the roads did not admit of improvement by District Council, 38085.

Mount Hamilton Division.

Mount Hamilton, one of the most mountainous divisions in the county, contained the Sperrin Mountains; snow lay there nearly all winter; land was poor; potatoes had only lately been planted; division contained 12,618 acres 0 roods 33 perches; population was 420, valuation £725 10*s.*, nearly all the holdings being under £10 valuation, 38087-8.

Stranagalwilly Division.

Stranagalwilly division, in Donagheady Parish, was largely mountainous, and the soil poor, but bogs were abundant; the division contained 10,525 acres

CLARKE, Mr. PETER.—*continued.*

1 rood 11 perches; population, 803; valuation, £935 7*s.*; 176 occupiers were under £4 valuation, and 570 more were under £10; few were beyond £10, 38088-90.—The peat industry could be set up in Stranagalwilly, 38091.

Limestone Abundant.

Limestone quarries were abundant, Cookstown being the only other limestone quarry in the district within thirty-four miles; if these quarries were opened up, and a light railway constructed between them and Cookstown, the demand for lime would be enormous; it was used for top-dressing, 38088, 38091-5.—An arterial drain was needed in this division, and meadows could be reclaimed from the bog; the lime would be no use unless the land were first drained, 38091, 38096.—Witness paid 11*s.* 6*d.* per ton for lime, 38097.—Two sizes of barrels were used for lime, the larger cost 1*s.* 6*d.* in Cookstown, 38098-9.—Daily papers had reported suggestions for railways from Donemana to Cookstown, from Castlederg to Pettigo, and a connection between Dungiven and Draperstown, 38104.

Loughash Division.

Loughash was a very poor district, abounding in limestone; area, 6,928 acres 1 rood 9 perches; valuation, £1,202 15*s.*; population, 883, 38104.

Decline in Population of District.

Decline in population from 1881-1901 was: for Loughash, from 1,107 to 883; Stranagalwilly, from 979 to 803; Mount Hamilton, from 639 to 420; Glenchiel, from 1,004 to 774; Glenroan, from 735 to 575; Plumbridge, from 1,192 to 872; Lislea, from 1,130 to 798, 38082, 38104.—There were industries in Sion Mills; in Attaclady and East Urney divisions Messrs. Herdman employed 1,200 hands, at wages from 8*s.* 6*d.* to £2 per week; in these divisions the people had remained, and population had increased, 38104-10.—Some of the workers came daily from Strabane, 38111.—Men as well as women were employed, 38119.—The institution of similar mills, or of home industries, in witness's neighbourhood would stop emigration, 38111-7.—Migratory labourers from these districts went to Great Britain, 38118.

No Benefit Derived by Small Farmers from Technical Instruction.

In Strabane Rural District No. 1 no benefit was derived from the penny rate for technical instruction, 38122-6.—Itinerant and poultry instructors gave courses of four lectures; there were no experimental or demonstration plots; a pedigree bull recently introduced died, 38126.—It was too late in the day to train adult farmers, but demonstration plots would be of use, 38127-31.—The expenditure on farming instruction chiefly benefited the neighbourhood of Cookstown, Tullyhog, Coagh, and Dungannon, 38132.—The large farmers, who had greater influence, were the chief gainers, not the small farmers, whose needs were greater, 38137-8.

RAFFERTY, Mr. MICHAEL.

Sir Hugh H. Stewart's Estate—Poverty of Tenants.—Harsh Management by Agent.

The valuation of four electoral divisions in Carrickmore portion of Omagh Rural District was: Athenry, £3,223; Carrickmore, £1,590; Creggan, £711; Loughmacrory, £1,102; population of Athenry 1,185, of Carrickmore 1,092, of Creggan 662, of Loughmacrory 849; most of Athenry was of small valuation, but average was raised fairly high by a couple of townlands near town of Carrickmore; the four divisions were comprised in the Sir Hugh H. Stewart Estate, on which the tenants were very poor and greatly dependent on assistance from relatives in America, England, and Scotland; there had been much emigration, 38141, 38147.—The estate had been managed for some years by an agent of Gresham Insurance Company; he treated tenants harshly; when a tenant applied to Land Commission to have a second judicial rent fixed on his holding he was at once served with a civil bill process for any rent due; tenants in arrears were evicted, and they or their relatives reinstated at a raised rent, and so constituted future tenants and unable afterwards to benefit by Land Acts; where a tenant divided land amongst his family the agent would consent, but raised the rent on the portions, 38141, 38143.

Sub-Division.

There was not much of sub-division amongst tenants, and generally only amongst members of a family; in some cases of selling the purchaser paid a higher rent, 38142-3, 38146-7.

Rents.

In spite of Land Courts, the landlord's income in this neighbourhood had never decreased, because though in some cases a fair reduction of rents had been obtained, in others they had been allowed to stand or had risen; since Gresham Insurance Company took over Sir H. H. Stewart's Estate rents of town tenants in Carrickmore had been doubled, and in some cases increased almost five-fold; terms of sale at eighteen years' purchase on first term rents had at one time been offered to tenants, but since 1903 the terms were twenty-seven years' purchase on second term rents, 38147-8, 38153-7.

Industries.

Peat Moss Litter Company at Carrickmore employed a few persons on the only industry in this neighbourhood; increase of the industry would be useful; Creggan had more peat than Carrickmore, 38147, 38164.—A whinstone quarry would have been opened up by County Council of Tyrone, who wished to obtain from it supplies of road metal, but drew back, as the landlord demanded £100 per acre for drawing stone, 38147, 38151.—This quarry and a limestone quarry in the district would give employment to many who would prefer work at home to emigration, 38158-9.—A road was greatly needed through the division of Creggan, 38147, 38164.

Valuation per Head.

Poor law valuation in Carrickmore Electoral Division was £1 7*s.* 6*d.* per head; only 51 holdings were over £10 valuation, 317 between £10 and £4, and 606 under £4; in Creggan division valuation per head was £1 1*s.* 5*d.*, Loughmacrory £1 5*s.* 10*d.*, Athenry £2 14*s.* 5*d.*; a few large holdings were the cause of Athenry's higher average, 38149-50.

Vacant Farms.

Land in Carrickmore was chiefly under cultivation, except the mountainous part, 38161.—There was little grass land, 38160.—Five or six vacant farms were in the landlords' hands; this fact concerned the Estates Commissioners, 38161-2.

M'CONALOGUE, Rev. JOHN.

North Tyrone—Climate, Soil, etc.

Witness was parish priest of Termonamongan, and came from Castlederg Poor Law Division; his evidence dealt with the whole mountain district from the Donegal border to County Derry; the northern part of Tyrone had no road; agriculture was the main industry, but the soil was poor; it was not fitted for laying out grass land; only in an exceptional year would the climate allow the crops to be got in in seasonable time; even towards the end of May, in 1907, potatoes were being planted; crops, consequently, did not mature, and labour was lost though the people were industrious and attached to the soil.

Transit and Drainage.

Termonamongan parish was illustrative of the district, and comprised 45,398 acres; valuation was £7,505, and population 4,252; Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland gave the population in 1837 at 7,253; had this number been maintained, Termonamongan would certainly be scheduled congested; same book stated that a quarter of the soil was under

M'CONALOGUE, Rev. JOHN—*continued.*

cultivation in 1837; some land had since been reclaimed, but more had apparently gone out of cultivation; the land could not support the people, yet they were too few to cultivate it; they were handicapped by poverty of the soil, by the climate, by remoteness of transit facilities, by the absence of a suitable industry; three-fourths of the occupiers were hopelessly in debt; Longfield parish was in a similar condition; the two parishes, comprising 79,015 acres, had no railway, though they paid a guarantee to Castlederg Tramway; the whole district of 200,000 acres was without railway facilities, except where the Great Northern cut it between Strabane and Omagh, 38167, 38197.—A scheme to improve transit facilities in Termonamongan had been discussed without result, 38194-6.—Under Congested Districts Board the occupiers' position might be improved, 38198.—Surface drainage was needed, 38206.—The parish needed much spade labour, but the population was too small to give it, 38206.—Housing was fairly good; the introduction of Parish Committee scheme, which worked well elsewhere, was desirable, 38207.—County scheme had not greatly benefited this district, and in general gave less benefit to the poorer districts, which required more intensive treatment than to the richer, 38208-9.

Agricultural Teaching.

Horticulture and agriculture might be taught in National schools by teachers trained in practical and theoretical knowledge; this would not entrench too much on ordinary schoolwork; the instruction might afterwards be continued by a farm instructor, 38199-205.

Change in Definition of Congested Districts desirable.

Many districts besides those scheduled as congested needed aid from Congested Districts Board; witness's suggestion for definition of a congested district would take the land alone, omitting buildings as causes of expense rather than profit, and would substitute the townland for the electoral division as the unit for scheduling, 38167-70, 38171-3.—Definition suggested was: any area though less than an electoral division, and not less than a townland, where the total rateable value of the land when divided by the number of the population, gives a sum of less than £1 10*s.* for each individual, or where the total rateable value of the land, if divided by total acreage of said area, gives a sum of less than 6*s.* per acre, may be declared congested and be scheduled as such, notwithstanding any limitation as to time of scheduling, as laid down in Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, sec. 36 (2), 38170, 38174-5.—The average of a townland of poor quality in Termonamongan would be 6*s.* an acre, 38173.—If the existence of a large mountain tract resulted in the scheduling of a townland containing good holdings in would not matter, such scheduled townlands would not contain many strong farmers, and the presence of a few was always a good thing, 38176, 38191.—Where valuation was 7*s.* an acre, people could just manage to exist, 38177-81. —Where the whole valuation of a parish fell within witness's definition, the parish should be scheduled, 38181.—Present definition of a congested district should be retained, with witness's definition added, 38182-6.—Witness had worked out his 6*s.* an acre definition; it would apply to the district under discussion, 38187-90.—Assuming the average value of land in County Tyrone was 9*s.*, that was a reason why what fell below 9*s.* should be scheduled, 38193.

MOORE, Mr. J.

Condition of Donagheady, Loughash, and Stranagalwilly Parishes.

Witness represented Donagheady parish and two electoral divisions, Loughash and Stranagalwilly, 38210.—Farmers in these districts could not support themselves and families and pay the rent; there was no work for men, and they had to emigrate or go to Scotland, 38211, 38219.—If a railway were made, industries could be started; the line should be carried from Donemana to Cookstown, along a valley which ran from Donegal to Plumbridge, 38211-2, 38221.—A deposit of limestone stretched six miles to village of Donemana, near Plumbridge; there were deposits of brick-clay and peat waiting to be worked, 38211.—Lead and silver also might probably be found in both electoral divisions; witness showed a specimen of lead ore and one of what he thought was silver ore, 38214-6.—Witness had taken these from rocks in the district; the mines had never been opened, 38217-9.—Planting trees would improve the climate and give employment; much water-power was going to waste; factories for woollen and carpet weaving, and perhaps a bleaching green, might be started, 38219.—There was a hardy class of sheep in the divisions, 38220.—A number of the farmers sprayed last year, but the poorer ones did not, 38222.

AGNEW, Rev. THOMAS J.

Lower Badony Parish.

Witness lived at Rooskey, near Gortin, his evidence was the connecting link between that regarding Greencastle and that which concerned the divisions from Strabane to Plumbridge, 38223.—It was for Lower Badony Parish that witness was giving evidence; the parish invaded the mountain side seen on the left on the way to Gortin, and comprised portions of the electoral divisions of Gortin, Fallagh, Trinamadan, Glenlark, Crockanbuoy, all belonging to Omagh Union.

Valuation.

Percentage of holdings not exceeding £10 valuation was: Gortin 54 per cent, Fallagh 13 per cent, Trinamadan 68 per cent, Glenlark 87 per cent, Crockanbuoy 83 per cent; for the fifteen townlands within the parish the average valuation per head of the population of 2,190 was £1 9*s.* 5*d.*; average valuation per acre, including the houses, was, Gortin (which included the village area) 6*s.* 2*d.*, Crockanbuoy 3*s.* 1*d.*, Trinamadan 3*s.* 5*d.*, Fallagh 2*s.* 2*d.*, Glenlark 1*s.* 9*d.*, 38224-5.

Character of Land and Conditions of Agriculture.

Help was claimed for the parish both on account of its low valuation and its mountainous character; the level holms by the rivers were liable to frequent floods, and were consequently useless for crops; they were used for grazing, but the sand deposits injured the cattle; the rivers frequently changed their courses, 38225-7; tillage was risky; market towns for produce were far away, Roosky, in the centre of the district, being thirteen miles from Omagh and eighteen from Cookstown; the journey from market and back took from midnight to the following midnight, and was severe work for the horses on the mountain roads; ploughs could seldom be used till the middle of March, and horse labour was difficult to obtain; in the present year much of the potato crop was still unplanted on 12th of May, and, if September were wet, it might be destroyed by blight; farmers could not afford to spray properly, 38228-9.—Failure of the potatoes meant famine, 38231.—In a good year, if potatoes were planted early, the danger of damage from late frost would be less than present danger, 38232.—On northern and north-eastern mountain slopes crops did not really ripen; owing partially to want of lime, much land reclaimed from the mountains was going out of cultivation, 38232, 38276-8.—Ploughing cost about £2 per acre, or about double what it cost in lowlands, as much of the land could be ploughed only in one direction—downwards—the crop was sometimes only half what it was in lowlands, 38232-4.—Ploughing across the hill was often impossible for horses, and downward ridges were necessary for drainage; downward ploughing brought the soil down, and it had to be taken up every few years: manure and soil were often taken up in baskets, 38235-6.

Question of Congestion.

According to amended definition of "congested" given to Commission, this parish might be called congested, 38248.—That definition was not meant to take the valuation of the holding, 38251.—In an average holding of thirty English acres in this parish arable land would be ten to fifteen acres and the rest

AGNEW, Rev. THOMAS J.—*continued.*

rock and mountain, 38253-4, 38267-8.—Practically all the tilled ground would be reclaimed land, 38269.—The average rent would be under £7, 38270.—These holdings could not be made economic without subsidising, 38255.—By subsidising witness meant starting home industries; other industries, such as the woollen industry and brick-making, could be developed, 38272-3.

Housing and Out-offices.

Housing for men and cattle was poor, 38236.—Manure heaps were too near the houses, 38237.—The absence from the buildings of lime, which was necessary from a sanitary standpoint, was noticeable; lime quarries in this parish were not worked, and lime had to be fetched from Cookstown; it took two nights and a day to fetch it; the horses could not bring a full load on these roads, 38236-7, 38279.

Agricultural Needs of Districts.

Emigration was naturally attractive to so poverty-stricken a population; but they were industrious, or they would not have attempted to reclaim the mountains; they thought themselves entitled to State aid, and hoped for the scheduling of the district; planting of shelter plots of trees on parts of the mountain not worth tilling would improve climate and shelter cattle; if trees were supplied the farmers themselves could plant them, 38237-8.—Assistance was needed to construct surface drainage and closed drains, in some places main drainage was required, 38238-9.—This would improve cultivation of the soil, 38276.—Little could be done to improve the river; funds for roads were wanted; at present the small quantity of turf sold in Rooskey had to be carried half or three-quarters of a mile, 38240-1.—Introduction of fresh seed was desirable, and farmers could not afford it, 38241-3.—Enlargement of holdings would be prevented by lack of land, but improvement of land now occupied was possible, 38244-6.—For this lime was an essential, 38232, 38276-8.—The people would prefer emigration to migration, 38247, 38271.

Agricultural Department's Work.

Agricultural Committee had made no provision of good seed for Lower Badony; they had sent shorthorn bulls, which the farmers thought unsuitable to the soil; the local committee were not consulted about these animals; the owner had now sold them; a polled Angus had been recently placed in the district, and not yet tested, 38256-62.—Department of Agriculture had made an experiment regarding fowls, which was a failure after four or five years' experience; witness saw no beneficial results from Department's work, 38263-6.

LYNCH, Mr. PATRICK.

Ballymullins and Banagher.

Ballymullins and Banagher, in County Londonderry, formed the subject of witness's evidence, 38282-3.—He was a County Councillor for Londonderry, and these were portions of his county district, and were contiguous to those poor districts of County Tyrone to which Commissioners' attention had been drawn, 38284-5, 38313-4.—Ballymullins and Banagher lay between Londonderry and village of Park, fourteen miles from Gortin, and on Derry side of Sawell Mountains, which divided Tyrone and Derry, 38288-91.—Conditions on either side Sawell Mountains were similar, 38292.—The Union was the Londonderry Union, 38310.

Area, Population, Valuation.

Of the townlands in Banagher Division: Altimire Lower comprised 149 acres 0 roods 3 perches, population was 82, valuation £79; Altamire Upper comprised 322 acres 0 roods 8 perches, population 93, valuation £144; Carnanbane had 300 acres 3 roods 0 perches, population 75, valuation £104 5*s.*; Carnanreagh had 890 acres 0 roods 3 perches, population 272, valuation £263 19*s.*; Dreen had 2,131 acres 2 roods 20 perches, population 238, valuation £215 15*s.*; Gortscreeghan had 316 acres 0 roods 11 perches, population 110, valuation £126 15*s.*; Kilcreen had 378 acres 0 roods 31 perches; neither Kilcreen's population nor valuation was given, because a demesne connected with it would make a reduction on the figures; Kilgort had 1,020 acres 1 rood 27 perches, population 173, valuation £236 4*s.*; Lear had 2,022 acres 2 roods 7 perches, population 106, valuation £298 5*s.*; Tamnagh had 2,592 acres 3 roods 22 perches, population 122, valuation, £191 5*s.*; Tireighter had 613 acres 2 roods 16 perches, population 274, valuation £277 15*s.*, 38285-7.—Griffith's valuation was about 25 per cent. higher in witness's district, and Ulster generally, than elsewhere in Ireland, because the valuation in the North was made later than that in the South, and at a time when the North was more prosperous than the South, 38314-6.

LYNCH, Mr. PATRICK.—*continued.*

Railway Communication.

The railway communication nearest to witness's district was at Derry, fifteen miles away; a scheme to connect Draperstown and Derry by rail had passed through Parliament, but was afterwards abandoned, 38293-5.—A line between Derry and Park, passing through Claudy, would pay, and open up an important district, and enable Park to furnish supplies to Glenelly, as it did formerly till about ten years ago, when a railway connected Glenelly with another source of supplies, 38295-8.—There was already much traffic between Derry and Park, 38297.—Witness's district would not be served by a line between Donemana and Cookstown, 38299.—Witness did not give evidence before present Viceregal Commission on Irish railways, but Dr. Todd had put before it this question of a Derry to Park railway, 38300-2.

Employment for Boys.

Girls in this district were employed sewing underclothing; boys had to seek work in Scotland; a cottage industry for boys was desirable; weaving had formerly employed men in Ulster, 38303-7.—The comparative poverty of the district was proved by this seeking of work in Scotland; the practice was demoralising, 38311-2.

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Aughtmama).

Mount Hamilton, Glenchiel, and Glenroan—Valuation.

Witness came from Plumbridge county district and electoral divisions of Glenchiel, Mount Hamilton, and Glenroan; Mount Hamilton was his electoral division, and Strabane the Union, 38318, 38393-4.—Glenchiel had 93 per cent. of its inhabitants under £10 valuation, Glenroan had 72 per cent., Mount Hamilton had 82, 38322.—A £10 holding represented about 120 acres, of which fifteen might be arable, or partly arable, 38334-5.

Conditions of Life in Mount Hamilton.

Mount Hamilton was 1,100 feet above sea level, 38394.—The land was so hilly no carts could be used on farms; manure and crops had to be carried up the hill in baskets tied on horses' backs; in going down hill slide cars were used, 38322.—Twenty-five of the seventy-nine landholders in Mount Hamilton could not keep a horse owing to their own poverty and the nature of the soil, so had to carry up manure themselves, 38323-5.—Horses could generally be worked on hillsides; ploughing had usually to be done downhill, it was not possible uphill; ploughing across threw the soil down; downward ploughing assisted the drainage, 38326-30, 38332.—Ploughing across was difficult, 38331.—Most of the people spoke Irish, 38323.—Most of the land was not arable, and had been reclaimed within sixty years, 38340.

Witness's Farm.

Witness had 130 acres, ten were arable and not very good; the crops were oats and potatoes, 38336-7, 38352-4.—The rest of the land was sheep grazing, 38356.—Witness did not keep a horse; it would not be economic to do so, 38367.—His land was bog, with no alluvial and many rocks, 38368.—He had drained

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Aughtmama)—*continued.*

it, 38378.—His valuation was £8 10*s.*, and was on the arable portion, 38338-40.

SHEEP AND WOOL.

Grazing on the Scawell Mountains in this district was mostly common grazing, and not so good as private gazing would be; most of the sheep had to be sent away in winter, 38340-5.—The district the other side of Scawell Mountains was very poor, 38346-7.—Sheep had not paid for fifteen years till two years ago, when prices rose, 38357-61.—There was plenty of wool; the people had knowledge of spinning and weaving, and, if supplied with machinery and taught use of modern looms, might be engaged in an industry. 38361-4.

ROADS.

Roads, right of way to roads, and foot-bridges were entirely lacking in fourteen townlands; produce for market had to be carried by the people on their backs, 38349, 38351.—Fourteen families were thus situated, 38350.—In witness's locality there was only one road, not a good one, 38366.

CROPS.

Potatoes were mostly Irish Whites, and not good; they could not be planted soon enough, 38369, 38373, 38375.—Champion potato had been introduced, but was now extinct, 38374.—Spraying was of little use, 38370-3, 38376-7.—Crops raised were used to feed the people, but did not last three months; flour, Indian meal, potatoes, tea and bacon were purchased, 38381-3.—Thirty or forty years ago more spade labour was done, and oatmeal enough for the year was produced, 38386-7.—Flax would not grow in Mount Hamilton, 38355, 38395.—Department of Agriculture did nothing for this district, though rates were paid, 38397-400.

LIME.

Lime was not obtainable within ten miles; this was a great drawback to reclamation, 38379-10, 38392.—Lime quarries should be opened, 38391.

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Artaghorta).

STATE OF HOLDINGS IN LOWER BADONEY.

Lower Badoney Parish was represented by witness; holdings there were generally narrow strips of land running up the mountain side, much of which was tillage; soil was difficult to labour; rocky, wet, shallow; in great part of the district corn did not ripen; it was often bought by farmers at auction for 10 per cent. over market price, as they had no money in that season; farms averaged about thirty acres, one-third of which was, or had been, tillage, and one-third had lapsed into a state worse than that before it was reclaimed; the elevation of Lower Badoney was 400 to 900 feet, 38401-2.—Holdings along the rivers were liable to floods; it was useless to attempt to confine the rivers; embankments made had all been torn down by fresh floods, 38402-3.—Lime was greatly needed, and could be got no nearer than Cookstown, eighteen miles away; many of the farmers had no horse, 38403-4.—One horse only was kept by most farmers, so two farmers had to join for ploughing, which could not begin till middle of March, consequently crops were sown very late, 38404.—Few of the farms were economic, and farmers were greatly dependent on assistance from relatives in America, 38404, 38408.—In witness's own townland oats would not ripen, and it was difficult to sell them and difficult to get them to market, 38408-9. Field drains of stone were the class of drains needed, 38434.

EMIGRATION AND INDUSTRIES.

Many boys and girls went to America, some boys to England, 38404-7.—A little sewing was done in Gortin village; if knitting, lace-making and crochet industries were started they might keep the girls at home; these industries had never existed in the county, 38406, 38444-6.—Wool was abundant, and was sold to middlemen; a woollen industry would be more profitable, 38444.—The county formerly had tuck mills, where wool and cloth prepared at home were dressed up, 38446.

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Artaghorta)—*continued.*

DIET.

Diet in Lower Badoney was: for breakfast, tea and bread without butter; for dinner, stirabout and milk with bread, and sometimes an egg or American bacon; for tea, tea and bread; for supper, stirabout and milk, 38410-2.—Diet had deteriorated in recent years; formerly it included the produce of farm; cost of living had been raised by use of tea; labourers had now to be fed better than their employers or they would leave, 38414, 38421-6.—It was doubtful whether tea was wholesome, 38427.

COST OF LABOUR.

Boys bound as labourers for six months were now paid £10 10*s.*, besides receiving the four meals described; twenty years ago the wage was £4 and £5, 38415-20.—Holdings described by witness could not pay with hired labour, 38420, 38428.—With hired labour oats cost £3 8*s.* per acre to produce, and sold for less than £3, 38427-8, 38432-3.—There was plenty of demand for labourers on large farms, so that wages had risen; labourers were engaged for six months, 38429-31.

FENCES.

Fencing was bad, and mostly of stone; quick fences were placed along the river a few miles from Gortin, but about Gortin wire fences were most used, and gave no shelter, 38434-6.

POTATOES.

Spraying would be beneficial if done properly; supply of sprayers was insufficient; all those in Lower Badoney were knapsack sprayers; last year was wet, and spraying wholly failed, 38437-9, 38442-3.—Irish Whites, the chief potato grown, would not hold the spray if rain came; Champions did well for a time, and then failed entirely; Up-to-dates and Suttons would give fair results and hold the spray, 38440-1.—There was much blight in 1906, 38441.

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.

TYRONE COUNTY COMMITTEE'S WORK.

Witness was Secretary of the County Council of Tyrone, and represented County Committee of Agriculture, 38447.—Tyrone County Committee's work throughout the county was subject of witness's evidence, 38448-50.—A previous witness had stated that County schemes were no good, but that he believed in demonstration plots; the same witness represented a district in which one of the Committee's most important and expensive demonstration plots was worked in neighbourhood of Sion Mills, 38451-2.

FLAX.

The plot in question was intended to make special tests regarding flax cultivation, 38455-6.—Many small farmers grew a little flax; it was desirable that more should be grown, 38456-7.

RATING FOR TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Rate raised by County Council for agriculture and technical instruction was administered by County Committee of Agriculture under guidance of Agricultural Department; unit of rating was a rural district which might contain much good and much bad land; sometimes 10,000 acres produced so little that even, with the addition of Department's grant, the sum raised was too small to give a premium to a bull, 38458.—Department's grant was five-ninths of the total sum from rate and grant, the rate being four-ninths; the rate was a penny in the pound, and had to be spread over the whole district from which it was raised; funds were thus very limited, 38458-60.

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.—*continued.*

Treatment of Needy Areas—Outside Aid needed to Supplement Funds.

County Committees desired to give special attention to needy areas, but lacked funds; to supplement the rates from these needy areas outside aid was wanted, 38461-3, 38465.—Additional or "intensive" organisation was needed to interest very poor districts in any scheme; they would probably at once respond to organisation; they were handicapped by difficulties of transit, 38464-5, 38543, 38545.—So far poorer districts had derived from County schemes more benefit than their rate-producing power entitled them to, 38466.—The rich men's larger contribution to the rate resulted in the whole fund for the district being larger than it would be if only poor men contributed, and as the poor man got his full share of the general provision for lectures, etc., he benefited by the rich man's contribution, 38543, 38545-6, 38550-5.—A premium bull might be located in a townland whose valuation did not pay for the bull, 38547.—Lectures had not yet been held in all districts of Tyrone, 38555.—There were well-to-do farmers scattered among the poor ones in all districts of Tyrone, 38556.

Fairness of Distribution of Funds.

Rates raised from Tyrone County under Agricultural and Technical Instruction scheme amounted to £1,308, which represented four-ninths of the joint fund, Department's grant supplying the other five-ninths, 38713.—In Strabane Union rates were £220, Department's grant £275, making total of £495, 38716.—The scheme worked in Strabane Union was a County scheme, drawn up on the basis of the rural valuation of the district; if Strabane's valuation was one-tenth that of the county, one-tenth of the joint fund available was the share due to Strabane, 38718-9.—Live stock scheme in Strabane received £27 for horses (nominations); £120 to £150 for bulls, Strabane's share of the premiums depending on the total number given, which varied from year to year; swine scheme in Strabane received £10; turkey and geese scheme £8 and £10; under cottage farm prize scheme £40 was allocated for prizes, 38719.—The amount of money raised in any rural district, plus the equivalent grant from Department, was expended in the same rural district; taking the valuation of the county at £100,000, and that of Strabane at £5,000, the £5,000 represented Strabane's share of the joint fund, which share was expended in Strabane, 38723-4.—It was impossible that there were districts in County Tyrone in which money was expended far in excess of the sum resulting from the penny in the pound rate for agricultural instruction, because the basis of County Committee's expenditure was the rate, 38725-6.—Witness did not think money had been expended in certain rural districts on schemes for those particular rural districts in excess of the sums for those particular districts, the excess coming from the other rural districts; but an exact answer would require much figuring, which he was prepared to undertake; in special cases Department had made grants for special purposes; to say money had been diverted from one district to another that schemes might work in that district was absolutely untrue, 38727-8.

Question of Competency of Witnesses before the Commission to Judge of Work of County Committee.

A question put to a witness during the afternoon as to whether he had seen any benefit from agricultural schemes was not a fair question; these people had referred to the cattle, but the district under discussion was not a cattle-breeding district, but a sheep district; many eggs from County Committee's distributing station had been sent to this district; it had been stated that Committee would not allow Galloway bulls in the district, but only Aberdeen Angus and Shorthorns; as a fact, Committee also recommended Ayrshires, and had recommended the Galloway bull, but Department refused to admit Galloways to premiums in Tyrone as they might do harm; a witness who stated that one bullock produced under the premium scheme had been a failure was not representing the total amount of the work done in the district, 38472.—Present witness was not an expert on bulls; he thought the Galloway would be useful in some limited districts of the county, but if generally used it would injure export trade, and many bulls from the county were sold to Argentine at high prices, 38743.—Nothing had been done for sheep in these poor districts, 38744.—Witness did not doubt Commission's competency to question witnesses on County Committee's work, but doubted the competence of certain witnesses to answer such questions, since they could not completely know what was done for any rural district, 38745-6, 38750.—Present witness had records of eggs distributed and bulls serving cows in the county, 38748-9.—Present witness's desire was merely to arrive at the truth, 38749, 38755.—He did not say men of local knowledge were not telling the truth, 38754.—He thought it was not usual in beginning an educational scheme to consult the people who were going to submit to it, 38755.—The four years during which these schemes had been in operation was a negligible quantity in a nation's life, 38756.

Itinerant Instruction.

Itinerant instruction in agriculture was supplied in courses of four lectures given generally at a National school; lectures were well attended; lecturers visited farms, gave advice, and selected plots on various farms for demonstration and experiment; for these plots County Committee supplied manure and seed, and supplied farmers with potato-sprouting boxes to demonstrate value of sprouting seed; instructors afterwards paid periodic visits to plots; experiments roused interest among farmers; lectures on veterinary hygiene were given by a lecturer sent by Department, and were well attended, 38469.

Demonstration Plots.

In a demonstration plot near Greencastle a variety of potatoes were sown in heavy clay soil; sprouted seed produced 10 tons 16 cwt., 6 cwt. being small and none diseased; unsprouted produced 8 tons 13 cwt., 6 cwt. being small and none diseased; the plot was on a rather poor farm belonging to one of the agricultural teachers, 38471-3.—Experimental plots were a quarter or an eighth of an acre, 38476.—Varieties of soil in Tyrone were many; plots selected represented most classes of soil there, 38474, 38477.

Horticulture and Bee-keeping.

Horticulture and bee-keeping instruction was intended to benefit occupiers of small holdings; land in Tyrone was high; had a large rainfall and low average temperature, and soil was not favourable to cottage gardens; cultivation of vegetables and fruit, especially bush fruit for market and home consumption, required encouragement, 38479.—A scheme for that purpose had been at work three years; there was a large market for apples and for black currants; the latter grew well in boggy soil, and were sold for preserves and medicine, 38480-5.—Six horticultural demonstration plots had been established, chiefly near National schools, and a certain supply of seed, manure, and fruit-trees was given to owner on condition he supplied labour; scheme had resulted in planting of many fruit trees and increase in culture of vegetables; the people now consumed vegetables formerly unknown to them, 38485, 38488.—Ground suitable for fruit growing was difficult to find; hilly places had been tried; apple trees were successful about Stewartstown and Clogher Valley; pears would not grow in Tyrone generally, 38486-7.—Apple trees in blossom might be seen at demonstration plot near Gortin, but the trees were young, 38488-90.—Late frosts interfered with apple crop, 38491.—Sir Horace Plunkett had carried out near Dromore an experiment for improving standard of living among Irish peasantry, and had assisted forty small occupiers to establish fruit and vegetable gardens; Committee had allowed county instructor to assist with advice; the general results were satisfactory, 38419.—This experiment had been two years at work; it illustrated the value of concentrating attention on a small area, 38491a.—Remnants of old orchards were found on many farms in Tyrone, 38492.

Poultry Keeping.

The sale of poultry products was the main source from which the very poor obtained many of the necessities and all the luxuries of their lives; Tyrone

Committee was one of the first to attempt improvement of poultry keeping industry on Department's lines; lectures at first evoked criticism but awakened interest; instructresses paid one visit to each district in eighteen months under lecture system and one in visiting season; lecture period was October to March, visiting season April to September, 38492-3.—Stations for distributing eggs of pure-bred birds at 1*s.* a dozen had been in operation since 1902; up to 1906 10,000 sittings of pure-bred eggs of fowls, geese, and ducks had been distributed; new blood has thus been introduced, size of eggs increased, prevalence of disease checked, and a prospect afforded of having more suitable birds for fattening; eight stations for providing eggs of geese had been established; in poor districts demand for them outstripped supply; instructresses spent much time visiting individual poultry keepers in more remote districts; instruction was given in trussing, and in grading and packing eggs, 38494.—A portable poultry farm was used; it could be set up at a centre for six weeks and then moved on; it had two pens of fowls, one of ducks; means for artificial incubation and rearing of chickens, a small fattening plant, diagrams and drawings illustrating the structure and different breeds of fowls, means for preparing food; the farm had been itinerant eleven months; girls had attended regularly even in depth of winter, 38494-5.

AGRICULTURAL CLASSES.

Instruction in technical agriculture had been given in winter classes held in remote places in October of 1906 to March of 1907 to reach those who could not travel far; this scheme tended to impress on the agricultural workers the dignity and necessity of honest and intelligent work, and to elevate the standard of living and of agricultural methods, 38495-6.—Standard of living could be improved by increase of domestic thrift without increase of cost, 38510-1.—Any young fellow in the county could attend classes on passing examination, showing he could work first four rules of arithmetic, and write a simple composition on some farming subject; students received free dinners and £1 per mile for travelling expenses if they showed satisfactory progress; funds were supplied from joint fund of County and Department; classes lasted from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; they were held two days a week; teachers gave theoretical teaching and also practical instruction on farms, 38496, 38516-7.—Average attendance at classes was about twelve, attendance was most difficult to obtain in poorer districts; the examination was intended to be mainly a test of intelligence, but a knowledge of simple arithmetic was essential for calculating the value of manure; in poorer districts young men were ignorant even of those rules, 38496A, 38499, 38502.—It would be useless to ask Department for funds for such preliminary training as arithmetical teaching as Department's money was only for technical instruction, 38497-8.—These classes were specially required by poorer districts, 38505-8.—Any man or boy above age of sixteen was eligible for classes, 38512-5.—Students who passed through the classes with credit served as examples to others; a final examination was held at close of course and book prizes given; students passing final examination with special credit might receive scholarships, 38517-8.

LIVE STOCK SCHEMES.

Live stock schemes adopted by County Committee of Tyrone were those for improving breed of horses, cattle, and swine; Committee offered seventy nominations to farmers' mares each year, two-thirds of the nominations were for mares of farmers with a valuation under £60, one-third to those with valuation above £60, 38518, 38520-2.—In Trillick district twenty-one nominations were offered in the previous year, six went to men whose valuation was under £20, two to men with valuation under £10; few men with valuation under £10 kept a horse, 38521.—Nominations were not graduated in regard to the fact that four-ninths of funds came from rates and five-ninths from Department, 38523.—Premium bulls could not easily find purchasers in needy districts; two years ago a premium bull had been located at Greencastle, having been sold to purchaser at loss to Department, the object being to improve milk supply; the stock seemed to have been good, but the first results were perhaps not satisfactory; it was impossible to guarantee any particular production from an animal, 38518-9.—Farmers desiring young stock for sale objected to introduction of "milk" bulls; a shorthorn would answer both for stock and milk production, 38547-8.—There were many creameries in Tyrone, 38459.—Farmers desiring premium bulls visited a show named by Department and selected animals approved for premiums, 38526.—The fact that the bull had been approved for premium raised its price, 38524-5, 38527.—Fifteen premiums for boars were given in Tyrone, needy districts getting a large share, 38529.

PRIZES.

Names of prize-winners were set forth in report; class one was limited to persons who did not hold twenty-five statute acres of land and who earned their living by agricultural labour or labour connected with agriculture; prizes were won in several poor districts, one prize went in direction of Mountfield, 38530-1, 38535.—For cottage and small farm scheme the county was divided into arbitrary divisions, each to receive £40 worth of prizes, many of which had been won by small occupiers in poorer districts; holdings competing were examined by a qualified judge, who gave advice on manuring, sanitation, etc., 38535, 38719.—There were six classes for prizes, only one being for men of £25 valuation and over, 38720-2.

SHOWS.

In making grants in aid for shows Committee endeavoured to provide for smallest farmers, and insisted on a class for those under £20 valuation; practically a free entry was allowed farmers in Plumbridge and surrounding districts in competitions for cattle and poultry, and in some cases horses and swine, £30 being set aside for prizes in these competitions, 38535-6, 38540-1, 37730-1.—A witness had stated it was not worth while to compete for prizes of £2, £1 10*s.*, and £1; present witness would think it worth while to walk to Omagh from Gortin for £2, 38730-1.—This scheme had failed though advertised by County Committee at expense of joint fund; it was tried for three years, 38540, 38732-4.—There were never more than three or four entries for these competitions, they were for the poorest districts, 38735-9.—Committee always insisted on one competition for holders between £20 and £25 valuation; in Dungannon show, which was about to take place, the valuation had been lowered, 38740.—A small local exhibition in a district outside Gortin had been a success and a society had since been formed there which held annual shows, 38540.—It had not been found that in poorest districts extensive occupiers could outdistance small men in competing for prizes, 38538.

O'DOHERTY, Rev. PHILIP.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL NEEDED IN CLAUDY PARISH.

Witness was Parish Priest of Claudy, County Derry; part of the Parish was in Tyrone, 38557.—Parish greatly needed agricultural schools, such as existed a couple of generations ago at Lough Ash and Eglington; Lough Ash School was partly National, and was supported by some private contributions; men educated at these schools were afterwards leaders in their own districts, 38557.—Department's lectures had been few, and not practical, 38562-3.—County schemes had done nothing to benefit Claudy, 38570.

SHIRT AND UNDERCLOTHING INDUSTRIES.

Shirt industry and making underclothing employed girls of Claudy, and had been introduced by late Mr. Tilly, of Derry; it was precarious; machinery had caused a lowering of wages, and girls worked long hours, to injury of their health, though the work of the parish had a good name among leading houses; work was less plentiful than formerly; a day was lost in taking work to centres, 38557-9.

O'DOHERTY, Rev. PHILIP—*continued.*

Carting the Only Industry for Men.

Many farms were mortgaged; men worked at carting, the only work available, which was wretchedly paid; the journey to Derry occupied the whole day, and rendered the carter unfit for work next day, 38559-61.—Carting had demoralised almost all the men, and the temptation to drink was great on wet days, 38561-2.—Payment to carters was sometimes in kind, 38560, 38562.

Question of Railway Communication.

The construction of a railway to Derry might destroy the carting industry, but make others possible; large part of North Derry was a rich district without railway accommodation, so that a railway there should pay; the poverty of the district near Park might prevent the railway there from being remunerative, 38560, 38562.—Weaving was formerly common in Claudy, 38560.

Scheduling of District Desirable.

Scheduling of the district under Congested Districts Board was very desirable; surface and main drainage were needed; portions of the country would lend themselves to re-afforesting, 38562.—The presence of large farms in this part should not militate against scheduling; generally these large farms were composed of smaller ones whose owners had disappeared, 38563-5.—Claudy Parish was smaller than the Carndonagh district of Inishowen; Claudy was completely out of the world, 38566-8.—Witness adopted the evidence given during the day as to other places as applying to his case, 38569.

M‘CULLAGH, Mr. HUGH.

Witness's Farm at Garavagh.

Garavagh was witness's residence, 38571.—He had a farm two and a half miles north of Gortin; it consisted of forty acres of mountain land and fourteen acres of arable, and was divided, generally speaking, into five acres of oats, three or four of lea, grazing for cattle, and four acres of meadow, 38574-5, 38577-8.

Value of an Acre of Oats.

In witness's district an acre of oats needed hard work to raise and yield about sixty stone, 38572, 38579.—The oats fetched about 7½*d.* per stone, or £3 10*s.* per acre; an Irish acre last year produced about 105 stone of oats, which sold at 7½*d.*, 38580-1.—Out of witness's four-acre meadow four or five tons might be eaten or used, 38582.—A ton of hay might be sold in winter at an auction for 1*s.* 8*d.* or 2*s.* per cwt., 38583.—Witness had five milk cows, and reared three or four calves a year; he sold milk to the creamery, 38584-6.

CLARKE, Mr. CHARLES E.

Farm at Glenmaco, Gortin.

Witness resided at Glenmaco, Gortin, where he began to farm in 1883; he purchased the tenant right of three farms; one contained 21 acres, valuation £3 15*s.*; one 23 acres, valuation £4; one 19 acres 2 roods, valuation £5 10*s.*; the three together yielded only a poor living, 38587-8.—Two of the farms were bought from occupiers who had gone to the wall through poverty, the third was bought by private negotiation; these farms, and those in the district generally began at a burn, and ran to top of the mountain; each of the three farms had a few acres along the river which were liable to floods, causing loss of crops; witness did not know whether to graze or meadow these acres; he had made embankments; one-third of the farm was too steep to work; one-third was better and level in places; this he tried to farm; most of the other third was dry heath, no good for cattle, and too small in area for sheep; about fifteen acres of the three farms was arable; witness had tried every improvement to labour this land; he enlarged fields by removing stone ditches; he bought a reaping machine, but the wheel stuck in the ridges and the knives became clogged, and when the ridges were removed the land became too damp; witness understood farming, but, with sufficient capital and using all the skilled labour procurable, he could not live on his three farms, which were a fair specimen of holdings between Plumbridge and Doons; consequently farmers with no capital could obviously not live on smaller holdings, 38588-90, 38608-9, 38615.

Size of an Economic Holding.

To enable farmers to live the district should be scheduled, 38591.—The district was a series of mountain ranges, the chief being the Sperrin, 2,240 feet, the Glenlark and the Mullaghcarn, each about 1,800 feet, 38592.—An economic farm on medium soil in this part of Tyrone should comprise fifty acres, which would employ two horses; with one horse tilling could not be done nor machinery worked; on better soil forty acres might be just enough, 38593-8, 38601-4.—Valuation of forty acres of best land in this district would be about £12, 38605-8.—Fifty acres for each holder in Tyrone were not obtainable, 38599.—The present holdings could not be made economic, but could be greatly improved by drainage, thorn hedges, and planting, 38600, 38611-6.

Desirability of a Woollen Industry.

Black-faced sheep to number of 30,000 or 35,000 were kept in this district; a woollen industry might be started and machines worked by the water-power of the rivers to produce rough cloth, tweeds, frieze, blankets, etc., 38617.

Lime.

Lime had to be fetched from Cookstown, involving great expense; lime was absolutely necessary for this poor soil; there was a splendid limestone quarry near Plumbridge which should be worked.

Necessity for a Railway.

A railway from Dunamanagh to Cookstown, on a broad, not narrow, gauge would be of greatest value, 38617.

Agricultural Department's Schemes.

Agricultural Department's schemes had been useless in poor districts of Tyrone, though rates were paid, 38618-9.—Witness had had great difficulty in disposing of a beast bred off a Government bull, 38620-2.—Information given through lectures on fowl could as well be got from newspapers; prizes offered in Gortin and Greencastle were too small to be worth the expense of competing, 38622-3.

M‘BRIDE, Mr. PATRICK.

Glebe Farmers.

Witness resided in Gloughroughglebe, and represented Glenkeele Electoral Division and Killaroan east of Mount Hamilton, 38624.—He had a farm of sixteen acres, and was paying to Irish Land Commission; he was one of the Glebe farmers who bought under Act of 1869, at 20 years' purchase of the old rack rents; the full purchase money was not advanced, and one-fourth was paid down, 38625-6, 38635.

Purchase of Estates.

In Glenkeel Electoral Division no holdings had been sold under Act of 1903; in Glenroan Mr. Humphreys' estate was sold at an exorbitant price, equivalent to 24½ years' purchase, to which tenants were practically forced to agree, as they were in arrears; in Mount Hamilton Division tenants were offered 17 years' purchase, under Ashbourne Act of 1888, but under Act of 1903 the demand was 27½ years, a price which would swamp any tenant, at least while annuities ran; in Glenkeel Division the only estate purchased was Clogherney Glebe, in 1868, under Irish Church Temporalities Act; it was sold at twenty

M'BRIDE, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

years' purchase, a price so high that many tenants had to borrow the fourth of the purchase money to pay Irish Land Commission; annuities and interest on money borrowed had obliged many to sell their farms, and others had to go away to earn money to redeem their farms, one of the largest of which was now vacant in consequence, and returning to its original un-reclaimed state, 38628, 38635-6.

Condition of Farms—Various Holdings Available for Enlargement of Farms.

Farms in this district were very small and uneconomic; tenants were greatly dependent on remittances from relatives in America or England and Scotland; portions of Electoral Divisions of Glenlark consisted of a large grazing ranch belonging to Colonel Lowry of Pomeroy; Robert M'Kelvey, Esq., J.P. of Gortin, had a grazing ranch containing 637 acres, in townlands of Aughtboy and Legcloughfin, in Glenchiel Division; adjoining these ranches was a small rundale estate, with very small fields and no fences, 38626.—Grazing land would be very valuable to tenants in these districts, 38627.—Tenants had not bought the rundale estate; they were far from markets and railroads; Derry was twenty-five miles, Cookstown twenty-one or twenty-two; enlargement of holdings was desirable, and several holdings were available for the purpose; a new road and a bridge were urgently needed from Legcloughfin to Corramore road; one-eighth of Mount Hamilton Division was very poor arable land reclaimed within the last sixty years, and now returning to its original state owing to emigration; the number of families in this division had decreased by forty-five in thirty years; in last twenty years scarcity of labour had necessitated substitution of horse for spade labour; as a result corn crops had deteriorated by one-half, 38628.

Lime.

Drawing and burning of lime had ceased, as young men went to Great Britain to work in summer; an engine to crush limestone for the land was now much needed, 38628.

Department of Agriculture.

Witness agreed with previous witnesses regarding utility of agricultural schemes; the local Agricultural Committee had given nothing but four lectures in the winter for small occupiers in Glenkeel; the schemes had been in operation four years, 38629-34.—Valuation of Glenkeel was £1,000, 38632.

DONNELL, Mr. JOHN.

Witness's Farm.

Witness was a farmer residing at Ballinaght, Strabane; he had about seventy-five acres of arable land, and a share of an undivided mountain, about 400 or 500 acres; his rent was £18, his valuation £47, 38637-8.

Perpetual Tenure.

His lease was for ever; it had been given 120 years ago to John Stewart, who owned the property for three miles below Dunamanagh and three above Plumbridge; he sold it to his tenants; each tenant, to qualify him to be a freeholder, had a lease of three lives; Sir John Stewart Hamilton was in difficulties, and would give a lease of lives renewable for ever for £2 or £3 if attorney's expenses were paid; much of the district thus became freehold, 38638-9.

Need for Scheduling.

It would be a great advantage if the seven electoral divisions of Lislea, Plumbridge, Glenroan, Glenchiel, Mount Hamilton, Stranagalwilly and Loughash were scheduled under Congested Districts Board, as they received practically no help from Committee of Agriculture, 38640, 38648.—Witness was personally acquainted with the need of scheduling in neighbourhood of Draperstown, 38655-6.

DONNELL, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Work of County Committees Unfavourably Contrasted with Work of Congested Districts Board.

Witness objected to the system of election of County Committees; the poor districts were not represented on them, 38640-6.—Witness had seen good results of Board's work in Donegal; it contrasted favourably with the poor results of work of County Committee of Tyrone regarding live stock schemes, 38648-50.—Premiums were given in Tyrone to Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus bulls, which were suitable for the richer districts, whereas for the poorest mountain districts Galloway, West Highland, and Kerry bulls were wanted, 38651-4.—Congested Districts Board sent Galloway bulls to mountainous places, 38656.—Witness thought County Committee's members were all drawn from the richer districts, 38655.

Railway.

A railway from Cookstown to Dunamanagh would improve produce markets in Plumbridge, etc., 38656.

HARKIN, Mr. JOHN.

Bellamult, Strabane.

Witness resided at Bellamult, Strabane, and represented Loughash division, 38657.—He did a little farming, but worked at butter and eggs and attended markets; Loughash division was very mountainous; soil poor, chiefly of light top, and the bottom wet; both arterial and field drains were needed; open drains in low land and stone drains in high land, 38658-60, 38662-3.—Tenants were too poor to make drains, tenants were greatly dependent ou relatives in America and Scotland, 38661.

Access to Markets.

Distance to markets was—Strabane 12 miles; Derry 15 miles; the journey took from 2 a.m. till late in the morning, 38663.—A railway from Dunamanagh to Cookstown, 30 miles, was desirable, 38664, 38667-9.

Lime and Railway Communication.

There were limestone quarries ten or fifteen miles away where at present there was no kiln, but which the railway would make available, 38664, 38670.—There should be a station near the quarries; the line should touch Plumbridge and Greencastle, and pass by Gortin; from Dunamanagh, it could run up a nearly level valley; little cutting would be necessary, 38671-4.

M'GAUGHEY, Mr. WILLIAM.

Witness's Farm.

Witness was a small farmer near Dunamanagh, in Loughash division of Strabane Union; he held about ten acres, six being arable; rent was £1 17*s.* 6*d.*, valuation, 35*s.*; the arable was poor, and had been reclaimed from the heather; on part the plough could be used; the rest was worked by the spade, 38675-7.—Witness had two cows; he sold some of the butter, 38684-5.—Calves he sold as year-olds, 38686-7.—He kept pigs and a horse; the farm alone would not support a horse, so he took contracts on the roads, 38688-90.

Need of Enlargement of Loughash Holdings.

Holdings were too small; there were no grazing farms near, but farms in the district were being sold by auction at low prices, and if bought by a public body might be used for enlarging holdings, 38678-83, 38691, 38696, 38699-700.—Thirty-six acres was the average holding in Loughash, but some of the farms were large, and land was very poor, chiefly reclaimed from the mountain, 38692-4, 38697.—No improvements would make the present holdings pay; they were fairly well cultivated; there had been an agricultural farm with a teacher in the neighbourhood, 38695.

M'CAUGHEY, Mr. WILLIAM—*continued.*

Mines, Railway, Lime, Bog.

Witness agreed with Mr. Moore about mines, railway, and limestone; a great deal of bog could be utilised, 38700.

O'NEILL, Mr. ARTHUR.

Farm of Witness.

Witness was a farmer at Carrickeen, in Strangalwilley division of Strabane Union; he had 130 acres purchased under Act of 1903, yearly payment being £5 8*s*., paid in half-yearly instalments; valuation was £9 10*s*.; forty acres of the holding was a shaking bog worth nothing, but peat could be obtained from it; about sixteen acres were arable, but much of this was waste, 38701-3.

Need of a Railway.

An expedition to Strabane or Derry market took twenty-four hours; cartage made all goods from shops very expensive; a light railway was desirable, 38704-5.—It would come within two miles of witness's holding, and run from Dunamanagh past Plumbridge and Gortin, 38706.—The present line to Dunamanagh was a narrow gauge, 38707.—A railway would greatly benefit the shirt and underclothing industry; at present girls had to walk seven miles with the finished work, 38710-1.

Lime.

Witness obtained lime from a neighbouring quarry; there was another three miles away on the Derry side, 38709-10.

Sheep.

Sheep were numerous, and planting to make shelters for them very desirable; at present expense was caused by the necessity of sending sheep to lower grazing grounds for winter, as the mountain grass could not support them, 38711.—The mountain side was at present nothing but bog, 38712.

O'REILLY, Rev. PATRICK.

Kinawley Parish.

One-third of witness's parish of Kinawley was in County Cavan, the rest in Fermanagh; neighbourhood was mountainous, land cold and boggy, much reclaimed bog, 38758.—Climate cold; oats seldom ripened, they were used as fodder; potato crop sometimes fair, inferior to other parts of county; Government had to start relief works in Swanlinbar two or three years ago to help the poor after failure of potato crop, 38759-60.—Wet the principal factor of a bad year; good crop in dry season, 38761.

Suggestions for Improving Condition of People.

People's condition could be improved in many ways; improved communication would enable people in mountain to take milk to creameries; money could be advanced for improvements in the same way as by Parish Committees; only way that witness had known Government money do good, 38761-7.

Transit Facilities.

Hardly any roads to mountain districts, 38768.—Short railway wanted from Bawnboy to Maguiresbridge, round Brackley Lake to Swanlinbar; was surveyed by Government, but the scheme fell through; it would give employment and develop neighbourhood; would pass close to the three creameries and better price would be obtained for butter, 38769.—The route either from Bawnboy to Maguiresbridge or to Florence Court would suit, 38770, 38796.—People would get better price for produce and be encouraged to improve holdings, 38795.—Mr. Wyndham had supported scheme in Parliament; Mr. T. M'Govern took an interest in it, 38797.—Opposition arose from selfishness, it would divert traffic from Sligo to Newry, 38798, 38800.—And it would have developed mines of

O'REILLY, Rev. PATRICK—*continued.*

Arigna, 38799.—Recommendation to carry out small section of railway would not arouse such opposition, 38801.—Sulphur and magnesia spas in neighbourhood were famous in 18th century, but had lost ground for want of railway, 38770-1.—Steel spa near Swanlinbar; few people came to partake of water, 38771-2.

Lace Class.

Lace class was the only industry besides creameries, 38773a.—Class for girls only, sixty on the roll, thirty attended; no room for more, but no more came, 38774-6.—Wages 5*s*. to 7*s*. a week, 38777.

Emigration.

Great deal of emigration from district; bulk of it was to America, but many went to Glasgow, where they often remained permanently, 38779-80.

Size and Valuation of Holdings.

Lord Erne was the biggest landowner in vicinity; property in Fermanagh; had no residence in the place; agent lived in Lisnaskea or Dublin, 38781-3.—Kinawley parish in Swanlinbar division, 38784.—5,770 holdings in parish, 1,052 not exceeding £4 valuation, 1,247 not exceeding £10, 839 between £10 and £15, 2,356 between £20 and £30, 96 not exceeding £100, 38773.—Size varied, 38785.—Holdings under £10 were uneconomic, 38786.

Question of Land for Enlargement of Holdings.

Little unoccupied land in neighbourhood; a few holdings belonging to Mr. Johnston of Bawnboy might be divided, 38787.—Witness knew Bawnboy well, 38788.—No hope for improvement of the 63 per cent. uneconomic holdings in union unless there were farms in the vicinity to be divided; there were none in witness's parish, 38790-1.—Two farms of 29 and 30 Irish acres; a few large farms in Fermanagh part of parish, 38792.—Landlord held them and stocked them, 38793.—One large holding near Bawnboy recently divided and given to evicted tenants through Estates Commissioners, 38794.

M'MANUS, Mr. BERNARD.

Nature of Land.

Swanlinbar dispensary district was mainly mountainous; witness knew it well, also whole of Bawnboy Rural District; land was inferior, 38802.

Land Purchase Sales.

Land purchase sales under Ashbourne Acts had taken place in district; price was 15 years' purchase, 24 to 25 years' asked now, 38802, 38804, 38838.—Lord C. Beresford was asking 24 years' purchase on second term rents, 38803, 38805-7.—Tenants would not pay so much; they thought the taxes would be heavier and that they would have to pay for drainage as well, 38808, 38812-15.—Mr. Tyrrell would sell now for reduction of 4*s*. in the £ on judicial rents and 6*s*. on non-judicial rents, that would cover arrears, 38809, 38811-2.—A great many estates in upper part of Bawnboy Rural District were sold under Ashbourne Act, 38839.—A good many were sold under 1903 Act in County Cavan, 38841.—Price under latter Act varied, 21 years' purchase on second term rents in some cases, 38842-3.—Under Ashbourne Act some tenants bought before rents were fixed, 38845.—No justification for asking 21 years' purchase under Act of 1903 when price under Ashbourne Act was 15 or 16 years' purchase, 38847.—Markets had not improved, 38848.—Price of produce was reduced, 38849.—Crops not so good, if conditions had changed at all it was in wrong direction, 38850.—County Council should have a voice in sale and purchase under Act of 1903, as ratepayers were ultimate security for annuities, 38852.—Better if it were more often left to Estates Commissioners to decide, 38853.

Question of Arrears being used as an Instrument to induce Tenants to agree to High Prices.

Tenants in arrears gave a price the Estates Commissioners would not give, 38854.—Arrears always brought into fixation of price; landlord offered to

M'MANUS, Mr. BERNARD—*continued.*

throw off so much arrears in order to get price, 38855.—Cause of increase in price partly arrears, 38856.—Partly so many men wanted land that they gave more for it than it was worth, 38857.—With ownership they could make improvements; in one mountain district a landlord refused to allow reclamation or sale of a crate of turf to pay the rent, 38858-61.—Property with large arrears would fetch higher price than where rent was well paid if arrears were thrown off; it happened constantly, though witness knew of no actual case, 38862-6.—Arrears more general on some estates than on others, but it depended greatly on individuals, so might be used against individuals, 38867-9.

Relief Works.

Relief works had been established in electoral divisions of Benbrack, Pedravohers, Templeport, Kinawley, Swanlinbar, and Tiercahan, where people were on uneconomic holdings, 38815.—It had been going on for twenty years; two years ago witness applied to have 13th section of Local Government Act put into operation, County Council did so; last year inspector from Local Government Board came down and found such want that he got grant of £250 from Government for seed potatoes; men were hired by a committee appointed and paid in seed potatoes at rate of eighteen pence a day, 38816-8.—They made roads; Father O'Reilly wanted something similar done in mountainous parts; people willing to work at anything if they were paid, 38819.

Artificial Manure.

Artificial manure brought by Department to plots to show what it could do; that did for a year or two; not so good for the future as drainage and planting, 38819.

Plantations.

Timber would soon be a thing of the past if there were no planting; it was nearly all cut away and there was no shelter, 38819.—Landlords owned wood, tenants could not cut it, 38820.—Woods sold before estates; had been done on Lord C. Beresford's property, 38821-2.—Extensive woods on property an element in price paid by tenants, 38823.—Wood belonged to landlord and was retained by him, 38824-5.—Witness thought he had heard of such a case at Garadice, 38826-7.—Plantation of shelter belts in each farmer's place wanted, 38829-30.—Department should supply plants; land not good; acre or two would not be missed, 38830-1.—It would have to be enclosed for some years; would be of value in tewenty years, 38832.—Useful if Agricultural Board supplied trees at nominal price for farmers to plant; much land not fit for crops would grow timber, 38834.—Larch and spruce the best trees, 38835.—Always a market for larch, it was getting scarce in the country, 38836-7.

Drains and Roads.

Big drains and roads would be very beneficial, 38828-9.

Railway.

Railway from Bawnboy to Florencecourt would be useful, and route would be shorter than to Maguiresbridge; the latter was a light railway; there would be no trans-shipment there, 38837.

M'GAURAN, Rev. THOMAS.

Morley Estate.

Morley Estate was in above district; it comprised 12,000 acres; valuation £3,201; was purchased over heads of tenants by former agent in 1901 for £23,000, conveyed on same day to a syndicate for consideration of 10s.; at time of transaction there were £17,000 arrears on estate; soil yellow "daub" with mixture of sand ruinous to cattle and crops, 38870.

Condition of Land and People.

Best of the land was at present under the bullock, the people having been banished at time of famine to mountains and foreign countries; remaining people were half-fed, half-clad, country a barren wilderness, children degenerate; youth of the country went to America as soon as old enough, leaving aged and children to look after homes, result was land not enough tilled, children could not go to school, everyone dependent on credit waiting for "American dollar," if shopkeeper refused credit nothing was left but emigrant ship or workhouse; scheduling district necessary, not done before on account of action of Lord Belmore, population small because so-called good lands were in hands of graziers, to remedy that Board should have compulsory powers and increased revenue, 38870.

Compulsory Powers and Increased Revenue for Congested Districts Board Advocated.

Impossible to put an end to congestion without compulsion, 38899.—Many owners would not give up lands without compulsion no matter what price was offered, 38900, 38907.—Representative of County Cavan should be on Board, with increased powers the latter could then form Parish Committees, enlarge uneconomic holdings, migrate people to good lands, assist to drain, make roads, and plant useless land, 38870.

Killinagh Townlands.

Enniskillen Rural District No. 2 comprised area of 40,507 acres; valuation £8,383; population 6,397, in 1903; townlands in parish of Killinagh and their average valuation were: Moneenteriff, £3 6s. 3d.; Dernaseer, £3 0s. 6d.; Stranamort, £2 17s., 38870.—Ninety-two per cent. of holdings under £10 valuation, 38874.

Grass Farms.

Witness also gave a list of the grass farms, giving owners, valuation, and names of places—Mrs. Fawcett—Tuam, £262 15s., Loughan, £90 10s., Roo, £90, Carrickabrennan, £40; John Nixon—Kinnabo, £65 10s., Mullaghoey, £43 17s., Duckfield, £31 10s., Killyglasson, £24; Wm. Carson—Carracashel, £66, Tullagharorey, £40, Corredressough, £32 10s., Corradverd, £9 5s., Shruffenagh, £17 10s., Tullinamoile, £10, Garvesque, £15 5s.; Hugh Maguire—Port, £86 5s., Killycarney, £38 15s.; Anthony Cassidy—Corralea, £10 5s.; T. Corscadden—Barran, £48 10s.; Miss Nixon—Ugiel, £32 10s.; H. Cullen—Tents, £30; J. O. Dolan—Temore, £30; Tom Patterson—Unsheragh, £16; J. Bracken—Burren, £42; C. Bracken—Ture, £53 10s.; J. Tubman—Barran, £9 15s.; all these lands were under bullocks, none were tilled, 38870-1.—All in Killinagh parish and Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District, 38873.—Ranches stocked by owners, 38875.—Average size of ranch fifty to 100 acres, 38876—They were not home farms of occupiers, people had been gradually evicted and their holdings added, patch by patch, to make ranches, ranches held by yearly rent, 38877.—Few judicial tenancies, 38878.—Owners had residential farms and took ranches in addition, 38879-80.—Only two or three of above occupiers lived on farms mentioned, 38881.—Distance between residential and non-residential farms from a quarter of a mile to nine miles, 38882.—Essential to get these non-residential farms if holdings were to be made economic, 38883.

Morley Estate—Purchase Negotiations.

In purchasing Morley Estate Commissioners must take all or none, 38884.—Greater part of farms mentioned were on Morley Estate, 38885.—Estate had been inspected at suggestion of Estates Commissioners, negotiations had been entered into between syndicate and tenants, report had gone in, 38886-9.—Case came into superior courts when tenants were wanted to acknowledge sale to syndicate; Mr. Healy represented the tenants, Mr. Henry, the syndicate; Chief Justice O'Brien, before whom it came, suggested that counsel on the two sides should be appointed arbitrators, so Mr. Healy and Mr. Henry went to estate and drew up award for people to buy at certain number of years' purchase, grass farms excluded from award, great number of people accepted agreement for purchase; when these were examined by Estates Commissioners they refused to declare property an estate so negotiations ended, 38890.—Morley Estate ought to be scheduled, 38891.—Enlargement by adding grass lands the only way of making holdings economic, 38892.—Grass lands excluded from settlement because

M'GAURAN, Rev. THOMAS—*continued.*

owners wished to retain them, 38893.—It would have been wise to include them, 38894.—There were other grass farms besides those on Morley Estate; impossible to acquire them without compulsion, 38895-9.

Opinion against Direct Sale.

Sale of property such as Morley Estate should not be direct to tenants but through Estates Commissioners, who could utilise grass lands to enlarge small holdings; small holdings should not be conveyed to occupiers until such land as was available had been added to them to enlarge them, 38901-6.—Syndicate's object in selling estate was purely to make money, 38908-9.

Electoral Divisions.

The electoral divisions, with their valuations per head, were: Derrylahan, £1 2*s.* 9*d.*; Derrynant £1 4*s.* 7*d.*; Dunmakiver, £1 1*s.* 8*d.*; Killinagh, £1 7*s.* 10*d.*; Easky was higher as it contained some of the grass lands, some of the latter were also in Dowra, there were none in the first four divisions, which showed that they raised the valuation; Derrylahan, Derrynant, Dunmakiver, and Killinagh would be scheduled were it not that 20 per cent. of population of Cavan did not reside in districts of that class, 38910-14.

DOLAN, Mr. PATRICK.

Condition of Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District.

Poverty of Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District was due to sterility of soil and excessive rents imposed in days gone by; thirty years ago numbers of landlords became bankrupt, their lands were sold in court and purchased by graziers who competed with each other knowing they could extort high interest for their money from tenants; one purchaser doubled rents; in 1901 tenants paid two years' exorbitant rent before they could come under Government, nearly all had to draw it out of Bank on a friend's security, and this burden weighed on them to the present time; people could not live without money from friends in America; land rendered unproductive by barrenness of soil consisting of moor, swamps, and morasses, coldness of climate and wetness of land; inhabitants industrious; witness had seen them delve twelve or fifteen feet for gravel and carry it on their backs to spread over moor along with lime to improve land; rents raised in many cases when land was reclaimed; valuation of one townland reaching to brow of Cuilcagh Mountain, £22 5*s.*, it consisted of six holdings, all reaching to summit, 38915.

Drainage Required.

Drainage required in district, 38915.—Field drainage would do, 38916.—Main drainage insufficient; if it were put in order farmers would drain fields themselves, 38917-8.—Loans on easy terms would be available for that, 38919.—Little field drainage had been done; some farmers might have drain in fields, it was not done in any broad way; no arterial drainage done at all, 38920-2.

Mineral Resources—Tree Planting.

Mountains abounded in valuable minerals; no industrial works carried on; money to aid re-afforestation would be a benefit, trees would afford shelter and improve land and climate, 38915.

O'REILLY, Mr. THOMAS.

Congested Districts in County Cavan.

Whole County of Cavan could hardly be scheduled; desirable that district from Ballyconnell to Bawnboy in baronies of Tullyhaw and Tullyhunco should be, 38924.

Industries.

There were two pipe-clay mines within two miles of Ballyconnell, also a first-class limestone quarry to make calcium carbide, and there was peat moss; plenty of water power, a corn mill, and a saw mill, 38924.—500 or 600 men could be employed with these resources, 38937.—Agricultural and technical instruction almost useless, except as regards woodwork, 38924.

Drainage.

People in district between Bawnboy and the Erne almost ruined by flooding of lands; thousands of acres round Brackley Lake flooded when the rain came; lake should be lowered by opening it into Lough Erne either by Woodford or Swanlinbar River; by lowering Woodford River half a mile below Bawnboy fifteen or twenty feet would be taken off lake, no obstacle in river, £150 would do it; Drainage Boards could not lower river beds, 38924-30.

Railway.

Baronial guarantee paid by County Cavan for Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway from Belturbet to Dromod, 6*d.* in the £ paid by Cavan people; railway from Bawnboy to Maguiresbridge or Ballyshannon would divert traffic and therefore increase taxation in Tullyhaw and Tullyhunco, 38930, 38935-6.—Baronial guarantee should be bought off before deflecting trade from existing line, 38931.—No objection to new system if it assumed responsibility for existing guarantee, 38932.—Guarantee not limited to any particular figure, 6*d.* in the £ paid in Cavan, 1*s.* in Leitrim; 5 per cent. had to be paid to shareholders no matter what the cost to the ratepayers, 38935.—New line would not leave old one derelict, only deflect a large amount of trade, 38936.

Roads.

Roads needed, district too poor to make them, if it were scheduled Board could make grants for the purpose; hundred of farmers without roads and with no means of conveying produce to markets, 38936-7.

Slieve Rushen.

There were 6,000 acres of Slieve Rushen mountain; if portion were planted with timber remainder could be broken up and made into good land, 38936, 38937.—Mountain was in landlords' hands at present, and let for shooting at £30 a year, 38938.—Grazing rights on mountain were of little use, 38939-40.—Witness thought there would be no difficulty about the tenants giving up grazing rights for planting if they saw they would get an improvement, 38941.

FINEGAN, Rev. PATRICK.

Question of Scheduling of Mountain Districts of County Cavan.

Barony of Tullyhaw and part of barony of Tullyhunco should be scheduled; Tullyhaw partly in Bawnboy, partly in Enniskillen; No. 2 Rural District should be scheduled; much of north-west of County Cavan would come under definition of congested were it not that divisions that ran up to the mountains also went down to plains, thus raising valuation; if Cuilcagh and Slieve Rushen ranges were scheduled they would include congested portions of Tullyhaw, 38943.—Four divisions on western slope of mountains where the valuation was under 30*s.* per head; some divisions on eastern slope required scheduling, 38944.

Burren Townland.—Bridge Needed.

Bridge needed in townland of Burren across Shannon and Erne Canal; people cut off by canal from church and school; estimated cost £800; too expensive for District Council; if district were scheduled Board could contribute towards expense, local authority finding balance, 38944-5.

Valuation.

Townland of Burren large; there were 26 holdings, valuation £297 11*s.*; one holding valued at £35 5*s.*, average valuation £11 9*s.*, exclusive of large one, £9 14*s.*, or £1 19*s.* per head, 38945.

Compulsory Purchase.

Compulsory power needed to settle land question; price of land should be fixed by tribunal consisting of representatives of tenants, landlords, and ratepayers, 38953.

FINEGAN, Rev. PATRICK—*continued.*

Agricultural and Technical Instruction.

A great deal of good had been done by agricultural instruction given by County Committee, but not so much in north-west of county, where people did not avail themselves of it, schemes unsuitable; land too poor for shorthorns; anything that gave profit, such as poultry scheme, was taken up, especially that part of it that gave assistance towards a better quality of egg, 38945.—Committee had to have one scheme for whole county; breed of bulls could be varied to suit different parts, witness believed that had been done, 38946-7.—County too large an area of administration; local committees would be better and would understand needs of people, 38947, 38949, 38952, 38959.—Difficult for representative of north-west district to attend meetings of County Committee, 38948. —Not more expensive to have local committees; voluntary aid would be given, county instructors could be employed and no increase of officers would be needed, 38950-1, 38974.—Agricultural instruction would never be availed of till land question was settled, 38952.—Members of County Committee did not attend regularly, and got out of touch with the work, 38954.—Technical Education Committee should also be small local body, 38955.—Rate should be struck over whole county, but amount raised in north-west should be spent locally, together with Department's contribution, within lines laid down by County Committee or Department; if judiciously spent it would be better than at present, 38955-8.—Good thing if special grant were made to poor localities; five-ninths contributed by Department at present; a great deal of good done by instruction schemes, but not as much as was commensurate with expenditure, 38960, 38969. —£13,493 spent on agricultural and technical education since 1901, 38960.—£3,989 19*s.* 8*d.* on technical education, of which Department contributed £2,400, and £5,270 13*s.* 10*d.* on agricultural instruction; live stock cost £3,767, administration £465 19*s.* 8*d.*, 38968.

Practical Instruction.

Expenditure would be more profitable if area of administration were small, committees small, and instruction practical on lines leading to profit, 38970, 38982.—Agricultural and technical instruction should not be aimless, but lead up to some industry; people would not take up aimless instruction, 38961-3.

Lace.

Lace-making where started had been profitable, 38964.—It had not been transmitted from mother to daughter because it did not exist in county till instructors came, 38967.—Manual instruction successful for boys because they turned it to account in their own homes by making gates, etc., 38965-6.—Instruction should be applied to industry people were carrying on, such as cultivating land, 38971-2.—Expenditure would be moderate at first, increasing as necessity arose, 38972.—Cavan County Committee hampered by want of funds for technical instruction, 38975.—Annual income of Committee £600, county contributed £200, Department £400; for some years a credit balance remained; balance allowed to be diverted and instructors in domestic economy and manual instruction were appointed and equipped; when surplus was exhausted no more money was obtainable from Department, and instructors were dismissed and equipment rendered useless, which was a pity, 38976-7.—Committee worked under Acts of 1889, 1891, 1899, for technical instruction, 38980.—Penny in the pound rate in Cavan produced £1,161, 38979.—County Council would not increase rate, 38981.

CORR, Rev. THOMAS.

Mineral Resources.

There were iron ore and naphtha in bogs in parish, 38984-5.—Iron mines could be worked; there were probably coal mines in parish, too, as turf was of the same kind as at Drumkeeran, where there was coal, 38996.—There were also a sulphur spa, a magnesia spa, and iron spas, 38996.

CORR, Rev. THOMAS—*continued.*

Roads.

Roads required; District Council would not make them; witness had appealed to County Council, who had appealed to Local Government Board, and an inquiry was to be held, 38983, 38986-7, 38992.

Parish of Glengevlin.

Witness came from Glengevlin Parish in Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District; it was situated in valley of Cuilcagh mountains and bordering on Leitrim, 38983-4.—People were all peasant proprietors except on one little property, 38984, 38988.—District was mountainous; purchase instalments were moderate, and punctually paid; rents had been raised to help landlord, Captain Hassard, who was in financial difficulties; he was, however, obliged to sell, and the new landlord, Judge Bewley, kept tenants to their promise of higher rents; witness assisted tenants to buy holdings, which they got for the reasonable terms of 14 years' purchase of valuation, 38989-90.—That was before 1903; lands subject to flooding from mountain torrents; had been under water a few days before inspector's visit; good surface clay on property, had been burned away in 1846 and 1848; herbage was poor, cattle grazing on it got rheumatism and had to be fed on bran; crops were very small; people had been wretchedly poor, but were improving now, 38991. —One townland in parish not purchased; two tenants went into court to get rents fixed; agent dealt harshly with the people, and when witness wrote *re* purchase agent replied landlord had no intention of selling; witness applied to landlord himself, who said he would be willing to sell; witness got agent dismissed, 38997-8.

Wool.

Woollen factory wanted; there were 3,000 sheep on the mountains, wool fine and made superior cloth; free site for a mill on the banks of Shannon; good building material on the spot; unfailing supply of water, fall on to wheel would be 40 feet; witness wrote to Agricultural Board about it, but could get no satisfaction, 38992.—No chance to erect factory, some local aid could be got; site within four miles of Belcoo railway station; factory would keep people at home; children were intelligent, a pity they should go to America, 38993.—Thirty tons of wool exported every year, 38994.—Sheep small, good cheviots; people took good care of them, 38995.

Game.

Peasants had fee simple of mountains, everything under surface; game portions were preserved; late Mr. S. Ronan spent a lot on the game; Glengevlin game-walks better than Scotch ones, 38997.

ANDERSON, Mr. ANDREW.

Poverty of the People in Kinawley.

Witness's farm was at Drumlish, Kinawley, in Enniskillen Union, 38999.—It consisted of 24 acres, rent, £10, valuation, £14 5*s.*, 39000.—In the year after the famine of 1879 there were 400 families in Kinawley parish on relief list, 200 of those in Fermanagh part of parish; in 1883 people had to get benefit of Arrears of Rent Act; present rent, etc., paid by money from America, Scotland, Australia; the strong boys and girls emigrated and sent home money; there were 113 small farmers with valuation under £5; 134 between £5 and £7 10*s.*; 708 between £7 10*s.* and £10; 139 over £10, non-resident tenants who lived outside parish not included, 39001-2.

Untenanted Land.

There were almost 1,000 acres of untenanted land; one farm of 500 acres and another of 468 acres, both grazing farms; could be purchased for enlargement of small holdings; one man desired to sell some time ago, but found no purchaser, 39001-2.—There was little money in the country to buy land; it was formerly bought by people returned from America, 39003, 39019.—Only demand came from them or from pensioners, 39020-2.—If some of the lands were bought up it would help the people, 39016.

ANDERSON, MR. ANDREW—*continued.*

RAILWAY.

Railway suggested would benefit Valley of Kinawley and give access to creameries, 39003.—It would take butter and cream away more conveniently; central creamery was five miles from Florence Court station, eight miles from Ballyconnell; it would benefit to extent of £200 by railway; proposed line would go close to Kinawley and past Swanlinbar auxiliary, 39004.

ROADS.

The roads were bad; twelve or thirteen miles of road needed to give people access to church, or their work, or to creameries; three days spent taking produce to market; people would give local aid to roads knowing they would improve future prospects, 39003, 39005, 39014.—Roads had been brought before District Council; a few made, others still unmade; difficult to get anything done; if recommended by District Council County Council often rejected them on advice of County Surveyor; if a grant were made the people could do a good deal themselves, 39005-9.—Some of the roads rejected were new, some were only repairs to old roads; County Surveyor said they were not needed although seventy to one hundred families wanted them, 39010-4.—If some of the more necessary roads were started County Council might keep them in repair; they could not in all cases; it would saddle the rates too much, 39015.

FLOODS.

Rivers flooded district for 600 acres; 175 families affected; bridges required, 39016.—Drainage the main thing; necessity for widening and deepening rivers and keeping them clean; there was sufficient outfall, 39017-8.

CARNEY, MR. JAMES.

POVERTY OF WITNESS'S DISTRICT.

Witness resided at Drumeela, Killegar, Killeshandra; Ballinamore Rural District was congested; it comprised eleven divisions, some were scheduled, 39023.—Witness's district was congested, but not scheduled, 39054.—No untenanted land in district; one ranch at Lisanover, within five miles, was being purchased by Estates Commissioners, 39023.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage would improve condition of people, 39023.—Small grant for field drainage would be useful, 39053.—Killegar River destroyed the country for miles; cattle died from disease due to dirt in flooded hay, 39056.—River should be deepened and widened; raising banks useless, 39057-8.

TURBARY.

Tenantry should have right of turbary where it existed; no tenant should be allowed to absorb bogs into their areas, 39023.

VALUATION.

Government valuation should not be the standard when scheduling, as three-fourths of tenants of the division might have a very low valuation and remainder a very high valuation, thus preventing majority being scheduled, 39023.

MANURE.

Lime-burning industry would benefit farmers; there was an unlimited supply of lime which could serve as manure when land was drained; farmers got manure on credit frocreamery or shopkeeper, 39023.—Creamery had agricultural store and gave manure on credit, 39024.

LAND PURCHASE.

Sir R. Cusack's estate offered to tenants under Ashbourne Act at 14½ years' purchase and had now been purchased at 21 years' purchase, 39025, 39028, 39035.—14½ on first term rents meant 17½ on second term rents, 39027.—21 years' purchase, plus bonus, and a year's purchase for expenses of clearing title, etc., equalled 25 years' purchase, 39029.—Godley Estate sold under Ashbourne Act at 15 years' purchase with arrears wiped out and free transfer; even at that price inspector refused to sanction advance in many cases and purchase money was reduced; Countess of Leitrim now wanted 26 years' purchase for similar estate and tenants were anxious to buy; the people were unfit to make their own bargains, and would be unable to pay instalments if allowed to purchase, 39026.—Tenantry wanted to get away from landlord, they did not look into the future, and thought by purchasing they would get redress, 39031-4.—Offer of 14½ years' purchase of Sir R. Cusack considered too high; 21 years paid later because arrears were wiped out; three-quarters of tenants were in arrears, 39035-40.—Purchase price more than covered arrears, 39041.—Ratepayers being security for annuities should have voice in purchase agreements, 39042, 39047.—Tenants on Cusack Estate had paid annuities so far, 39043.—Tenants made improvident bargains to escape from their embarrassments, but they should not make bargains they could not keep, 39045-6.—There would be no objection if it were proposed that County Council should have voice in negotiations, 39048.—Witness came from County Leitrim, 39049.—Sum representing 5*d.* in the £ stopped from grants to which Leitrim was entitled because of losses in connection with flotation of stock, etc., 39050-1.

REMITTANCES FROM AMERICA.

Money from America depended on for rent and necessaries; more money had come from America during last thirty years than was paid for fee-simple of some estates, or than would buy estate witness lived on at 20 years' purchase; estates were small and the smaller the estate the poorer the tenantry; estate witness lived on purchased by an Irishman in 1870; rent raised to double and sometimes treble what it was before, 39051-2.—Some of the houses not very habitable, 39055.

CLARKE, MR. PATRICK.

LACE.

Lace industry had been started for two years in Swanlinbar, fifty-four girls in class, average attendance thirty-eight or forty, 39059-60.—The lace made was Irish crochet lace; £179 12*s.* 7*d.* paid to workers from October 1905-1906; four best workers earned £12 12*s.* 1*d.*, £15 1*s.* 5*d.*, £12 12*s.*, £8 15*s.*, respectively, 39061.—Average earnings a little over £4.

TEACHER'S SALARY.

Teacher was qualified for thirty-two pupils and payment was by capitation grant of £2, which meant £64, but she was paid only £32; salary should be fixed, 39062.—Inspector decided who passed examination; pupils not qualified unless they put in a certain number of hours in cookery class; payment of teacher fixed on number of pupils certified, 39064, 39067, 39091.—Teacher only received a fee per head provided funds could be found for it; witness thought the understanding was she would get the full amount she was qualified for, 39068-70, 39092.—Witness thought others were docked in same way, 39072.—Teacher supposed to be paid out of grant, 39088.—Workers not supposed to pay for instruction at first, 39090.—Money for teachers was cut down because there was miscalculation, 39093.—Lace sold by teacher for workers, 39603, 39086.—Class was under county scheme, 39065.—Industry paying as far as workers were concerned, 39066, 39076.—Not really a paying concern, 39077.—No credit balance at end of year, 39075.—Merely an employment to keep people at home, 39078.—Lace-makers worked at it pretty well, 39081.—Had been at it two years and had every inducement to continue, 39082-3.—It was understood it was a slow process requiring a great attention, 39084.—They continued after leaving school, 39085.—More orders received than could be completed, 39087.—All remuneration supposed to go to workers, 39089.

CLARKE, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Light Railway.

Railway from Bawnboy to Maguiresbridge would be a benefit, as there was no market in Swanlinbar; it cost 8*s.* or 9*s.* to take pigs to Enniskillen or Ballinamore, 39080.

HOWE, Mr. RICHARD.

Occupation of Witness.

Witness, a shopkeeper in Swanlinbar, with farm of sixty-five acres, for which he paid £25, he had bought out, payment would be less when vesting order was made, 39094.

Railway.

Railway needed; Government should give grant for line from Bawnboy to Maguiresbridge, 39095.—Guarantee of 6*d.* in the £ on railway from Belturbet to Ballinamore debarred people from offering a further guarantee, 39095, 39100.—Not much benefit from existing line, ratepayers had objected to guarantee, trade of Swanlinbar mostly eastward, 39101-4.—Proposed railway would reduce price of meal by 1*s.*, and flour by 6*d.*, a bag; it would not divert traffic of other line as it would be connecting line; Government had made an offer which was somewhat blocked, 39095.

Shelter Belts.

Government might give free to farmers of £10 valuation and under a quantity of quicks or larches for planting shelter belts on holdings or worst part of mountain, 39095-6.—Great deal of land was in landlord's hands though not so much as formerly, 39097-8.—Farmers would do it themselves if they got the quicks, 39099

Untenanted Land.

Swanlinbar was witness's electoral division, 39105.—Farmers needed relief; some of them were careless about their holdings, 39106.—Holdings might be enlarged in some instances, 39107.—Not much land available, 39108.

Dr. Brady's Farm.

Witness was the postmaster, 39110.—He managed Dr. Brady's farm of sixty-six acres in County Fermanagh, it was offered for sale this year, but price formerly offered could not be got, 39111.—Lands usually offered by public auction, 39112.—Dr. Brady lived in Australia, he would be glad to sell to Estates Commissioners or Board for fair price, but had had no communication from them, 39113, 39115, 39118.—£430 the lowest price that would be accepted, only £400 offered; Dr. Brady bought place twenty years ago subject to an annuity, he paid one-fourth of purchase price down, amounting to £185, that left instalments very low; they were about £18 now; farm formerly let at £50; Dr. Brady bought at 18 years' purchase, and now possessed both landlord's and tenant's interest, £430 paid for the sixty-six acres, annuity would not soon be extinguished, second decadal reduction was coming on, 39119-24.—Land not let out used for grazing accommodation for people without enough land, 39125-8.—Price for grazing eighteen to twenty shillngs for year-olds, twenty to twenty-five shillings for two-year-olds, 39129.—£20 received for grazing in summer; £20 worth of hay sold; no winter stock except nine or ten head of the owner's on which there was profit, 39130.

KEENAN, Mr. JOHN.

Condition of People in Benbrack, Kinawley.

Witness's farm at Rockfield, Bawnboy, consisted of thirty-two acres, rent £15 10*s.*, valuation £16 10*s.*—Valuation of Benbrack electoral division was £601 on land, £79 on buildings; there were 140 houses in division, population was 746, valuation 19*s* per head; twenty-nine applications last February from farmers for relief, but law debarred out-door relief to farmers, except in urgent cases; Local Government Board sent inspector down who recommended Board to give £250 to be earned repairing roads so that farmers might crop ground with seed; this was done, 100 workers were put on three roads, one in Benbrack, one in Templeport, one in Pedravoghis; the money was almost exhausted, and the same people would be destitute till new crop were reaped, 39131-2.—People unable to build good houses, loan might be given for improvement of out-offices and dwellings, people sometimes fined and made to limewash houses but could not do more, 39132-4.—Parish Committees did much good in other districts, a pity the districts mentioned were not scheduled, 39135-6.—One townland in Kinawley division, with valuation of £5 15*s.*, had five large families who could not live without children's wages, 39136.

Untenanted Land.

Plenty of grazing land in neighbourhood without people living on it which could be used to enlarge holdings without migration; there was one farm of forty acres, valuation £12, belonging to Mr. Johnston, and let for grazing, that and another grass farm were within quarter of a mile of the townland with five families and £5 15*s.* valuation, 39136-40.

Railway.

New railway would benefit district, baronial guarantee now paid for railway ten miles distant from some of the people; people had to leave home in the middle of the night to take pigs to Enniskillen market, 39140.—Tax paid by whole barony of Tullyhaw, 39141.—If that were transferred to new railway the people would continue it, 39142.—New line would bring more traffic to old railway, 39143-5.

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. R.

Parish of Witness.

Evidence confined to electoral units of Lattone, Roogagh Garrison, Inismacsaint; district cut off from rest of County Fermanagh, by ridge of mountains on east and south, and by River Erne on north, western side bordered Leitrim; debarred from sharing good things of its own county and not entitled to consideration from adjoining counties, should be declared congested, 39146.

Valuation and Population.

Population of Lattone, 492; Valuation on land, £797 15*s.* or £1 12*s.* per head; 144 holdings, average valuation £5 10*s.*; population of Roogagh, 386, valuation on land, £690 10*s.*, or £1 15*s.* per head; 96 holdings, average valuation, £7 3*s.*, 39146.—Valuation of houses excluded because they did not contribute to support of people, 39147-8.—Population of Garrison, 769, valuation, £1,713 15*s.*, or £2 11*s.* per head; 200 holdings, average valuation, £8 11*s.*, omitting townlands of Frevagh Garrison and Slattinagh, valuation would be £1 18*s.* per head, £7 13*s.* per holding; population of Inismacsaint, 1,303, valuation, £2,326 5*s.*, or £1 15*s.* per head; 300 holdings average valuation £7 15*s.*; average valuation on the four divisions, £7 per holding; holdings uneconomic, some valued at less than £5, 39148.

Character of Land.

The land was the worst in Fermanagh; it consisted of mountain covered with heather, furze, or short wiry willow; there was little tillage, what there was was done by reclaiming bog; there was only a few inches of soil on hills, sub-soil was barren white sand, one acre of tillage to ten of grazing, and the crops were only good in a favourable year; damp bogs yielded half a crop in a wet season; farms only yielded provision for family for three months, 39148.

Means of Livelihood.

Store cattle-raising and milk were the other means of livelihood; animals never put on flesh but grew hard and stunted, only profitable if calves were sold young; grazing also bad for milch cows, rendered

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. R.—*continued*

cattle liable to cruppan, a disease like rheumatism, from which they could be saved only by repeated doses of bran, little was raised on the farms for hand-feeding except cabbages, 39148.

Emigration.

There was much emigration; whole family went to America or Scotland except one girl and boy; sons of higher-class farmers might go to a grocery or into the Police, a few went into domestic service, 39148-50.—Money to pay rent came largely from sons and daughters who had emigrated, 39151.

Attempt to hold Classes.

Cookery class started by Department four years ago; there had been none since, 39151.—Sprigging the only industry, teacher paid by Committee of Technical Education; two classes held in 1906, seventy-five pupils enrolled; average earnings in one school 6*s.* to 9*s.* a week, in the other 6*s.* to 8*s.*; £350 the total earned by both classes; a little sprigging given out by shopkeepers, not paid so well, 39151.

Six Months Credit System.

Want of money at cheap interest a drawback, six-month's credit system was ruining the country; farmers bought cows at auction with six months time to pay; they paid more than the market value for them and had the auctioneer's fees as well, also renewal of interest on bill; two or three auctioneers had the parish in their hands, 39151.—People who worked by this system were those with no money, 39156.—At end of six months auctioneer put cattle up for sale or renewed bill at 7 or 10 per cent. interest, 39157.—If the man could not pay in the end he was sold out by auctioneer, 39158.—Easy to get credit, auctioneers obliging, 39162.—Fifty per cent. of the people got credit, individual virtue came in in resisting it, 39163-5.

Need for Agricultural Bank.

Agricultural bank needed to do away with credit system, desirable that Board should make a grant to start it, 39151.—People would supplement Board's grant when they understood security was good, 39152.—People in this district had not heard of the system; witness started one where he was before, which was not a congested district, nor were the people as poor, 39153-5.—If bank paid people would invest their money in it at 4 per cent. rather than in Post Office at 2½, 39159.—After some time people might be able to do without credit, 39161.—It was a pressing need now, 39166.

Roads.

Transit accommodation altogether neglected by Grand Jury, one road in Lattone division skirting district; for seven miles up mountain there were no roads, two miles made by District Council some years ago, but it was not continued, and was now practically useless; no fund from District Council for roads because Belleek was overtaxed, more highly taxed than other parts of Fermanagh, 39166-8.—No hope of getting roads without outside aid, 39169.—Taxation was so high because attempt was being made to make roads, 39172.—Difference between local and Imperial taxation was that local taxation was spent for benefit of the people who paid it, 39172.

Necessity for Scheduling District.

If County Fermanagh were scheduled Congested Districts Board would have undertaken several drainage and other works as adjoining county was a congested district, grant had been given by Board for road which could not be completed because part lay in Fermanagh; a river that flooded 200 or 300 acres every autumn would have been drained had there been any Board in Fermanagh to take up scheme, as it was it fell through, 39172.

CASSIDY, Mr. JAMES.

Condition of People.

Witness's farm at Derryalt, Swanlinbar, comprised twenty-four acres, rent, £6, valuation, £7 5*s.*; it was in Kinawley electoral division, 39173.—Employment necessary to keep people in Swanlinbar county division from starvation or emigration, draining and fencing lands recommended in order to improve their condition; holdings small and inferior, three-quarters of the people in divisions of Templeport, Benbrack, Pedrovoghis, Kinawley, portions of Swanlinbar and Terraher were starving on account of failure of potato crop, and could not exist without help from America and Scotland; relief works were started in 1905, one in each family being allowed to work for 1*s.* a day, 39173.—In 1906 portions of mountain districts had no potato crop, it failed owing to wet season; people sprayed but it was difficult to find dry enough weather, 39174-5.—Better to start permanent employment than temporary relief works; there should be a woollen mill or a tannery, there had been a tan yard, hides easily obtainable, because so many cattle died in bad season, 39177.—Some grazing ranches in Meath or Roscommon should be taken over and 50 per cent. of farmers in witness's division migrated there, which would give remaining farmers opportunity of living, 39173.

Railway.

No railway in Swanlinbar; people paid 6*d.* in the £ guarantee for Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway, this should be stopped as they derived no benefit from line, 39173.

M'ALOON, Mr. TERENCE.

Condition of People.

Witness's farm at Gortin, Swanlinbar, consisted of twenty-three acres, rent, £7 15*s.* 2*d.*, valuation, £8, 39179.—The land was poor, and the cold so intense crops were kept back; unless Government provided employment no one could live on land if climate did not change; people were in debt to shopkeepers and banks, 39180.—District thickly inhabited, farms small and poor, 39183.

Railway.

A railway was necessary; buyers would not go to fairs without accommodation, fairs had gone down, existing railway no benefit; communication with Enniskillen and road was hilly; District Council had passed resolution in favour of proposed line, Board of Guardians carried it without a dissentient voice, 39180.—Opposition came from a small point, Ballyconnell to Belturbet, 39181.—People would give the same guarantee as now given, 39182.—Line had been surveyed and occupiers asked for their consent to it passing through their property, but nothing more took place, 39182-3.

Minerals.

Mines could be worked if there were a railway; mountains rich in minerals and coal, mines worked 100 years ago, 39184.—Coal from mountains had been used in forges of the town, 39185.

Emigration.

Rent paid chiefly by money from America; £177 and £206 of American money cashed in Swanlinbar Post Office in December, 1906, and January, 1907; within last thirty years people able to work had emigrated and the incapable were left at home, 39185.

MAGUIRE, Mr. HUGH.

Condition of People and Failure of Potato Crop.

Poato crop a failure in nine or ten townlands last year, in others the crop was bad, average crop of potatoes in places at back of mountains was two tons

MAGUIRE, Mr. HUGH—*continued.*

an acre, three times that in other places; oats yielded 12 to 14 cwt. an acre, people badly off, would work if they could get it, no fairs and markets, thirty years ago there was a weekly market at Swanlinbar, better attended than monthly fair was now, lack of railway facilities and accommodation the reason, twelve or fourteen miles to Enniskillen, in four or five townlands produce had to be taken on donkeys' backs, 39187.—Railway would improve condition of people, 39188.—Land gone down in value, 39189.—Price of produce reduced, 39190-1.—Summer of 1907 the worst since 1879 or 1880.—Some little works would tide the poor over the difficulty, 39191.

Road.

Road of two miles was about to be made, partly in County Cavan, partly in Fermanagh; Earl of Erne's father, who was chairman of Fermanagh Grand Jury, gave a sort of promise that when Cavan portion was to be made, Fermanagh part should also be made, in 1880 Cavan portion was made, but Fermanagh portion was still undone, 39191-2.—Finishing road would give employment and much-needed accommodation, 39192.

BRADY, Rev. OWEN.

Condition of Land and People.

Parish of Curlough was mountainous, it contained electoral divisions of Benbrack, Templeport, and Pedravohers, parish so poor that relief works had been promoted five times in last twenty years, 39193, 32903.—£2,300 given on one occasion, relief works objectionable when applied too often, better to lift condition of people to make them independent, 39203-5.—Potato crop failed in wet season, 39193.—Grass had no butter-making power, as soil was only six inches deep, farmers gained little from produce of cattle, 39193, 39195, 39197.—No herbage for sheep, soil covered with rushes and moss, sheep rarely kept, 39198.—Drainage would improve soil, 39199.—Pigs kept, food for them often got on credit from shops, 39194.

Valuation, &c.

Valuation of Benbrack 19*s.* per head, of Templeport £1 5*s.*, Pedravohers equally low, districts should be scheduled, and powers and revenue of Board increased, 39195.

Planting.

Scheme for planting mountains and fields, and increasing horticulture should be adopted, best way would be to establish local nurseries at convenient places where trees could be obtained at easy prices, and with a man to show how to plant them; useless to send instructor without possibility of carrying out instruction, soil good for apple trees, 39195-6.—Planting of large belt of mountain would improve climate and give shelter, and after a time would supply wood, which was getting scarce, 39199.

Bogs.

Good bogs at present, but turf getting used up as it was sold in the town, and was often principal means of keeping family, 29200-1.—Good thing to introduce proper breed of cattle, shorthorn unsuitable, Kerry breed more suited to climate and soil, old Irish breed the best, 39205.—Roads needed, 39199.

CLEARY, Mr. JAMES.

Description of Mullaghbreen, Castlecaldwell, and Belleek.

Witness's farm was close to Belleek, rent £16 10*s.*, valuation £23, 39206.—Population of Mullaghbreen was 177, valuation £169, or 19*s.* per unit, nearly the poorest district in Ireland, no persons of large valuation, in Castlecaldwell the population was 487, valuation 29*s.* per unit, three persons with valuation of £636, 39207.—There were 600 acres of grazing land, 39209.—Owned by mortgagees who were willing to sell, 39210, 39211.—Also 296 acres of waste land, 39210.—Population of Belleek was 782, valuation 30*s.* per head, four persons with valuation of £636 15*s.*, 340 acres of grazing without population, 929 acres of waste land, it was hilly, with heather and bog, 39207.—Waste land was in landlord's hands, there were some tenants on it, 39208, total valuation of the 929 acres was £12, 39209.

Enlargement of Holdings, Planting, &c.

The large holdings in the district should be obtained and divided among small tenants little expense involved, as houses would not be required, owners would sell at reasonable price; hilly portions of waste land should be planted, and valleys drained, that would give shelter and pasturage, two lakes having bad outlet into Lough Erne could be drained and valleys drained into lakes, if district were put under Congested Districts Board bad land could be purchased with good, and tenants allowed trees for planting, 39211.—Thirty-three years ago coal and iron mines were worked by an English company, but latter differed with landlord as to terms of lease and took away their engines.—Nothing had been heard of them since, 39211.

MALLON, Rev. P. E.

Morley Estate.

Morley Estate, Doobally, comprised 12,730 acres, valuation of holding was below that which qualified for scheduling, all were uneconomic and non-agricultural except about a dozen, soil poor and unsuited for crop raising, only portions available for tillage were the low-lying strips of valley, crops raised were inferior, and rarely came to maturity on account of the climate, river Shannon ran through district, annual floods rendered land below high water level useless for anything but grazing, dredging at entrance of river to Lough Allen would be a partial remedy, lowering level of Lough necessary for permanent improvement, main damage caused by backwater in tributaries when Shannon was in flood, 1,000 acres of best part of property under grazing farms, owners willing to part with them, 39212.

Condition of People.

People were in chronic state of poverty, and struggle against adverse circumstances, foremost amongst the latter was landlordism, which had been a curse instead of a blessing, there was, however, a prospect of an end to this state of things, as the Estates Commissioners were inspecting property with a view to purchase from syndicate who owned it, lack of methods of working holdings profitably were other adverse circumstances, houses and out-offices wretched, 39212.

Spinning and Weaving.

Spinning and weaving formerly engaged in, durable material turned out cheaply, number of spinning wheels becoming fewer as old ones wore out, and people could not afford to get new ones, or did not know where to get them, 39212, 39214-6.—Good thing to give loans for spinning wheels and looms in the same way as for boats, 39226.—People's interest dying out, because they could not get wheels, and young people did not remain at home to learn, 39215-7.—Better for people to make their own cloth instead of spending money on cheap useless material, 39213.—Two or three hand looms in district constantly at work turned out fine tweeds and flannels, which were used by the people for their own clothing, 39217-8.—Board would do good if it resuscitated industry, 39217.

Evil of Creamery System.

Butter-making at home done to a certain extent, could be improved; creameries a calamity in such a poor district, all the milk sent to creamery to get the money, and not enough kept at home, result was seen in the children, who looked badly nourished, and

MALLON, Rev. P. E.—*continued.*

not as well as where milk was churned at home, 39218-9, 39222, 39224.—In a poor district cottage dairies would be better, or butter factories, where butter could be sent and prepared for market, no dairy accommodation in district, 39220.—Creamery system better if parents could be made to reserve milk for children, but there was the temptation to send too much away, 39221, 39223.—General poverty of the country responsible, 39224.—Children fed with stirabout, 39225.

Emigration and Education.

Consequence of emigration was that children could not get enough education, as they had to work the farm; a pity, as they were intelligent, 39225.—District a model district for working of Board, people keen and industrious, Board should be careful not to give impression that people were receiving charity, 39225-6.

DERMODY, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 149.

Flooding—Drainage.

Floods in neighbourhood were ruinous, river overflowed after two nights rain, in 1903 witness lost thirty cocks of hay; from Ballindeen Bridge to Augnacreeva, a distance of seven miles, Rag river had no shape, had never been sunk, 39227.—Some effort should be made to deepen it, to take away surface water, 39228-9.—Landlords took no interest in it, 39230.—Witness had not yet bought out, 39231.—Half of his land was flooded for eight months in the year, that is to say, subject to flooding after twenty-four hours' rain, 39232-3.—Cattle could not be left on it, they ate nothing because it was covered with dirt, 39234.—Several Commissions had been appointed to inquire into Irish grievances, and nothing had been done, witness wanted a strong case put this time, 39235-41.—The last inquiry had been at Enniskillen in the August of 1906, 39237-8.

M'CAFFREY, Mr. PETER.

Necessity for Drainage.

Witness's farm was at Clincurta, Bawnboy, size seventy-five acres, rent £28 9*s.* 2*d.*, valuation £35 11*s.*, 39242.—Arterial drainage wanted, witness's farm was flooded half the year, thirty cocks of hay lost in two years, in 1879 every cock of hay lost except one, three years ago meadow could not be cut owing to flood, witness made bank along edge of river, but water came back on the other side, whole country from Ballymagovern, two miles long, and including hundreds of acres, was subject to flooding; Ballymagovern lake choked, no outlet for river, district not the same as mentioned by last witness, 39243-5.—Lake should be opened, 39245.—Country difficult to drain, one night's rain would leave six feet of water, 39246.

O'BRIEN, Mr. MICHAEL.

Road Required.

Road required connecting Slieve Russell with Caldra Mill, three miles across top of mountain; object of road was to get turbary, which was growing scarce, to connect roads made 50 or 60 years ago, 39247.—Turbary could then be supplied to townlands; grant also needed to improve old hilly roads, 39248.—Turf on wild commonage belonged to landlord, 39249.—Landlord would give little towards road, but it would give employment to people, as well as be a means of communication, 39252-4.—Mountain valuable for re-afforestation if road were made; greater part had no turbary, 39256-7.—Position not too exposed for timber, 39258.—Mountains from Swanlinbar to Ballyconnell and from Ballyconnell to Derrylahan should be scheduled; one townland of 207 acres with six families had only £22 10*s.* valuation, 39247.—No one living on mountain where the road was suggested, 39255.—It belonged to land around, 39256.—Bawnboy Union likely to be absorbed into some other union, in which case woollen factory might be started in disused workhouse, as the industry would be valuable, 39256.

MEEHAN, Mr. P. A.

Small Holdings in Queen's County.

2,105 small holdings on one acre in Queen's County, including labourers' plots, 39263-4.—All agricultural holdings; a few gate-houses, etc., might be included, 39266-7.—Occupants looked to land for living, but had to get casual employment as well, 39268.—In fact, they depended for the greater part on the outside labour, 39269.—These holdings were nearly always cut-away bogs; they should be enlarged to three or five acres, 39270-1, 39289.—The county statistics, which gave 2,508 agricultural holdings up to £4 valuation, might include some not amounting to an acre, 39272-3.—1,681 similar holdings in County Mayo; 1,483 in County Donegal, 39264.—Queen's County one-third in area and population of Mayo or Donegal; yet small holdings in Queen's County exceeded Donegal by two to one, and Mayo by five to three; something should be done to relieve the congestion, 39275.—Schedule handed in gave return of holdings not exceeding ten statute acres, excluding those acquired under Labourers Acts, and holdings occupied by persons having additional land elsewhere; 138 such holdings in Ballyfin division, 39275.—£5 the approximate average valuation of ten acres, 39276.

Enlargement of Holdings and Land Available.

There was a large holding in Ballyfin division belonging to Mr. Rafter, a business man; it consisted of 240 acres, 139 of which was recently bought; owner was non-resident; the 139 acres was grazing for many years; residence was unoccupied; this might be available for enlargement of small holdings, 39276-82, 39287.—Another grazing farm of 80 acres in same neighbourhood, but in next townland belonged to Mr. J. Clear, who would be willing to sell; these two farms were good land, and if acquired would go a long way to relieve congestion, 39282-4.—Witness did not object to 20 acres or more in one man's hands if used as mixed farm, but where farm was used only for grazing, and there were uneconomic holdings in district; it should be acquired and divided amongst uneconomic holders; witness did not fix any number of acres as necessary; it depended on quality of land, etc.; must be enough to give occupier a decent living, 39285-6, 39288, 39290, 39304.—Mr. Rafter's farm belonged to a man who had 100 acres elsewhere, and was therefore a suitable one to be acquired, 39287.—People in Queen's County would be glad to get ten acres of land similar to that acquired in County Meath, 39289.—Valuation not always a true indication of value of land, 39291.—There were 76 holdings under ten acres in Castlecuffe division, 48 in Cappalough, and there was a large grazing ranch of 480 acres in latter division held by owner of business establishment in midlands, 39291.—Only a herd's house on ranch; land should be acquired (owner receiving just compensation), and divided amongst people; it would be adequate for needs of Cappalough and Castlecuffe, 39292-3.—It was all in one union, 39294.—Residence in one union would not prevent a man getting portion of land in the next union, 39295.—There were 50 holdings in Clonaslee division, 49 in Dangans, 38 in Garrymore, 21 in Graigue, 51 in Meelik, 64 in O'Moore's Forest, 57 in Rearymore, 37 in Rosenalis, 54 in Tinnahinch; no lands available for purchase for enlargement of holdings in the divisions except 1,000 acres in Rearymore, in Mountmellick Union, occupied by two gentlemen, 39295-7.—There was an estate of good land of 350 acres belonging to Mrs. Adair at Ballybrittas; owner willing to sell; estate partly

MEEHAN, Mr. P. A.—*continued.*

grazing and partly tillage; Mrs. Adair in occupation; residence had been burned down, so she did not reside there; if some of the people of Mountmellick Union could be moved on to these lands and the small holdings added together congestion would be greatly relieved, 39297-301.

ABBEYLEIX UNION.

In Abbeyleix Union there were 38 holdings under ten statute acres in Blandsfort townland, and the lands outside Blandsfort demesne, where tenants were evicted forty years ago, were suitable to be acquired for re-instatement of evicted tenants or enlargement of holdings; witness thought they were under grazing, 39301-2.—In Clash there were 62 holdings under ten acres, and one of 860 acres in occupation by Major Marsh, which was residential, 39302-3.—There were 74 holdings under ten acres in Clonkeen townland and thirteen in Cullenagh, 39304.

CULLENAGH.

Sixty years ago whole population of Cullenagh were evicted from what was now a grazing ranch of 400 acres; over 100 families evicted; ranch should be acquired by Estates Commissioners, and be divided into suitable holdings for people; occupier non-resident, 39304-5.—228 acres of ranch at Ballyknockan from which families were evicted should also be acquired, 39314.—Small farm in neighbourhood belonging to Mrs. Adair, suitable for allotments, should be acquired, 39305.—There were 73 small holdings in Raheen, 18 in Timahoe, 6 in Garryglass, under 10 acres, 39305.

GARRYGLASS.

In Garryglass the estate was sold to tenants, and there were 300 acres of untenanted land; on eve of sale these 300 acres were divided amongst four people who had other land; protest was made, and one surrendered his allotment to Estates Commissioners; another had since done so, and it was hoped the others would follow; transaction carried on by local branch of United Irish League, who were negotiating sale through Estates Commissioners, 39305-9.—There was a farm of 180 acres in Timahoe which the owner was willing to sell, and the Foster Estate in Ballyroan townland was about to be sold; there were eight small holdings on estate, and owner was willing to sell to Estates Commissioners; if purchased small holder's rights to economic holdings should be recognised; there were 75 holdings under 10 acres in townlands of Stradbally and Timogue; 210 acres available for relief of congestion, 39314.—Thirty uneconomic holdings in Abbeyleix Union and 600 acres untenanted land in landlord's hands let on eleven months' system; efforts to purchase lands had failed, now being urged on behalf of sixty labourers that a recommendation be made to Estates Commissioners to buy land for distribution; a number of tenants had been evicted 25 years ago and should be restored, 39461.—Districts mentioned should be scheduled, 39461.—Witness in favour of purchase of grass lands where required to raise uneconomic holdings to economic limit, 39310.—In some unions there were enough grass lands for requirements without going outside, in others not, 39312-3.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

Compulsory powers needed to acquire land on just terms would go a long way towards bettering condition of people; County Councils should have compulsory powers to acquire waste and mountain land for re-afforestation, that is, mountain where no grazing rights existed; 63,662 acres waste bog and mountain in Queen's County, 39314.

RE-AFFORESTATION.

Would give continuous employment to certain number, improve health, and add to National wealth; it must be carried out as a National work with free gift of three-fourths of outlay, one-fourth to be left as charge met by royalty on timber, 39314-6.

MEEHAN, Mr. P. A.—*continued.*

DRAINAGE.

Arterial drainage necessary; neglected for a century; local effort could not cope with it; Commission on Arterial Drainage recommended that it should be a National question, especially drainage of River Barrow; that local effort could not compete with it, and Parliament must advance money; Mr. Balfour estimated cost of draining Barrow at £360,000; he offered £215,000 free gift, balance of £145,000 to be charged on land benefited, but his Bill did not pass, 39316, 39324.—Valley of Barrow a hot-bed of disease; draining would relieve lands from flooding, and improve people's health, 39316.—First work was to remove obstructions from river; occupiers could not drain their own farms; whole scheme should be carried out first by State, and charge put on land benefited, 39317-18.—Land should be taxed in proportion to advantage derived; people ten miles away should be taxed lighter, 39319.—Rate thus raised applicable to drainage, 39320.—State of Barrow worse than twenty years ago; what was then good grazing not worth 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre now, 39321.—It was flooded annually, and sand carried on to meadow, so that no beast would eat the grass; people got relief in an exceptionally dry year, 39322.—Witness gave evidence before Commission on Arterial Drainage, 39323.

WOOD-CARVING.

Wood-carving class attended by carpenters' apprentices and farmers' sons; the latter obtained knowledge of use of tools, and were enabled to make carts and many useful farm implements; wood-carving also taught with view of reviving it as cottage industry, 39461.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

At Agricultural Society's shows certain classes not asked to pay subscription; poor man got every encouragement; special section for clean cottages and best managed farm largely availed of; competition active; principal prize for cow at show taken by man from neighbourhood of Abbeyleix with only two acres, 39461.

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KELLY, Rev. J. J.

COOTE ESTATE.

Coote Estate was in the parish of Ballyfin, in Mountmellick Union, area 9,742 acres, valuation £2,739 4*s.*, large portion very poor, thirteen districts with valuation under £5, five out of eight holdings in Ballycormac under £5 valuation, 39326-7.—Thirty-three holdings in Ballyfin Upper, 22 of these under £5, fourteen holdings in Ballylusk, eight of them under £5, forty-seven in Bockra, twenty-nine under £5 valuation, nine in Ballyfin Lower, six under £5, seventeen in Cavan's Heath, eleven under £5, in Deerpark out of thirty-four there were eighteen under £5, thirty-three in Trey, twenty-one under £5, twenty-four in Knocks, twenty under £5, eighteen in Rossmore, thirteen under £5, twenty-one in second Deerpark, thirteen under £5, twenty-one in Sconce Upper, eighteen under £5, twenty-one in Sconce Lower, sixteen under £5, 7,072 acres in all with a valuation of £1,758, 50 per cent. of the holdings were under £5, and therefore congested, people in a very poor way, storm of a few years ago that blew down all the timber on the demesnes saved people from starvation by giving them employment and fuel, 39327-8.—Property in question was in north-west of Ballyfin on southern slope of Slieve Bloom Mountains, 39329.—Formerly owned by Mr. Wellesley Pole, Lord Maryborough, tenants better off under him than under Coote family, they had free turbary and grazing on mountain, and were not called on so exactly for rent, widows rent free in some holdings, on transfer

KELLY, Rev. J. J.—*continued.*

of estate Lord Maryborough arranged that tenants should not be worse off, in point of fact there was little free turbary, and not much mountain grazing, rents now exacted with great severity, 39328.—Great amount of turf bog, but when tenant cut out his turf bank he had to provide for himself and pay for turf, there were 113 acres bog in Bockra, 332 in Trey, twenty-six in Knocknakeiran; in spite of that some tenants had to go to other properties for bog, 39330-1. —366 acres at Deerpark, thirty-four acres at Cappinrush, 360 acres at Redcastle in landlord's hands, principally under grass, Deerpark was demesne land, the others outside farms, one at Cappinrush let on eleven months' system to tradesman and might be used to increase neighbours' holdings, 39332-6, 39350.—When property first came into Coote family a reduction of 4*s.* was given, then 2*s.* 6*d.*, then 2*s.*; nothing given now off rent, it was voluntary, not permanent, arrangement, 39339-42.—Some tenants had been into court and got large reduction, others did not go into court because they were afraid of landlord, as they worked for him, 39343-3a.

Credit.

Raising money on accommodation bills much in vogue, many banks in neighbourhood, witness had tried to start agricultural bank, but it did not succeed, too many banks round about, 39337-8.

Price of Land.

A year before Land Conference Sir A. Coote informed witness he had got his son's consent to sell estate which he wished to do, witness told him tenants were anxious to buy, Sir A. Coote asked twenty years' purchase, though land was only worth fourteen to sixteen years' purchase, and nothing was done at that time, 39344-6.—After Land Bill witness wrote to Sir Algernon asking if he were willing to sell, twenty-four and a half and twenty-six and a quarter years' purchase was then asked, 39346-8.—Passing of Act of 1903 created the difference in price, 39349.—Re-afforestation advisable, there was suitable land in neighbourhood on mountain slope, 39350-2, 39354.—Not much pasture on it, only bog, 39353.—Tenants had grazing rights on it which were their only support besides money from America, 39355, 39357.—They might give up their rights if they got compensation or good land in exchange, 39358.—The grazing would never be made into good land, 39359-60.—Lower down at Trey there was a little turbary, but not on mountain, 39356.

O'NEILL, Mr. JOHN J.

Longford Union.

Witness's farm was at Drumlish, County Longford, size thirty-two acres, rent £8, valuation £10, 39361-6.—Longford Union consisted of eighteen electoral divisions, seven of which should be scheduled, 39367, 39388.

Aghaboy.

Number of ratings in Aghaboy division was 360, 224 of £5 valuation and under, ninety-eight between £5 and £10, twenty-four between £10 and £15, fourteen over £15; 3,693 acres, of which thirty-nine were bog in Aghaboy, 39367.

Ballinamuck.

Ballinamuck East electoral division had 219 ratings of which 101 valued at £5 and under, seventy-seven between £5 and £10, twenty-three between £10 and £15, eighteen over £15, total area 5,005 acres, 402 acres of bog; Ballinamuck West electoral division had 412 ratings, 277 of £5 and under, 102 between £5 and £10, eight over £10, total area, 5,792 acres, 734 of which were bog, 39367.—Mistake that there were thirteen holdings valued up to £100, 39375.

Breanrisk.

Breanrisk electoral division had 444 ratings, 284 at £5, 132 between £5 and £10, twenty-two between £10 and £15, six over £15, 39367.—Mistake that there were thirteen between £100 and £200, 39376.—Total area, 4,984 acres, 606 of those bog, 39367.

O'NEILL, Mr. JOHN J.—*continued.*

Drumgort.

Drumgort electoral division had 254 ratings, 129 of £5 and under, seventy-five between £5 and £10, twenty-five between £10 and £15, twenty-five over £15, total area, 4,827 acres, 462 being bog in landlord's possession.

Drumlish.

Drumlish electoral division had 610 ratings, 455 of £5 and under, 123 between £5 and £10, twenty-three between £10 and £15, nine over £15, total area, 4,965 acres, three acres bog.

Killoe.

Killoe electoral division had 198 ratings, 121 of £5 and under, fifty-seven between £5 and £10, fourteen between £10 and £15, six over £15, total area, 3,799 acres, 500 acres bog.—33,068 acres total area of these seven divisions, of that 2,749 were bog, total valuation of divisions £12,038 13*s.*, and of the bog in landlord's hands £67 8*s.*

Character of Soil.

The land was worst in Longford, or in Ireland, badly situated as to roads and passes, needed reclamation and improvement, soil light and mountainy, needed to be limed, no limestone quarry within nine miles, lime had to be drawn across mountain from Granard, 39367.—Portion of bogs mentioned was cut-away, all in landlord's possession; plenty of turbary on estate except in Drumlish division, 39368-9.

Draining and Liming needed.

Land needed draining and then liming, if district were scheduled tenants would get facilities for this, farmers would do labour themselves with their families, no employment at present, and young men emigrated, 39370-2.—Killashee not included in districts mentioned, it was one of the richest districts in County Longford, 39373-4.

Scheduling.

The seven divisions mentioned as requiring scheduling were in north-west of the county adjoining Leitrim, land was worse than in Leitrim, 39377-81.

Sub-division.

Holdings formerly larger, had been much subdivided by predecessors of present holders, little subdivision now, good provision against it in Land Act, 39382-5.—Roads neglected, a number were not on county books, so could not be repaired unless they were put up as new works, to which County Council objected, as rates were going up so rapidly, 39386.

Re-afforestation.

No woods in district, witness suggested that when landlords were purchased out tenants should be encouraged to drain and plant bogs, as there were more than enough for turbary, 39387.

Land Available for Relief of Congestion.

There were 400 acres in Colonel Douglas's hands, let out on eleven months' system, Estates Commissioners should not sanction sale of his estate unless he sold out those grazing ranches, 39389.—Five or six grazing ranches in Longford Union belonging to Mr. Bond, easy to find places for surplus population, 39390-1.—There should be compulsory sale of untenanted land for allotments and provision of economic holdings, 39391.

FRANKS, Mr. HARRY.

Turbary on Coote Estate.

Witness's father became agent for Coote Estate in 1905, when Rev. Sir A. Coote succeeded his brother, 39394.—Bogs at that time wanted draining; landlord offered to drain them if tenants would pay 1*s.* a perch for turf, instead of having it free, as heretofore; they agreed, and bogs were now kept drained; money paid for turf did not cover annual expense, 39394-5. —Men employed to carry out drainage at so much a perch; more turbary got now, and in an easier manner, 39395A.

Rent and Valuation.

Rent becoming due on 1st May was called for on 1st November; very often not paid, 39396.—Gale days, 1st May and 1st November, except in Ballyfin, where they were 25th March and 29th September; rent then collected was due six months before, 39397-8.—Sir A. Coote employed fifty tenants on Ballyfin Demesne, sixty-four at Deerpark; wages bill for twelve months was £2,300, 39398.—Tenants never prevented from going into court to settle rents; they were urged to when they complained of rents; it was more satisfactory for agent than settling out of court; going into court did not affect their employment by landlord; some had gone, and witness expressed his approval; rents on estate were not high; in one case Land Commission fixed higher rent than had been paid before, 39399-408.—Poor Law valuation all over Ireland was generally above rent; on Ballyfin section of Coote Estate rent was £1,659 19*s.* 7*d.*, valuation £2,011 4*s.*, or £351 4*s.* 5*d.* above rent, which represented 21 per cent.; on Maryborough portion valuation was £3,097 19*s.*, rent £2,676 18*s.* 3*d.*, valuation £421, or 16 per cent. above rent; in Graigue portion valuation was £1,890, rent £1,370 8*s.* 4*d.*, valuation £519 11*s.* above rent, or 38 per cent.; whole Coote Estate rents were 24·5 per cent. less than Poor Law valuation; on Matthew M'Loughlin's holding of 28 acres 3 roods 36 perches rent was £7 19*s.*, valuation £9 15*s.*; rent was fixed by consent at £8 7*s.* 11*d.*, but on appeal on question of improvements was settled at £7 10*s.*, 39405-7.—Holding of Finton Moore, Cavan's Heath, area was 10 acres 18 perches, rent £2 16*s.*, valuation £3, rent fixed at £2 7*s.* 6*d.*, 39409.—Cases not selected, simply taken from ledger, very few tenants went into court, 39410.—John Rafter's holding at Ballylusk, area 139 acres, rent £48, valuation £57 15*s.*, rent fixed at £50 17*s.* 1*d.*, notice of appeal served, and rent fixed by consent at £48, 39411.

Farms on Coote Estate.

Sir A. Coote had farm at Deerpark, nearly all demesne, laid out in artificial lakes; Redcastle Farm was worked in conjunction with it, being a grass farm, of which a large portion was tilled; if main farms were taken away opportunities for giving employment would be restricted; great amount of the Deerpark under tillage, large portion under woods and lakes; a third available for farming; large number of stall cattle raised required root crops, 39412-15.—Figures given by Father Kelly *re* purchase negotiations were correct; Ballyfin tenants, in conjunction with Maryborough West tenants, subsequently offered to buy on following terms:—reduction of existing rents by 15 per cent.; they would then purchase at eighteen years', which represented 11*s.* in the £ reduction, and was refused by Sir A. Coote; no further negotiations with that section since; on Reary portion of estate purchase agreements signed at twenty-three years' purchase of first term rents, twenty-six of second term; in Derryguile, 23½ years' purchase of first term rents, twenty-five of second term rents, 39416.

Improvements of Sir A. Coote.

Sir A. Coote, a good landlord, resided in country nearly all the year, and spent his money there, 39416-7.—Did not treat tenants with severity, 39395A. —His father had provided town of Mountrath with water supply at his own expense; it cost £1,000, 39416.

AIRD, Mr. JAMES J.

Technical Instruction.

Witness resided at Maryborough, and was a member of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Committee, 39418-9.—Technical schemes administered by Agriculture and Technical Instruction Committee cost £950 a year for whole county, 39419-21.—£460 came from rates, £460 from Department's funds, £30 from class fees, etc.; expenditure—salary of itinerant instructor in manual work £150. of itinerant instructress in domestic economy and of instructress attached to Stradbally Residential School of Domestic Economy, £185; expenses of instructors and their classes £125; boys' scholarships, £150; girls' scholarships, £225; Stradbally Woodcarving Class, £25; general administration, £90, 39422-3.—Inspector went round and took classes; great interest taken in all classes; keen competition where prizes were offered, 39424.—Instructor gave courses of four or six weeks, then went to next district that had applied; five rural districts in county, each got *pro rata* share of services of manual instructors, as they desired them, according to their liability, 39425-6.—Attendance at manual classes fair; very good in some districts, 39427.—Classes had been going on for four years, 39428.—Not much result seen at present; lads often broke away from school, 39429. —Boys trained to make models, draw, and use tools; drawing taught in schools less practical, 39431-4.—Useful to learn to use tools, even if boys were not going to be carpenters, 39435.—Most vital subjects slowest in results; for instance the scholarships for higher education; boys whose parents could not afford to send them to secondary schools were assisted; no secondary school at Maryborough; they either lodged at the centre or went by train; some technical instruction given in secondary schools, 39436-40. —Agricultural schemes cost £1,751; £689 payable from rates, £1,062 from Department; details of expenditure were—£325 for itinerant instructor in agriculture, £270 of which was paid by Department (in remaining schemes five-ninths paid by Department), on poultry £162 was expended; on buttermaking, £112; on horticulture, £149; cottage and farm prizes, £121; in live stock schemes there were eighty nominations to mares at £2 each; eighteen premiums to bulls at £15 each; subsidies to county and two local shows, £150; administrative expenses, £212; annual contribution from rates £1,000, from Department, £1,522, 39423.

Poultry.

Poultry scheme well taken up; dropped temporarily by County Committee, but there were so many applications that it was put on again, 39429.—Some had thought instruction not practical enough, others that they knew more than instructor, 39430.—Scheme dropped on account of insufficient money; when it was re-established money was not taken from that allotted to agriculture, but from a balance; instruction created interest, showed people breeds not kept before, and made markets, 39441.

Bulls.

Premiums for bulls had always been taken up, 39442.—Committee selected bulls at Spring Show with Department official, 39443.

Agricultural Shows.

Smaller farmers did not benefit much by schemes; they did not always have cattle or horses; they could, however, use educational and poultry schemes; latter advocated as the poor man's scheme, 39444.—Classes at county shows that poorest could show in; show committee anxious for them to compete, but they had no cattle, only small things like poultry to compete with, 39446-7A, 39449.—Hard to devise scheme for everyone; man with £10 valuation so poor he might not have beast for his own use; no benefit to have special class for such a man; prizes given for farms and neat cottages, with result that there had been great improvements, 39448.—Increase of tillage expected under system of agricultural education, 39450.—Scheme had not caused increase in witness's county; it was a tillage county—land

AIRD, Mr. JAMES J.—*continued.*

not fit for grazing, 39451-2.—Difficult to get instructors; more interest would be taken in schemes if there were local men who could act as instructors, 39453-4.—Ploughing match got up last year by Agricultural Society a great success, 39455.—Some of the mountain holdings were ploughed, others were done with spade, 39456.—Could not be done otherwise; people too poor to get implements, 39457.

Compulsory Purchase.

Compulsory purchase of untenanted land one solution of problem of congestion; price paid by tenants for land too high; someone should be appointed to safeguard ratepayers; county council the natural authority, 39458-9.—Tenants should be put on land in position to live; at present men purchased at high price to get temporary relief; they could not continue to pay exorbitant annuities; the land purchase was leading to taxation of general public; taxpayers the ultimate security, and should have some safeguard, 39460-1.

GUILFOYLE, Mr. JOHN J.

Monamondra and Errill.

Monamondra and Errill townlands were in Roscrea No. 3 Rural District; Monamondra contained 429 acres 1 rood 34 perches; valuation £192; population, 85 in 1889, 56 in 1901; there were eight uneconomic holdings, valuation varying from 10*s.* to £10; Errill contained 377 acres 3 roods 23 perches; many small holders under £10 valuation; population, exclusive of village, 60 in 1881, 50 in 1901, 39464-6.—Population of village 118 in 1901, 39467.—There was a rural part of Errill and a village, 39468.—Many small holders in Garryduff, Clonmore, Rossmore, and Borohaun townlands in similar need of additional land to enlarge holdings; steps should be taken to provide land, and parcel it out amongst holders, 39469.

Untenanted Land.

There were about 400 acres of untenanted grass lands in neighbourhood, on estates of Mr. Hamilton Stubber, 39470-2.—Negotiations going on at present between Mr. H. Stubber and Estates Commissioners, 39472.—There were also 600 acres belonging to Lord Castletown, and some already divided belonging to Mr. Hopkins, 39474.—Some land was let in conacre by Lord Castletown to tenants in Tipperary, and some to tenants with economic holdings, 39475-6.—Land should be acquired by Estates Commissioners or other authority, and parcelled out to raise uneconomic holdings to economic standard, 39477.—Enough land in neighbourhood to do this, 39473.—No room for importation of persons from other parts of the country; existing holders would object to that until their own wants were supplied, 39472.

KIRWAN, Mr. PATRICK.

Borris-in-Ossory.

There were 2,227 Irish acres untenanted land in and around Borris-in-Ossory, 39479.—It was good land, let on eleven months system, and consisted of fourteen farms—Rathmore, 280 acres; Kilcoke, 300 acres; Kilpurcell, 100 acres; Doon, 180 acres; Curraghmore, 150 acres; Monea, 100 acres, Lismore, 140 acres, Walsh's farm, Stubber's estate, 182 acres; Stewart Mitchell's, 25 acres; Castlefleming, 50 acres; Rossmore, 172 acres; Akip, 100 acres, Kyledellig, 350 acres, 39482-3.—Farms were let privately by landlord, 39484.—There were sixty holdings under £10 valuation, which could be made economic by addition of some of the untenanted land; many holders had large families, and could only provide for one at home, the rest went on railways or into police; many farmers' sons were in same position; some over £10 valuation in worse position than those under, 39479.—Fifty or sixty labourers in district who found employment cutting turf, saving hay, etc.; they found it hard to make a living; they did not go to England or

KIRWAN, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Scotland; sufficient land in district to give all a portion on which to make living, 39479-81, 39484.

State Purchase of Land.

Where there were a number of uneconomic holdings and number of grazing lands in a district, State should purchase the grazing lands to raise holdings to economic standard, 39485.

B[illegible]EN, Mr. THOMAS.

Uneconomic Holdings in Aghaboe Parish.

In Aghaboe Parish there were 204 uneconomic holdings under 15 acres; in districts of Kilbreedy, Bordwell, and Brockagh there were thirty-two families on 75 acres, in Aghaboe and Kilderrig seventeen families living on 72 acres; in Ballycuddy Wood and Springfield forty-two families living 205 acres; in Boherard, Garryduff, and Clough twenty families on 109 acres; in Carrickdrock, Knockfin and Boston, 12 families on 63 acres; in Whitepark and Granstown eleven families on 77 acres; in Ballacolla, Coolderry, and Ballygarvan, 70 families on 84 acres, 39488.

Untenanted Land.

Amount of untenanted land available in Aghaboe Parish for enlargement of holdings to economic standard was 1,361 acres, set on eleven months system; also 415 acres non-residential land, set on eleven months system; also 195 acres in Kilbreedy and Bordwell; 500 acres in Aghaboe and Kildellig; 200 acres in Ballycuddy Wood and Springfield; 25 acres in Boherard, Garryduff, and Clough; 200 acres in Carrickrock, Knockfin and Boston; 241 acres in Ballacoola and Coolderry District, 39488.

Emigration.

In some families there were four or five boys who had nothing to do but emigrate; it often ended in the whole family going away, and houses were allowed to fall, 39488.—Enlargement of holdings would prevent emigration, 39490.

State Purchase of Land.

State should purchase grazing farms and allot them to small holders to raise holdings to economic standard, 39489.—People would till the extra land if they got it, 39491-2.

Drainage of Waste Land.

There was a large tract of waste land a mile eastward of Rathdowney and Errill, 39493.—It was flooded all the year, 39494.—No grazing rights on it, 39495.—Had never been cultivated, was boggy and marshy, 39497.—Could be reclaimed if water were carried away, 39498.—Place should be drained, and so give employment, which was much needed in locality, 39496.—In 1884 people tried to form drainage board, and spent £200 in maps and surveys; two landlords opposed it; so it fell through, 39495.

Report on District Proposed for Drainage, with Estimate of Cost.

Inspector of Board of Public Works reported on district as follows:—District situated partly in Counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's County, in Baronies of Slieveardagh, Galmoy, and Clarmallagh; extended from south-east of Urlingford, along River Goul, by west of Johnstown, till it joined Erkina a mile eastward of Rathdowney, to Durrow Bridge, near its junction with the Nore; included low-lying lands along these rivers, covered with water in winter, forming at lower end immense lake for greater part of year; rain basin measured at outfall of district 90,700 acres; twenty-seven miles of main channels proposed to be improved; nine miles of branch streams and drains; estimated cost, £32,596; extent of land to be improved, 4,783 acres 2 roods 25 perches; present value of land, £1,073 15*s.* 3*d.*; estimated increase in value, £1,956 2*s.* 3*d.*; average increase in annual value, 8*s.* 2*d.* an acre; yielding return of six per cent. on cost of works; deepening and widening of channels and rivers proposed, and removal of bed of

BREEN, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

rock at outfall in demesne at Durrow, also removal of mill at Urlingford, lowering mill at Newtown, rebuilding and underpinning bridges; alterations suggested would cost £29,917, 39495.

DELANEY, Mr. WILLIAM.

Land Available for Enlargement of Holdings.

Witness agreed with Mr. Meehan's evidence in regard to condition of Queen's County, and means of remedying congestion; if so small an area as electoral division were taken, there were sufficient untenanted or grazing lands to remedy congestion in those divisions; not sufficient land if county were taken as a whole, 39499.—Land on Stubber and Castletown property the best in Queen's County, though not in all Ireland; enough untenanted land there, let on eleven months system, to remedy congestion in whole of county, 39504.—County as a whole should be scheduled, 39520.

Migration.

Migration from one part of the county to another would have to be resorted to, but not out of county; migrants would not be objected to—there were thousands of acres, 39499, 39501-4.—Number of evicted tenants who would be glad of equivalent holdings in other districts, 39504.

Size of Economic Holding.

Farm of less than twenty acres not economic in Queen's County, excluding waste and flooded lands, which were extensive, 39499.—Holdings were rented at 18*s*. to 20*s*. an Irish acre, 39500.

Arterial Drainage.

Necessity for arterial drainage well proved by reports of Commissioners; no county suffered more from flooding; case of Rivers Barrow, Erkina, and Goul a special grievance; agricultural condition could not be remedied till arterial drainage was improved; re-afforestation also important, but arterial drainage came first, 39504.

Coote Estate.

Coote property very poor, though there had not been many evictions or hardships; tenants of Kyle Estate had got 30 to 35 per cent. reductions; Mr. Franks had avoided quoting this portion of the property, 39504.

STANLEY, Mr. JAMES.

Witness's Farm.

Witness's holding at Garrison Errill consisted of 100 acres; rent £95, valuation £129; rent likely to be reduced, 39506-12.

Untenanted Land.

Witness agreed with Mr. Delaney, Mr. Kirwan, and Mr. Guilfoyle, that there was enough land within Roscrea No. 3 Rural District to remedy the congestion; a large amount of land round Errill, on Mr. Stuber's and Lord Castletown's properties, enough to remedy congestion round Errill, 39512.—Lord Castletown's property was at Errill and Lisduff, 39513.

Stubber Estate.

On Stubber Estate there was not so much land after evicted tenants had been reinstated; high purchase price agreed to on this estate on account of promise to restore evicted tenants and sell untenanted land to Estates Commissioners for division amongst uneconomic holders, 39513, 39518.—Agreement not yet signed, but Estates Commissioners had been on estate; bargain would be broken if outsiders were brought in, because there were thirty-six holders on property—none over £10 valuation, 39514.—Estate not extensive, 39516.

STANLEY, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

Enlargement of Holdings.

Two hundred acres of untenanted land should be taken up and divided amongst the small holders, 39519.—Witness did not mean a farm should be broken up; untenanted land should be divided to make economic holdings; one man could not even rear a calf on his holding, 39520.

Size of Economic Holding.

A man could live on ten good acres; thirty acres no use if valuation were only £8, 39519.

M'ATEER, Rev. J.

Kilmeague North.

Witness came in reference to some townlands in parish of Allen, County Kildare, 39522-3.—Kilmeague North Electoral Division contained 115 holdings under £5 valuation; there was practically no untenanted land, but there were large tracts of bog; difficulty just now in negotiation for sale was principally in reference to turbary; sixty or seventy families with only an acre of land depended on sale of turf; owner (Miss Aylmer) wished to sell bog; Estates Commissioners could not advance money on it because bog was not security; it was thought she might sell to someone else who would put prohibitive price on turf banks; trustees asked for to take up bog; Commissioners would advance money if they could get trustees to be responsible; trustees could only be got if price were very small, 39523-4.

Feighcullen.

Feighcullen Electoral Division contained twenty-four holdings under £5 valuation, 250 acres untenanted land, 39523.—Land was now being handed over to Estates Commissioners; witness understood a large portion had been obtained by a man from Mayo; people would object to that while there were so many small holdings in division, 39524.

Poverty of Districts.

Rathernan had forty-four holdings under £5, and 200 or 300 acres untenanted land, 39524.—Robertstown had ninety-six holdings under £5, and no untenanted land, 39524.—These townlands were as poor as possible, and as much congested as any place; no congestion elsewhere in county, and therefore authorities did not take it up, 39525-9.—Tenants had no means of livelihood except turf, 39529.—Districts were being inspected by Estates Commissioners, 39530.

CULLETON, Mr. LOUIS.

Scheduling of Mountmellick.

Witness agreed with evidence of Mr. Meehan and Mr. Delaney that portions of Mountmellick district should be scheduled, 39532.

Draining of River Barrow.

Bed of River Barrow silted up near Drummond; for six or seven miles it was practically no river, and flooded country when floods came; plenty of land now useless could be made good by cleaning river, 39532-3.

Sale of Land.

Sale of land difficult through complication of law; difficult to simplify title; tenants anxious to buy and landlords anxious to sell, but could do nothing because of complications; large price of twenty-three years' purchase offered in Mountmellick district; some were first and some second term tenants; first term tenants would have to give more; landlady offered reduction, but seven or eight were concerned in it, and it could not be sold unless some State body took it up; Congested Districts Board could buy it if two-thirds signed for it, 39533-5.—Compulsory sale would be necessary in many cases, 39537.—Tenants industrious, but unable to make anything out of their time, 39533.—Landlords good but poor, 39536.

CAMPION, Mr. RODY J.

Untenanted Land Available for Division.

Much untenanted land in Donoughmore Electoral Division, in Aghaboe, Kildellig, Rossmore, Kilbreedy, Granstown, Bordwell, Doneycleggan; also many small farmers; sons and daughters of holders of thirty or forty acres preferred emigration to going into service on other little holdings; if grazing ranches were divided holdings could be given, not only to tenants, but to their children; congestion would not be increased, the tracts of land were so large; in one tract there were only three herds on 300 acres of land, 39538-40.

Crops.

Small holders had to crop land, but were obliged to put same crop in too often, and did not get as good results as from rotation, 39540.

Road Required.

If road were made through Akip, Kilpurcel, and Kilcoke a tract of 800 acres could be divided into economic holdings; without a public road lands could not be divided, 39540.

Drainage of Goul and Erkina.

Witness was member of committee for improving and draining Rivers Goul and Erkina, and knew land well; had been there as valuer; land closed by floods for eight months in the year; would be closed altogether if river went on as at present; upper part of land worth £1 an acre if reclaimed; Lord Castletown the principal objector to drainage; other landowners pleased to have it done if occupiers were responsible for outlay, 39540.—Lord Castletown wished to keep land as duckpond, and was buying estates to enlarge it; had recently purchased Pilkington Estate over tenants' heads; districts would be much damaged if he were allowed to go on; tenants had no power over him; witness put nominal value of 1*s.* an acre on lands adjoining rivers, and landlord's valuer concurred; some lands near Cullohill would be worth no rent if rivers were not improved; if drainage were carried out they would average 15*s.* an acre, 39541-2.

CONSIDINE, Mr. MICHAEL.

Ennistymon Rural District.

Witness represented Ennistymon Rural District Council, 39542.—His evidence was confined to Ennistymon Rural District, 39544.

Congestion.—Valuation of Holdings.

In Annagh there were twenty-seven holdings under £4 valuation and 132 between £4 and £10; in Ballyvaskin there were forty-three under £4 and eighty-eight between £4 and £10, 39544.—In Clonnanaha there were fifty holdings under £4 and eighty-one between £4 and £10; in Fermoyle twenty-two under £4 and forty between £4 and £10; in Millown 128 under £4 and 119 between £4 and £10; in Moy 123 under £4 and 126 between £4 and £10; in Ballysteen 173 under £4 and 108 between £4 and £10; in Cloghaun sixty under £4 and fifty-eight between £4 and £10; in Killespuglinane fifty-nine under £4 and fifty-three between £4 and £10; in Killilagh twenty under £4 and thirteen between £4 and £10; in Kilshanny twenty under £4 and thirteen between £4 and £10; in Liscannor sixty-seven under £4 and forty-seven between £4 and £10; in Lurrige thirteen under £4 and twenty-seven between £4 and £10; in Smithstown twenty-nine under £4 and twenty-nine between £4 and £10; in Ballyea fifty-seven under £4 and eighty between £4 and £10; in Ballagh forty-seven under £4 and seventy-one between £4 and £10; in Closnay thirty-one under £4 and fifty between £4 and £10; in Ennistymon 185 under £4 and 111 between £4 and £10; in Kilfenora fifty-six under £4 and fifty-two between £4 and £10; in Maugherarugh thirty under £4 and sixty between £4 and £10, 39548.—Witness's figures were obtained from Clerk of the Union; difference between them and the figures in hands of Commissioners might be explained by certain individuals having two holdings each, 39545-8.—In all there were 1,289 holdings under £4 valuation and 1,416 between £4 and £10, 39550.—Sixty per cent. of the holdings were under £10; regarding holdings under £10 as uneconomic, 60 per cent. were congested.

CONSIDINE, Mr. MICHAEL.—*continued.*

Lands Available for Relief of Congestion.

In certain districts congestion could be easily relieved; in Lurriga there were 1,535 acres in farms of over 100 acres; in Kilfenora there were 1,507 acres, and in Ennistymon 1,062 acres in farms over 100 acres; in Killilagh there were 2,151 acres in such farms, including some of the best lands in Clare, 39551-2.—These lands were in the hands of the landlord, and mostly let on the eleven months' system; Mr. MacNamara was landlord in Killilagh, 39554, 39556.—All these lands were in grass, 39555.—Population of Killilagh was 1,074, with 125 uneconomic holdings under £4 valuation, 39551.—All holdings under £4 valuation were of the farming class, 39557.—Killilagh, Cloonanaha and Ballysteen ought to be scheduled congested, 39593, 39610.—Small holdings in Cloonanaha were in mountainous land, 39596.—No farm in Ballysteen had more than 100 acres, 39611.—Moy should be scheduled; in Fermoyle there did not seem to be many holdings under £4, yet a lot of these lands were available, 39610.—Colonel Tottenham owned 2,000 acres of untenanted land in Fermoyle, which he grazed, witness thought, himself, 39597-600.—Landlords in this Union would probably be unwilling to part with land, 39602-5.—Estates Commissioners should have power to compel sales, that the land might be added to the small holdings, 39601, 39606.—It was immaterial who had the compulsory powers, 39507-8.—The rural district could supply a good deal of land to relieve congestion; the acreage of farms over 100 acres in each electoral division was: Armagh, 772 acres; Ballyvaskin, 776; Cloonanaha, 773; Fermoyle, 2,909; Miltown, 381; Moy none; Ballysteen none; Cloughaun, 431; Killespuglinane, 221; Killilagh, 2,151; Kilshanny, 257; Liscannor, 130; Lurrage, 1,535; Smithstown, 240; Ballyea, 1,116; Bullagh, 127; Clonney, 801; Ennistymon, 1,062; Kilfenora, 1,507; Maugherarugh, 854; 39612-3.—In Killilagh additions to holdings could be provided within reasonable distance of present holdings, but in that district individuals would be content to resign their present holdings for sub-division among their neighbours if other economic holdings were provided for themselves, 39614-5.

Migrants.

Such migrants would not ask for the tenant-right of holdings they were leaving if they received a superior holding with a house, 39616-9.—Value of the new house would probably not equal the tenant-right resigned, as the latter was high, 39620-1.

Scarcity of Tillage in County Clare.

In the grass country there were few houses; the poor people who tilled lived in uneconomic holdings on the mountains; the addition of good land would benefit them, 39558, 39628-9.—People of County Clare had lost the tillage habit; they were not ignorant of tillage, but labour was lacking, as the young men had to emigrate, 39561, 39630-2.—It was no use putting bad land under grass, as it would not fatten cattle; tillage in witness's district was seen only on bad land, because the poor men could not afford to get the good land, which was all in large farms, 39634-5.—The reason the best land was under grass was probably an historical one, 39633, 39636.

Department of Agriculture.

Department of Agriculture did little in this neighbourhood; itinerant lecturers gave instruction, which was little use without demonstration plots, of which there were none, 39622-7.—Experimental plots would be of little interest where there was little tillage, 39628.—People in this district were helped by relatives in America, 39559.

CONSIDINE, Mr. MICHAEL.—*continued.*

Ballyghaline Bay; Proposed Boat-slip.

Ballyghaline Bay was without any harbour or artificial landing-place; thirty families lived there, and were dependent on the fishing; there was great difficulty and danger in launching and landing boats on the beach, 39561, 39574-6.—The fishermen used canoes, which they had to carry up on their backs through the rocks, 39577.—Nine years ago the Rural Council engaged to contribute £50 towards a boat-slip, and Board of Agriculture promised a contribution; however, the Local Government Board said the Rural Council had no power to contribute towards a slip, but if the County Council contributed £150 the Local Government Board would give a grant of £1,200; the £150 having been granted by County Council, the Local Government Board required the sum to be £300, to which they would add £1,500, but when the £300 was produced the Local Government Board said a County Council had no power to make such a grant, 39561-4, 39571.—The scheme was first initiated about ten years ago; these incidents had occurred within the last twelve months, 39565-6.—Mr. Birrell had promised a Parliamentary Bill to make the grant legal, 39567-70.—It was hoped the harbour would admit larger boats than canoes; the men desired larger boats; at present the difficulty of launching obliged the men to be often idle while Arran men were fishing, 39579-80.—Congested Districts Board kept a boat in readiness to take Arran men's fish, 39581.—If a pier were erected at Ballyghaline it might be used by Arran men as convenient for markets, especially for Lisdoonvarna, but they might still give the fish to Congested Districts Board's boat, 39583-5.—Excellent mackerel was obtained at Ballyghaline; there had been several agents curing mackerel there, 39578.—Mackerel was not a local market, 39586-7.—Larger fish, such as cod and ling, were obtained by Arran men and sent fresh in ice to Galway, 39588-90.—Ballyghaline people had no transit facilities, they had to sell fish locally or cure them, 39590-1.

Quarries.

Work was obtained on quarries in this district; quarries were not doing well, 39559.—Since the Shamrock Stone Quarries were opened Englishmen had been employed in the best positions; Irishmen dressing curb received 4*d.* and 6*d.* an hour; Englishmen, for the same work and time, got 10*d.* or 1*s.*; Irishmen were equally expert, 39791-2, 39796-8.—Stone was too hard for Englishmen to work, their wrists became swollen; only Yorkshiremen could work it successfully; the majority of these Yorkshiremen were originally Irishmen who migrated to Yorkshire, 39792-4.—One hundred and twenty men had been employed on the quarry; there were now about forty, mostly Irishmen; the English had left owing to a slump in the work; they had refused to take up a challenge to turn out as much work as the Irish, 39796.—Business at the quarries was decreasing; one quarry had been closed for years, and another partially worked for two years; cost of carrying stone to England was too great, 39799-803.

MacNAMARA, Mr. HENRY V.

Description of Witness's Estate.

Witness had resided at Ennistymon for the last twenty-five years on an average nine months in the year; he owned about 12,000 acres in Ennistymon and Ballyvaughan Rural Districts, and owned practically the whole town of Ennistymon; he had about 500 tenants, occupying large grazing farms, small farms, mixed farms, winterage farms, town parks, conacre holdings, farms in rundale; there were about 550 lettings; he had been a member of Board of Guardians for twenty-two years; for last seven years he had been his own agent; in most cases he employed his own tenants as rent receivers, etc.; management of his estate cost about 3½ per cent., 39637-8.—A winterage farm was a craggy farm of limestone formation, which could carry cattle from 1st November to 1st May, without the necessity of giving them hay, except when snow was lying, 39639.

MacNAMARA, Mr. HENRY, V.—*continued.*

—Witness was on good terms with his tenants; he found them honest; he occasionally accommodated them with bills; they generally met their obligations, 39639.

Quarries.

Stone quarries on witness's estate paid about £150 a year in rents; the most valuable were the Doonagore Quarries of white sandstone; it was very hard stone; some was said to have been used in new War Office in Whitehall; wages at Doonagore were £12,000 or £13,000 a year; Caherlearnagh Quarry paid £1,000 a year in wages, and some smaller quarries about £1,000 or £1,500, 39639-43.—The quarries were not all on witness's estate, 39644.—He let his; Doonagore and Caherlearnagh quarries were worked by English companies; smaller quarries were let to witness's small farmers, sometimes at £5 a perch for eleven months, 39645.—The stone was shipped from Liscannor Harbour, which was in a bad state; the County Council was the harbour authority, 39645-7.—The £12,000 was chiefly spent on local labour, but perhaps included wages to officials introduced to superintend the work; these officials spent their money in the district; at first expert workers had been introduced to instruct local people in dressing stone, 39648-9.—Local men were now skilled at dressing stone, and earned 20*s.* to 30*s.* a week, at 8*d.* an hour; most of them were small farmers and their sons, 39647, 39650.

Employment.

Fishing was carried on along the coast; the question of a boat slip at Ballaghaline had been long simmering; a slip would create no great wealth, 39561.—A really good harbour, costing £20,000 or £30,000, would be of value; Board of Works had wasted money on boat slips and small harbours everywhere; the money should have been concentrated on one county each year; that spent round Clare coast should have been concentrated on Liscannor, where a regular trade could have been created and fisheries benefited, 39651-3.—Kelp was burned, and seaweed and manure carted to Gort and sold; demand for Kelp was less than formerly, 39653-4.—A golf links at Lahinch employed men and boys as caddies, 39654.—Ennistymon town had improved within the last twenty years, and had good fairs and markets; population had remained stationary, 39654, 39656-9.

Congestion and the Economic Holding.

The district generally was comparatively prosperous, though population had diminished; decline in population synchronised with Land Acts, 39654-5, 39659-61.—Clare was not a congested county; Ennistymon Rural District, with population of 18,064, extended from Miltown-Malbay to Lisdoonvarna, and from Fisher-street to five miles beyond Ennistymon, 39707.—There might be very small areas of congestion in this part of Clare, 39717.—There was no congestion, if the definition of a congested district was the present one, defining a congested district as one where the valuation per head was under 30*s.*, and a fifth of the population resided in the district, 39722-3.—Witness would test congestion by the population rather than by valuation; the question whether a farm was economic should be tested by the size of the family, 39718-9.—Witness did not think there was much congestion in Killilagh; about twenty-five of the fifty-seven holdings under £4 valuation were half-acre holdings let by witness to fishermen for potato plots, at £4 per acre; this land was remarkably fine sandy land, 39706, 39710.—The thirty-two remaining holdings under £4 valuation were farms each having two or three cows and an acre of tillage, on which a farmer could live comfortably; one farmer might have more than one holding, 39711-2.—Holders of these farms could pay their rents from the proceeds of the farm, without other assistance, 39716.—An economic rent was the amount of rent the land could produce after paying the worker of it a certain percentage, and after paying for certain expenditure on the farms, 39714.—Congested Districts Boards work should not be extended, as spoon-feeding was enervating to the people; Clare was better without the Board, 39727-30.—If the country were let alone political economy would settle for itself the question of uneconomic holdings, either through emigration, improvement of farming, or the coming of more land on to the market, 39732-4.

Fiscal Policy and Tillage.

Free trade had done much harm to Ireland; its abandonment would cause produce to fetch better prices, and the farmer would profit, 39731, 39734-6, 39741-4.—Extension of tillage would be a great benefit, but was useless under England's present fiscal policy, which had killed tillage in Ireland, 39661—Tillage was decreasing in England also, 39665.—Under protection mills not now working would be started, and employ farmers' sons; quarrying also was a resource, 39737-40.—Protection was the only real remedy for congestion, 39745.—Protection should be extended to England as well as Ireland; both countries were under protection till repeal of Corn Laws, 39763, 39770.—Under protection Ireland's population increased enormously between 1800 and 1845, and what evil protection caused in Great Britain Ireland escaped, 39764-7.—The tariff should be an elastic one, 39768-9.—Agricultural industries would result from a modified form of protection, and capital would be attracted; England and Ireland would benefit equally, 39772-4.—The state of Ireland between 1849 and 1881, after the big famine, when great emigrations took place, was the state to which the creation of small uneconomic holdings would bring her back, 39666-7.—Ireland was pre-eminently a pasturage and dairying country, 39670.

Mistake to Break up Best Grazing Lands.

It was a mistake to break up the best grazing lands; most of the grass lands in Killilagh were first-class fattening lands, 39672-6.—Quality of Killilagh lands varied; witness still had some farms in his hands, and divided some of them; one of 100 acres he let in portions—one portion to herdsmen, another to fishermen, another to small farmers, and he kept a portion in his own hands; the tenants all grazed their portions, and derived great benefit, 39676-7.—Government should try experimental farming in each county, pay fair rents and rates, and publish a balance sheet; witness would give the land at a fair rent; without a fair rent or instalment it would not be an experiment, 39677-80.—Congested Districts Board should make the experiment rather than the Agricultural Department; the latter did little in this district, which was dairying and grazing rather than agricultural; in the matter of judging stock the people here needed no teaching, 39681-4.—Mixed tillage such as Department recommended would not suit this neighbourhood, as the people had lost the habit of tillage, and labour was lacking; before the famine the neighbourhood was tilled; hills about Ennistymon were then tilled; witness had tilled some of them himself, but they were too steep for ploughing, 39685-6.

Colonel Tottenham's Lands.

The 2,000 acres of Colonel Tottenham's lands at Clunanaha, which Mr. Considine said were in Colonel Tottenham's hands, were all grouseland, 39702, 39706; most of them would be unsuitable for enlarging holdings; Colonel Tottenham had made great improvements; he fed cattle in houses in winter, and put manure on the land; he spent much money, and was kind and charitable; he did not get a great deal of money, and had, witness thought, only two tenants; the land was in Colonel Tottenham's own hands; a part was a mountain 1,400 feet high, much of it might be used for conacre, 39703-6.—Reclaimed land was excellent tillage land, was easily worked, and grew good root crops, 39706.—Witness might be said to have 2,000 acres in Ennistymon Union unlet to tenants, if snipe-bog were reckoned in, 39778-9.—He would part with anything for an adequate price, 39780-1, 39784-5.—If he sold he would sell the whole estate and go, 39787.

Scheme for Dealing with Land Question.

Over-taxation of Ireland amounted to about $3\frac{1}{4}$ millions, which, if returned, would be useful for public purposes in Ireland, 39747-9.—A scheme for dealing with land question had been suggested to members of English Government by witness in 1895, 39749-52.—The scheme applied both to residential holdings and to tenants in *bona-fide* occupation of grazing farms; under it purchase of holdings by tenants was to be compulsory, 39753.—On certain conditions compulsion was to be on the landlord as well; but the scheme was now changed, the landlord being confirmed in his title to his estates when he could show title to the property for thirty-three years preceding the transfer to the tenant, and having the right to all royalties, so that the landlord would get a *quid pro quo* for the low basis, 39754.—This scheme was the basis of the Act of 1903; it contained a suggestion of zones, 39755.

Landlordism.

Landlords would probably voluntarily give grass-lands for relief of congestion, if approached reasonably and offered reasonable rents, 39756.—Holders with increased holdings should still remain tenants, 39757-8.—So far land purchased for small holdings and actually paid for, amounted to no more than a tenth of the land in Ireland, 39759.—The purchase process was unpleasant for landlords, who got interest for money, but had five per cent. to pay on charges, 39760-1.—Witness did not see that landlords must necessarily part with their land eventually, 39762.—Resident landlords were valuable; witness himself spent in Ennistymon as much rent as he got from it, 39775.—Abolition of existing landlords would mean the rise of other landlords, 39776.—Many Irish landlords would probably soon leave the country, 39790.

Re-afforestation.

Re-afforesting would afford needed shelter against Atlantic gales, 39686.—It was difficult, but not impossible to grow trees in this district; witness had made experiments; one plot seventeen years old, in an exposed place, was satisfactory for shelter and small game covers, 39687-9.—It was on good loamy soil, rather low-lying, 39692-3.—Mixed wood was planted; elder was the best to nurse, 39694.—One side was wind-blown; a screen should always be put up, and planting done within it, 39690-1.—There was a good deal of moisture, but the land got very dry, 39695.—It would be a great benefit if Government planted trees along public roads, renting the land for a number of years, paying occupiers a bonus for maintaining trees, and giving landlords a percentage on timber sold; there should not be a new board for forestry, but some existing Department should superintend the work; re-afforesting would eventually pay; one county should be taken at a time; land along road-side should be taken indiscriminately that no one might complain, 39695-8, 39700.—Roads would thus have agreeable shelter for cycling and motoring, but they would remain wet longer, 39699.—Re-afforesting should not be on a large scale, but planting along the roadside would accustom people to trees, to which at present they objected, 39702.

O'LOUGHLIN, Mr. DANIEL.

Nature of Witness's Evidence.

Witness resided at Lisdoonvarna, and was representative of the Ballyvaughan district and the Clare County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 39804-6.—His evidence dealt with the coast line from Moy to a point separating Ballyvaughan from Galway, and also with decrease of population in County Clare generally, 39808.

Decline in Population in Clare.

In 1830 or 1831 population was 282,000; in 1907 it was 109,000; if the decrease continued at this rate want of labour would make high-class agriculture or agriculture in any remunerative form impossible, 39808.—Emigration was principally to America, to some extent to Canada and Australia, 39809-10.

Congestion and Land Available for its Relief.

In Moy Electoral Division there were 311 ratings, 123 being under £4 and 126 between £4 and £10; in Liscannor 226 ratings, sixty-seven being under £4 and forty-seven between £4 and £10; in Killilagh 275 ratings, 125 at and under £4 and seventy-one between £4 and £10; 118 of these holdings in Killilagh were valued at or under £2 10*s.* each; in Ballyvaughan Union over 200 holdings were rated at and under £4 and 200 ratings between £4 and £10; the largest number of these holdings were on the sea coast: in Abbey, fifty-one; in Drumquin, eighty; in Killilagh, sixty-one; in Derreen, eleven, were rated under £4; in Abbey four were valued between £5 and £10, in Drumquin forty-five, in Killilagh forty-four, in Derreen fourteen; congestion in these cases was real, but could be dealt with by enlarging small holdings; in Killilagh Parish there was a large tract of untenanted land, some of it held on the eleven months' system and some being residential entirely; this could be distributed, first to persons having no land, or only a small portion of land appurtenant to their houses, and afterwards to small holders, 39810-1.—All could not be provided for out of untenanted land, but many could, 39825-7.—The land available for redistribution was not all fit for tillage, 39828-9.—The small occupiers, who ranked as labourers, had the first claim to land, as they and their sons did most of the work of the county, 39811-4.—There was no distinct labouring class, but men without land had to labour, 39815-7.—Demand for labourers was less than the supply, because labour was expensive, 39818.—If land were given to small holders the supply of labour would not cease; where there was congestion the small holder was always the chief source of labour, 39820.—The grass lands that should be divided were mostly near the homes of small farmers, so that in most cases the holdings could be conveniently enlarged, 39821-2.—The land should be used for enlargement of present holdings, not for migration, 39823.—Landlords should be compensated for the grass lands, 39824.—This increase of holdings would arrest emigration, 39830-1.—The holdings would be a source of employment, 39832.—Others besides farmers had a difficulty in getting hands at present, 39833.—All the coast line of Clare should be scheduled as congested; if their present holdings could not be enlarged many farmers would be willing to migrate inland, 39900-2.—There was much untenanted land in Ballyvaughan Union let partly on the eleven months' system; owners would probably be willing to sell for a fair price, 39902-4.—Farms were let on eleven months' system because their value varied from year to year; payment was sometimes made in advance, 39906-7.—If farms were purchased payment would have to be made in advance, 39908.—Eleven months' system was introduced by landlords because under Land Acts they would otherwise have to serve twelve or six months' notice if they wanted to get up lands, 39909.

Fisheries.

Fisheries needed development which would relieve congestion; Clare County Council and Ennistymon Council each voted £150 towards erection of a pier at Ballaghaline, and Department offered £1,200, but it was found that under a Grand Jury law of 1836 the county could not contribute to a pier costing more than £450, 39833-5.—Ballyvaughan oyster fishery might be made very valuable; only two banks were worked at present, one being Burren bank, worked by a limited company, principally from Dublin, which last year raised £640 worth of oysters for sale in Dublin, 39835-9, 39844-6.—The company bought seedling oysters from Connemara and put them down to fatten; experiments with spat had been made, 39840-3.—Mr. MacNamara owned about 200 acres of oyster beds, which were not worked at all now, but were very profitable thirty years ago, 39847-52.—Fish were known to abound off Clare coast, but Clare fishermen fished between Clare and Arran Island, a few going as far as the island; Clare had little accommodation for boats, and the men's methods were primitive, 39853-8.—Small harbours existed at Miltown and Carrigaholt; fish was difficult to procure in summer, and Lisdoonvarna hotels obtained it from Grimsby, 39859.—There was a harbour on Arran Island, but the fishing population had disappeared, 39860-2.—Apparently there was a shelter harbour at Ballyvaughan; in Ballaghlena about 100 people lived chiefly by fishing, but unless better facilities were provided fishing would cease, 39863.—Fishing would pay if men could get to sea and return in safety, 39864, 39871.—The fishing population was formerly large, and must have had boats, 39865-6.—Fishing had declined gradually; people now had better land, and tilled it, going occasionally to fish, 39869.—With better facilities the fishing population would return, 39870.

Quarries.

Quarries had for fifteen years given employment, which alone prevented the population of Lisdoonvarna and Ennistymon from disappearing almost altogether, 39872.—About 200 persons were employed in two quarries throughout the year, the district benefiting to amount of £350 per week, 39873.—Quarries were confined to one district, 39874.—The quarries had financial difficulties; if these were overcome the district would derive a large income from this source, 39875-6.

Cottage Industries.

Cottage industries were chiefly needed in Ballyvaughan district and electoral divisions of Drumquin and also in Killanin, where the large farms of untenanted land available could not profitably be divided, as the soil was not arable and the holdings were large and sparsely watered, 39877.—Hand loom weaving for men, and embroidery for girls, might be introduced, and produce good profits, 39878, 39882-3.—No such industry had previously existed in Clare, except knitting, which had been successful at Ennis, 39879, 39884, 39886.—It was carried on by private capitalists; County Committee's contribution to training of girls was to be withdrawn, as the work was on a profitable basis; it employed forty hands, 39887-90.—There were plenty of sheep for a woollen industry, 39880-1.

Department of Agriculture.

Department of Agriculture had done little in this neighbourhood except regarding cattle; witness disapproved of the method of marking certain bulls as premium bulls before purchase, as the value of the premium was always added to the price of the bull, so that the seller, not the buyer, really pocketed the premium, 39885, 39891-8.—Farmers might get more than one premium, 39899.—The indiscriminate service of cows did not improve the breed of cattle, 39899.

CASEY, Mr. PATRICK.

Ruan and Kilkeedy Parishes.

Ruan and Kilkeedy Parishes contained 270 families, at total valuation of £836 2*s.*, an average of £3 2*s.* per family; only 159 of these occupiers were over £10 valuation; there were nineteen grass farms held by outsiders from Limerick, etc., and eleven farms held on the eleven months' system; three farms were partly derelict, the local people having taken measures to prevent outsiders from occupying them, 39911-2, 39917, 39920.—Ruan and Kilkeedy were within eight miles of Ennis, between Ennis and Ennistymon, 39914-5.—In the rest of Corofin Union, outside these parishes, the farms were nearly all held by outsiders on eleven months' system; they had a total valuation of £2,174 10*s.*, 39915.—The lands held on eleven months' system could be easily acquired; they were among the best in the county, 39916.—They were near the small occupiers' holdings, and sufficient to enlarge all holdings needing enlargement, 39918-9, 39935.—Only herds and dogs resided on them; the tenants were graziers living at a distance, 39921-2, 39932-4.—These farms were used for grazing sheep and cattle, but would be suitable for agriculture, 39923-4.—Owners would probably be willing to sell at a fair price, 39927.—The land should be acquired for enlarging small holdings, 39928.—None of this land was evicted land, 39930.—If small occupiers had their holdings enlarged they would probably till a great deal of their land, 39931.

Drainage.

Drains were needed, as 400 acres of land were drowned for about ten months in the year; Colonel Synge, a former owner, took steps to drain it, but his successor stopped the work, probably from lack

CASEY, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

of funds, 39935-42, 39944-5.—The flooded portion extended over two miles, 39952.—The river flooding it had no name; it flowed from Ballycalligan Lake into the Fergus River, 39937, 39953-6.—Some of the land was cut for meadow and some held in commonage, 39957.—This drainage question had been placed before the County Council, 39946, 39950.—The case had not been placed before Drainage Commission, though Drainage Commission's report would apply to it, 39958-9.

BROWNE, Mr. ERNEST.

Experience of Witness.

Division of land into small economic holdings in order to retain labour in the country, and how to obtain the land was subject of witness's evidence, 39961.—Witness had an estate in Clare, and was agent for several estates, 39962.—He had farmed about 2,000 acres for twnty-three years in five counties, 39963.—He had about fifty Irish acres under tillage; three Irish acres equalled five English acres, 39964-5.—Witness's experience was all in Munster, 39968.

Land insufficiently worked.

Congestion was a source of great discontent in Ireland; it could be removed, 40085-6.—Land should be taken away from owners who did not work it properly and sufficient labour employed to bring it up to its full carrying power; such owners were robbing the country of its taxable capacity; they should be compensated; if such forfeiture were possible owners would probably employ more labour; at present they employed labourers as little as possible, 40014-5, 40037, 40088-90.—Large tracts of land not at present yielding all they might were by nature best fitted for tillage, which should be done in rotation, and could be done efficiently only by the small man; a man with 100 acres who kept four labourers and three horses, could till twelve to fifteen acres well; if a 400-acre man kept three men, or a herdsman and two dogs, most of the land must return to moss if it were like tillage land; tillage and sub-soiling could only be done by the small man and his family, who should be given a fair inducement to stay in the country, 40016-8.—Enlargement of small uneconomic holdings would give an outlet in Ireland for labour of holders' families, 40027, 40035-6.

Objection to Breaking up Fattening Lands.

Economic holdings should be created, especially where large holdings were surrounded by small uneconomic holdings and where those large holdings were suitable for mixed farming; more tillage was needed on tillage land; fattening land should not be divided into small holdings, as it was too heavy for tillage, and was needed to finish cattle by grazing; there was plenty of land suitable for tillage, 39966-7, 39977-9, 40012.

Lands specially fitted for Fattening or Tillage.

There was heavy land in Limerick and Meath; there was more limestone and a heavier soil in Limerick; tilling could succeed only on the fringes of these lands, not on the fattening portion; dairying land was a rich land which required more subsoil but less heavy clay than fattening land, 39969-70.—Geologically, certain lands were fattening lands, namely, heavy deep soil with limestone, 39971-3.—Cattle could be fattened on produce of poor land if it were tilled, 39974-6.—If the surface of essentially fattening land were turned down with the spade it would take twelve to twenty years to recover, 39979.—Essentially fattening lands might be used otherwise than for fattening, but not so usefully, 39981.—Witness had tillage land in Clare worth 25*s.* the Irish acre, which produced better crops than other land worth 50*s.* the Irish acre, 39981.—Witness did not justify the present system of Irish farming; tillage farmers did not go through the rotation; twenty-five Irish acres, that is forty-two statute acres, would constitute an economic holding in Munster, 39984-5.—Fattening farms should

BROWNE, Mr. ERNEST.—*continued.*

be fifty or one hundred Irish acres; 500 Irish acres would be best; witness himself would give £3 an acre for fattening land, 39986-7.—There was fattening land in the Golden Vein, County Limerick, and in Meath, and Kildare, and a little also in Clare, 39988-9.—None of the Golden Vein land was suitable for tilling except here and there on the fringes, 39990-1, 39993.—For the last twenty-five years only a hundreth part of the Golden Vein land had been tilled; it might have been tilled by the spade before then when Irish people lived on potatoes and milk, 39992, 39994.—At that time wheat was grown and ran out the land; wheat land was stiff clay, barley land more friable; wheat land would not grow grass well, and eighty years ago was burned for lack of manure, a system whose injurious effects were still apparent, 39995-6.

Proportion of Holding that should be Tilled.

A man with twenty-five Irish acres could support himself and his family decently with ten cows, winter and summer; he should feed the cows in winter and keep six acres under tillage, that is, sown with roots and oats, 39998-9, 40001-2, 40013.—He should have a root crop of 2½ acres and turnips and mangels, 2½ acres in potatoes, and the balance in oats, which would be a meadow the following year; if all the land were tillage land it should all submit to this rotation every ten or twelve years, 40003-5.—A good deal of the land would always be under grass; if all the land were not tillage ten cows would provide sufficient manure to top-dress the meadow land, 40006.—The cows would be dairy cows; in winter they would be in stalls at night and out in the day; from 10th May to 20th November they would be always out, 40007-9.—Hay would be given them in winter; tillage provided better food for cattle in winter, but many men owned forty or fifty cows without half an acre of tillage, 40010.—Small farmers tilled a suitable quantity of land in proper rotation in parts of County Limerick, Pallaskenry, and up to New Tipperary, where the land was tillage land, and in King's County, where it was barley land, and in Kilkenny and Queen's County, 40019.—This was not the case in Clare, though tillage was better in Clare than in some parts of Limerick, 40020.—Twenty-five-acre holders always treated the land better than other holders, 40021.—Most of Clare and Limerick Counties were under grass, 40024.—The farms averaged fifty acres, but much was rocky, much bog; acreage was no guide to the farm's value, 40025-6.

Agricultural Instruction.

When holdings had been enlarged a system of general instruction in agriculture would be an advantage; the rising generation would probably see this, 40028.—A technical knowledge of farming should be taught to boys, 40030-1.—With proper instruction the tendency to till properly would increase, 40032.

Bonus for well-kept Farm.

Public premiums, or a prize system for well-kept farms would arouse interest in work, but Government bonus would be better, 40029.—Witness had evicted tenants who did not treat their farm properly; nearly all of these were now back.

Slowness of Estates Commissioners in dealing with cases of Evicted Tenants.

Some had returned before Estates Commissioners began to look after evicted farms; in other cases witness and evicted tenants wrote to Estates Commissioners on the subject, but the Commissioners were slow in correspondence and unsatisfactory to deal with; witness had, therefore, reinstated the tenants himself, but they could not get their grants for stock, 40037.—Before the 1903 Act rents of these reinstated tenants had been scaled down to the second term rents of their enighbours; they were eleven months' tenants living on their holdings, 40038-42.—If the estates were sold these reinstated tenants would be in same position as others and would buy at the same price, 40043-4.—Witness had had much difficulty with Estates Commissioners over a tenant who had been evicted and whom witness wished to reinstate; this tenant was to pay

BROWNE, Mr. ERNEST.—*continued.*

a reduced rent of £24 a year and buy at 25 years' purchase as a second term tenant; Estates Commissioners were applied to for a grant, and sent an inspector, who required the rent to be further lowered; when everything was arranged the Commissioners said they would give only 23 years' purchase, to which witness agreed; finally when the tenant came in there was delay about the promised grant for stock and implements; witness would never deal with Estates Commissioners again, 40045-6.—In two other cases the Estates Commissioners had placed witness in an awkward position, 40046-7.—In dealing with the Commissioners delays were constant, 40049.

Terms of Purchase.

In the Land Conference Report it was agreed by the members, Messrs. Redmond and O'Brien, Colonel Everard and Lord Dunraven, that it be first at 21½ years if zones were done away with, 40050.—Witness agreed with this report as eminently fair, 40054, 40057-8.—Lands were sold at 18 and 19 years' purchase under Ashbourne Act, but the rents were first term, and 4½ per cent. interest was paid; interest was now 3¼ and tenants all second term; many of the estates formerly sold were encumbered and were sold for mortgages, the owner having no real interest, 40054-5.—If 18 years' purchase represented the Land Conference settlement witness would not agree with that settlement; in recommendations of the Land Conference it meant 6*s.* in the pound on first term rents, 40059.—Under the last Act the tenant could not be asked to pay 27 or 28 years' purchase, nor could the landlord accept much less because his second term income would be reduced, 40060.—The bonus was brought in to make up the difference, and there were certain advantages to the landlord in legal expenses and the re-purchasing of land; the re-purchasing seldom took place, 40061-3.—In the case of purchases by the Congested Districts Board zones did not apply, 40064.—Witness himself had never dealt with Congested Districts Board, but had always heard them praised; he himself had the selling of 27 estates, 13 were sold, 21 and 24 years' purchase being the average price, and under that price the landlord lost from 12 to 15 per cent. of his present second term gross income, while the tenant got 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on his second term rental, 40065.—This was fair, as the 21 and 24 years' purchase at 3½ per cent., the most at which a trustee could invest, would bring in about the present income, 40066-8.—An investment at 4 per cent. would not give a better security than Irish land; the latter would improve, 40069.—Purchase money of Irish estates was generally paid to trustees, most of the land being settled property, 40070-3.

Rents in Great Britain and Ireland.

English lands had lower rents than Irish in two or three counties only, 40075.—The returns in England were about 38 per cent. in the last 25 years; in Ireland about 46, and now another 20 was being obtained on the purchase money, 40076.—English and Irish acres were different; official returns were not in Irish acres, 40077-8.—In Surrey and Forfarshire higher rents were paid than in Ireland, 40078.—English and Scotch tenants had the value of improvements, 40079.

GLYNN, Rev. P.

Definition of Congestion.

Definition of congestion under Act of 1891 was that valuation per head of whole population of electoral division and one-fifth of county must be below 30*s.*; result was, Clare was not scheduled, as, though population of certain divisions had less than 30*s.* per head valuation, they did not reach 20 per cent. of population of county, 40092-3, 40101.—Any electoral division where 50 per cent. of holdings were of valuation of less than 30*s.* per head should be scheduled; county should not be taken into account, 40095, 40097, 40103-4, 40130, 40262, 40267-8.—Such a definition an advantage to small holders, 40105-6.—People would be taken as they were found on definite holdings, 40269-70.—In Kilkee Electoral Division 209 people of £4 valuation and under, 116 of £4 to £10, 165 over £10; if the whole were taken, valuation would be more than 30*s.* per head, therefore only 50 per cent. of population should be taken; 20*s.* per head valuation might be enough, 40095.—Where there were large ranches valuation of county would never be 30*s.* per head, although in some districts one-fifth of population had no higher valuation, 40097.—Duty of varying areas, where necessary, might be left to body like the Board, 40107-8.

Scheduling of Co. Clare Proposed

Co. Clare originally not scheduled at all; on passing of Local Government Act a scheduled portion of Galway was transferred to Clare, 40099-100a.—Areas of West Clare should be scheduled, and people transferred from uneconomic holdings to ranches, 40093.—Unintelligible that it was not done before; only accounted for by member for Clare being more interested in Mashonaland than Ireland, 40132.—Witness's definition of congestion applied to nearly all Kilrush and Ennistymon Unions, 40263.

Emigration.

Decrease in population of Clare between 1891 and 1901 was 11·2 per cent., 20 per cent. in one electoral division, and in another 15 per cent. in seventy years, 40092.—Four electoral divisions in Kilrush district with valuation of 30*s.* per head in 1901; since then population had fallen 11·2 per cent., 40096.—Places like Clare would soon be void of population unless something were done; population in 1841 286,523, in 1901 only 112,159; young people emigrated at rate of 1,500 a year, so that population was now only about 100,000; county had lost 143,649 persons by emigration since 1851, 40108-10.—In a townland near Kilkee population had fallen 35 per cent. between 1891 and 1901 through emigration, 40249.—Lack of means of living the cause of emigration, not restless Irish spirit, 40111.—If whole families went there would be some hope for country, but able-bodied emigrated, leaving old and cripples at home; increase of lunacy a result of least fitted remaining at home, 40112.—At famine time people had free passes, and emigrated *en masse*; since 1851 individuals went, 40113.—Total number of emigrants from Ireland 35,000 a year, 40114-5.—Emigration to small extent would always take place, 40115a.—But this was not emigration; it was blood-letting, 40116.—Population decreasing steadily, 143,649 persons out of 200,000 in fifty-seven years; in Clare, with healthy air and big families, it would have trebled in same time but for emigration, 40117.—Less emigration from large holdings than from small, 40265.—No objection to it if population were kept up to numbers county could reasonably support, 40118.—Witness objected not only to wholesale emigration but to ineffectual remedies; useless to tell people to stay at home unless employment were provided for them; Commission should find out remedy and apply it; country was being weakened and pauperised; inmates of workhouses increasing as population decreasing; Kilrush and Ennistymon Unions illustrations of this, 40119.

Kilrush Union.

Valuation of Kilrush Union was £53,807; population in 1901, 28,734; valuation per head of population little more than £1 17*s.*; in following six divisions valuation per head was £1 10*s.* and under, viz.:—Doonbeg, Dromellihy, Knocknaboley, Einagh, Cahermurphy, Glenmore, these not being the poorest divisions in Union, 40119.—In Kilkee Electoral Division there were 209 ratings of £4 valuation and under, 116 between £4 and £10, 165 over £10; in Killard Division there were thirty-one occupiers under £4 valuation, thirty-two under £10; in Clonadrum Division there were thirty-four occupiers under £4, sixty-one between £4 and £10; in Kilballyowen forty-five under £4, sixty-one between £4 and £10, sixty-five over £10; in Moyarta Division seventy-six under £4, thirty between £4 and £10; forty-one over £10; in Rahma Division seventy-six under £4, fifty-eight between £4 and £10, 40129.—Few divisions in Union that might not fairly be scheduled;

vast number of uneconomic holdings, few employers of labour; therefore much emigration; family could not be reared on £4 or even £10 holdings; in 1902 one person out of every nine received poor relief; Kilrush Poor Law Board spent on outdoor relief 1*s.* 2*d.* in the £ on valuation, total expenditure 2*s.* 3*d.* in the £, 40130.—Such had been the state of things for past ten years; considering decrease of population, number receiving relief was relatively increasing, 40131.

Ennistymon Union.

Valuation per head in Ennistymon Union was about £2, poor rate was as high as in Kilrush, valuation in Clonanaha and Fermoyle Electoral Divisions under 30*s.* per head of population; in Moy Division there were 123 ratings under £4, 126 between £4 and £10; in Miltown-Malbay, excluding houses in town, there were 128 ratings under £4, 119 between £4 and £10; in Ballysteen 173 under £4, 108 between £4 and £10; division of Killilagh remarkable; there were 125 ratings under £4; seventy-one under £10, while there were 900 acres in neighbourhood belonging to Mr. M'Namara, who was anxious to sell for relief of congestion, 40131, 40156.—People ought to give reasonable price; in Killespuglenane there were fifty-nine ratings under £4, fifty-three between £4 and £10; in Ballyea, out of 200 ratings fifty-one were under £4, eighty under £10; in Ballagh there were 138 ratings, valuation £957 13*s.*, forty-seven under £4, seventy-one between £4 and £10; valuation of Clooney £1,168 16*s.*, 125 ratings, thirty-one under £4, fifty between £4 and £10, 40132.

Valuation of Holdings and Value of Land.

Valuation in some of the electoral divisions inordinately high. because at time of valuation state of civilisation was high, price of corn good, and labour of the best kind cheap; witness's parish suffered from high valuation; Commissioners know little about land, and regulated rent by valuation, 40119, 40120-1. —Land in parish good for corn growing in 1847 and 1848.—Grew twice as much then as now, because it was tilled with a spade; ploughing nowadays was only scratching; people had burned land and ruined it; yet valuation remained the same, 40119, 40123-5. —In district of that kind people were paying, with poor rate, road rate, and railway rate, 12*s.* or 15*s.* an acre for land worth only 7*s.* or 6*s.*; in question of purchase landlord looked to rent fixed by Commissioners on valuation, 40119.—During negotiations for sale of estate in witness's parish agent had said rents were 30 per cent. below valuation, and tenants dare not go into court for fear of their rents being raised; rents on that small estate of £200 a year were £800 in arrears; witness would rather pay 30*s.* an acre for land than get it for nothing, 40121.

Cause of Deterioration.

Three causes of deterioration of land were—Want of spade labour on account of absence of cheap labour, which was formerly abundant, burning of land, and crops having been taken out in quick succession without manuring, 40122-9.—Two classes of persons in urgent reed of improvement, fishermen, and farmers under £10 valuation, 40132.

Fishermen.

Three hundred fishermen on Clare coast; many had other employment, were small farmers or labourers; also collected seaweed for kelp; women sold Carrigeen moss, 40132.—Witness thought if men were trained they would take to deep-sea fishing, but not unless, 40142.—Young men might be induced to follow fish out to sea; old ones would not go; they had always lived in canoes, 40173.

Seaweed.

Royalty on seaweed paid to owners of strand a hardship; men endangered their lives to get seaweed, and used to make dried weed into three cocks, one of which went to owner of strand; improvement in that respect now, 40132.—Foreshore belonged to Crown, except where there was a charter saying Crown gave it away; in some places it was free where landlord had no charter; but in other places landlord had established custom of royalty for 200 years, and people were too poor to contest right, 40133-9.—More a question of foreshore than carrying kelp through man's land; Mr. Brew's claim had been fought and reduced to one-third instead of half, 40140.—If drift weed could be cut at sea and taken to another port it would be all right; but it could not be spread on foreshore to dry without paying royalty, 40141-2.

Landing Places.

Landing places required; pier needed at Ballaghaline, for which Department and County Council had promised grant; creek at Golocamoveen dangerous; Department promised grant to improve it six years ago; nothing done yet; witness wrote to Department about it, but they denied having made grant, 40142.

Boats.

Curragh or canoe the only fishing boat used, except one nobby, 40142.—Congested Districts Board had given nothing to Clare fishermen, though boat had been applied for, 40142A-4.—Four men at Carrigaholt borrowed money and bought a boat, but were not successful; they paid £140 for nobby and nets, 40144.—They fished from Carrigaholt down to Fenit, and 50 or 60 miles beyond coast, for mackerel; 300 caught in one night; sold at only 4*s.* a hundred, 40145-7.—They had had boat fifteen months, and would persevere with it, 40148-9.

Middleman's Profits.

Middleman made profit on fish on Clare coast; fishermen sold at 4*s.* a hundred; middleman sent to America and got 12*s.* to 14*s.* a hundred for them, 40149A.—If curing station were established or people were helped they might hold fish for rise in market, 40150.—More buyers would come and compete if fishery were developed; they used to come when there were large takes, 40151.—Now there was sometimes only one man, 40152.—There was a railway, but fish would be delayed in transfer from narrow to broad gauge, 40153.

Land for Fishermen.

A few acres of land for fishermen would improve their condition; they could get houses built under Labourers Act; habits of thrift necessary, but that would follow if their condition were improved; in Ballaghaline people had no plots attached to houses, and paid £4 an acre for potato plot for a season; adjacent to that Mr. M'Namara had places of 104 acres, 173 acres, and others. 40153-5.—Every fisherman who worked ought to get an acre or enough to keep cow to give milk to children; land and house could be got compulsorily under Labourers Act; smaller grant of land needed for those who fished all the year round, 40158-67.

Harbours.

Safe arbour at Liscannor, two miles from Lahinch, 40168-70.—Kilrush the only other harbour; fish could be sent to Limerick by boat from there, 40171.—Harbour at Seafield, at Quilty railway station, could be made safe with little expense, 40172.

Remittances from America.

Small farmer class supplied majority of emigrants, their condition needed amelioration most; 53 per cent. of holdings in Clare were under £10 valuation, and in West Clare 70 per cent.; occupiers reared children for America, and American money supplied their means of livelihood; side by side with uneconomic holdings were ranches of hundreds of acres, and no human habitation but a herd; notorious that graziers gave no employment, and that ranches ruined any town in their neighbourhood; neither did they pay; yet no sooner did a grazier fail than shopkeeper or returned American took over ranch, 40173.

Acquisition and Distribution of Land for Relief of Congestion.

Duty of State was to take up (1) all grazing lands in occupation of owner, (2) surplus lands after occupier was left a holding of £200, 40173, 40247.—£100 might be enough, 40173A.—In Clare this would more than suffice to give land to raise holdings to £10 valuation; valuation of land in owners' occupation £22,000; of land between £200 and £300 valuation £30,386; 63 owners of valuation of over £200 held land valued at over £30,000; if these were each left with holding of £200 there would be land for distribution of value of £17,786; thus land of £40,000 valuation would be available to bring small holdings up to £10 standard; £53,000 worth of land in Clare; £40,000 required to raise uneconomic holdings to £10, 40173A.—Margin of £13,000 left for waste lands; crags could be used for grazing sheep, 40174-6.—Whole £40,000 not needed; numbers of holders under £10 valuation unsuitable for migration; some ne'er-do-wells, some would not go; fishermen would not need to be migrated, nor small shopkeepers and carpenters who had already means of living, 40176-8.—There would also be vacated holdings to add to others, 40179.—Large number of people already had holdings of £200 valuation; unless they gave employment or tilled one-fifth they should not be allowed more than £100 valuation; managing employment useful to community; holdings should not all be one standard, 40179, 40249.—No one should be allowed to have more land than £200 valuation; if Congested Districts Board bought property they should have power to determine such tenancy, 40247.—Body charged with relief of congestion should have absolute power, 40180.—Estates Commissioners did not perform duties towards congested estates that they were supposed to perform, 40261A.—Where district was scheduled it should be obligatory on some authority to take land compulsorily for relief of congestion; by this means people might be kept at home, 40264.

Migration.

No difficulty in inducing people to migrate, except the old and unenterprising; occupiers reluctant to go to another county; plenty of land in Clare itself, 40180.—There would be no disinclination to move from one end of county to another, 40181.—Local people's condition should be improved before bringing in outsider; then they would not object; congestion in vicinity of untenanted land should be relieved first, then from a distance within the county; after that sons of tenants might be given land, if there were any available; congests from other counties would come last; plenty of land in Clare to provide for its congests, 40182-90A.

Commonage.

Common grazing would lead to litigation and trouble, 40191.—Might be a good thing if people could keep from quarrelling; striping land meant a lot of room for fences, 40191A.—Never any trouble with sheep grazing; 1,500 acres commonage in witness's parish, 40192.—Once it was settled what the rights were there would be no litigation, 40193.—Trespass meant a good deal to people in small holdings in close neighbourhood, and there had been disputes, 40194-5.—Ancient custom of common management forgotten, 40196.

Agricultural Education.

Agricultural education would greatly improve condition of occupiers; Clare was backward, especially West Clare; the few resident landlords farmed as badly as tenants; Department had done nothing; £2,000 a year spent on agricultural and technical education, of which Clare got very small proportion; West Clare benefited little by expenditure on bulls and stallions; education in modern methods of agriculture needed; with improved methods land would produce twice as much; arterial and field drainage needed, 40197.

Spraying.

After six years' working of the Department not one-fifth of the potatoes sprayed last year, 40197, 40202.—Taught people a lesson; a good deal done this year; price of stuff increased from 22*s.* to 33*s.*, 40208.—People had no machines for spraying, 40209.—Best scheme was for priests to take matter up; witness had done so with success; Agricultural Committee should give bonus for spraying; it would be educational to provide stuff at reduced rate at first, 40210-11.

School Gardens.

An acre for a garden should be attached to every rural school, 40197, 40200, 40206.—One teacher should be skilled agriculturist, with diploma for teaching agriculture; he could get it by attending an agricultural college for six months; ridiculous that children should not be taught agriculture, 40197-7A.—If teacher did not attend course at college he would teach out of books, and be unable to demonstrate, 40205.—With practical training farmers would know how to till, and its advantages, 40199.—Everything now taught in schools weaned children from the land; nominally agriculture taught, but teacher knew nothing about it, 40201.—More reality should be attached to teaching, 40207.

Demonstration Plots.

Demonstration plots near the church in each parish would be of great advantage, 40197.—Beneficial to have plots or farms on peninsula stretching out to Loop Head, so as to show results of rotation crops, 40199.—Farmers would adopt tillage if there were farms in neighbourhood where they could see its advantages, 40215, 40220.—Difficult without labour, and labour was going out of the country, which was a strong reason for doing as witness suggested; at present rate of emigration there would soon be no labour in the country, 40216.—Experimental small farms of ordinary size better than plots, 40217-8.—They would be tilled in best way for locality, 40219.—In King's County and Tipperary, wherever there was a landlord who tilled his land, the small farmers around did the same; nothing of the kind done in Clare, 40221.

Uselessness of Department.

No country with so much good land and so little agriculture as Ireland, 40203.—A cow in a field not agriculture, 40204.—Much said about agriculture in Ireland with no result, 40202.—Department created to encourage and stimulate it, but had gone on now for six years doing no good, except where agriculture was already at good stage of progress, 40212-4.

Loans for Improvements.

Want of capital was the cause of many farms not being worked to advantage; State should lend to occupiers who had purchased a sum up to one-third advance for purchase, at rate of 3¼ per cent. for 68½ years; man purchasing holding for £300 would borrow £75 for improvements, including drainage; additional interest would be little, and money judiciously expended would make holding twice as valuable, and payment of instalments of purchase easier, 40221-4.—Annuity on £300 would be £9 15*s.*; 50*s.* added to that would give £75, 40225-6.—Tenant had paid £12 or £13 a year rent; buying at 21½ years' purchase, with reduction of 6*s.* in the £, he paid only 9*s.* 2*d.* annuity, 40227.—As drainage told on land, pressure would be relieved at time when it might be difficult to pay instalments; also the tenant got employment, and was able to improve holding, 40229.—Inspector should be employed to see that man did not get any money he did not earn, 40230.—State could lend at same rate as to purchaser; people could only borrow at prohibitive rate of £6 10*s.*, 40231.—Good policy for State to advance money at cheap rate for purchase; better still to advance it to make holding in good workable condition, 40232.—Annuity less when holding was purchased and improved than present rent, 40233-6.—Deduction was that rent was enormous, 40237.—Old system of high rents a factor in producing existing condition of country, 40238.

Prices of Small Holdings.

Owing to system of purchase within the zones, prices paid in poorer districts were excessive; fair land near markets was worth 25 and 27½ years' purchase; inferior land in remote district dear at any price; yet tenants were anxious to buy to get rid of arrears and to get the few shillings reduction in the £; in most cases competent inspector would say holdings were no security for instalments; congestion stereotyped by sale of small holdings; slight relief afforded by Act of 1903 would not prevent emigration; Act a dead letter in Clare, owing to high prices demanded by landlords; from November, 1903, to March, 1906, only £410,554 applied for; average purchase price,

GLYNN, Rev. P.—*continued.*

exclusive of bonus, was 20·9 years; average price under Ashbourne and Balfour Acts 15·9 years; most holdings purchased in Clare were uneconomic, and a high price was paid for them; second term tenants purchased at 22·9 years' purchase, exclusive of bonus; their average rent was £10 8*s.*; non-judicial tenants purchased, without bonus, at 21·8 years; their average rent was £10 18*s.*, 40239.—Holdings should be made economic before being sold, 40240-40z.—Sale of bad land a different thing from sale of good land, 40241.—If land were not security for annuity neither was it for rent; ridiculous for landlord to make no distinction, 40242.—Grazier with eleven months' letting could not purchase; one who was a twelve months' tenant or judicial tenant could; policy of State was that no more than £3,000 could be advanced; that was increased to £5,000, and, under Wyndham Act, to £7,000; a pity that it was not stated plainly that the advance was to cover case of tenants evicted under plan of campaign, etc., 40243-4.—Poverty, congestion, and grazing all being stereotyped, 40245.—Outrageous for public money to be advanced up to £7,000 to grazier, 40246.

Kilkee.

A Clare landlord near Kilkee offered to sell to tenants in 1896 or 1897, for sixteen years' purchase; after Act of 1903 passed tenants agreed to buy at twenty-three years' purchase; they backed out of offer, and landlord sold to Estates Commissioners at twenty-two or more years' purchase; sixty families in the four townlands sold; valuation £1 4*s.* 4*d.* per head; in one townland population fell 35 per cent. between 1891 and 1901, 40249.—Little grass land in West Clare; 300 or 400 acres near Quilty; in North Clare it was all grazing, 40249a.—Chief complaint was that Estates Commissioners should agree to such a sale, 40249a-51.—Inspector saw it and declared it value for money, 40252-2a.—Body like Congested Districts Board should deal with such an estate before it was sold; buying land at a distance and transferring some of the uneconomic people, while their holdings could be amongst remainder, 40253-5.—If emigration were to be stopped, sale of uneconomic holdings must cease, 40261.—Board or some body should improve land which was in derelict condition befoer giving it to people, 40255.

Carrigaholt.

Same landlord had estate in Carrigaholt, with a quantity of cut-away bog; purchase negotiated in 1904, when he promised bog to tenants to enlarge holdings; negotiations fell through; bog sold to tenants on other estates as punishment; so tenants alleged if they had agreed to terms of twenty-three years' purchase sale would have gone through; twenty or more tenants on estate, with valuless holdings of few acres of cut-away bog, for which they paid £2 a year; occupiers lived by sale of turf and money from America; bog the only one within six miles; would last only two years, and then there would be no security for annuities, 40261.

Increase in Price of Land since Act of 1903.

Price of land went up automatically after passing of Act of 1903, because it could not be purchased under a certain price, or except within zones; at same time value of land was going down, 40257-9.—Landlord argued second term tenant should pay more, as he had been into court and got reduction; reply to that was reduction was given as land was worth no more, 40260.—Number of years' purchase should follow current rent; price in Clare had gone up five years' purchase, and if bonus were added, and if payment of legal expenses were counted, nine years' purchase; disputable that 5*s.* reduction would enable remnant of tenants to prosper, 40261.

MURRAY, Mr. JOHN.

Railway Rates for Fish.

Railway rates for fish from Kilkee were high; 17*s.* 6*d.* a ton brought fish from Kilkee to Liverpool; only 14*s.* from Clifden or Dingle, 40273.—Price realised for fish from £12 to £14 a ton, generally £12; sometimes when market was glutted fish realised less than cost of freight, 40274-8.—Rates for fresh fish were 3*s.* a hundred from Kilkee to Dublin; reduction to 1*s.* 6*d.* would be a help, 40279.—No special cheap rates for fish in Ireland; towns divided into zones; all within zone paid same rate; reduction of rate would help both fishermen and middlemen; expense of freight recoiled on fishermen, 40280-3.—Middleman sometimes lost heavily, but as a rule he had profit, 40285.—No fish bought for last three months, 40287.—Mackerel came from Miltown-Malbay to Clare Head, 40288.—That railway had a baronial guarantee, which varied according to loss on working; it was 8*d.* this half-year, 4*d.* next, 40289-91.—Provision of facilities for carrying fish would be to interest of railway company; they would carry twice as much; amount earned would be more; guarantee less; witness had represented this to manager, who replied rate could not be reduced, 40292-5.—Railway should carry fish more favourably because they got grant of public money to make it and to pay dividends, 40296.

Piers Needed.

No piers in County Clare to land fish in with sailing boats; at Farragh, within two miles of Kilkee, £40 spent on closing gap between two rocks would enable men to fish twice as often as they did; the whole difficulty was getting in and out; same difficulty towards Loop Head, 40297-9.—Water deep in Kilkee Bay; breakwater there already; pier to enable sailing boats to come in and deliver fish could be built there, 40299-301.—Mackerel brought to Kilkee in the morning was caught the night before; 1,000 or 500 brought as a rule, 40302-3.—Average of £1 realised on night's fishing, 40306.—Boats used were currachs carrying three or four nets 60 yards long; no sailing boat could be used without pier, 40304-5, 40316.—Pier at Carrigaholt was inland up river; boats discharging there could not fish again till following night; too far up river and from railway to fish from regularly, 40311, 40315.—Liscannor pier not so safe; boats could only come there by day, 40311.—No piers in Clare where open or deck boats would be safe, 40310.—Nobby or zulu would be safe during winter only in Kilrush, Carrigaholt, or Ballyvaughan, 40312-4.—On stormy day in summer Carrigaholt would be the safest landing; from there and Fenit men could only fish three nights a week, 40315.—Kilkee beside railway and immediately on fishing ground, so that men could fish every night regularly; pier there would be very useful, 40315.—Harbour could not be built, but pier could, 40317.

Season for Fishing.

Autumn fishing better than spring fishing; it lasted from September to Christmas; in 1906 season was stormy; best fish caught after Christmas, 40308-9.

Drainage and Reclamation of Bog.

There were bog districts in Clare where people lived on very small poor holdings; advantageous to drain places, make roads into bogs, and enlarge holdings, 40319.—Drainage easy; good fall either into Atlantic or Shannon, 40320-1.

MESCAL, Mr. MICHAEL.

Area, Population, Indebtedness of Kilrush Union.

Rural portion of Kilrush Union comprised twenty-seven electoral divisions, divided into four dispensary districts; area of union 136,170 acres, population 24,555, valuation £48,589; indebtedness of union as follows:—Balances due to 31st March, 1907, Kilkee, £819 3*s.* 4*d.* at 3½ per cent. for 30 years; Cross, £37 19*s.* at 1 per cent. for 30 years; Mullogh, £34 2*s.* 8*d.* at 3½ per cent. for 30 years; Carrigaholt, £58 2*s.* 4*d.* at 1 per cent. for 30 years; Coovaclare, £30 at 3¾ per cent. for 30 years; total £979 7*s.* 4*d.*; Shanakyle Burial Ground, £168 10*s.* at 4 per cent. for 50 years; Farrihy Burial Ground, £23 15*s.* at 4 per cent. for 30 years; Labourers Act, 1903, £2,844 15*s.* at 3¾ per

MESCAL, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

cent. for 50 years; gross total, £4,016 7*s.* 4*d.*; proposed Kilkee Waterworks loan, £4,000 at 3½ per cent., area of chargeability the dispensary district on valuation of £11,670 15*s.*; probable cost of new labourers' scheme, £29,000 at 3½ per cent.; total for outdoor relief, £1,020; guarantee of 2 per cent. on £55,000 on barony of Moyarta on a valuation of £27,158, together with a county-at-large charge of 2*d.* in the £ for West and South Clare Railways, involving tax of 7*d.* to 14*d.* per annum; there was a further charge on parishes of Killimer, Kilmihill, and part of Kilmurry M'Mahon on guarantee of £5,000, together with county-at-large charge, involving tax of 4*d.* to 7*d.* in £ on valuation of £11,607; portion of barony of Ibrickane within union was liable for county-at-large charge of 2*d.* in £ for West and South Clare Railways, and for deficiency in guarantee and working expenses of West Clare Railway; 223 holdings in union under one acre; 475 between one and five acres; 865 between five and fifteen acres; 5,671 acres of barren mountain land; 1,104 acres of marsh, 7,437 acres of turf; 505 acres of wood; 12 acres of fallow land; 81,855 acres of grass; 32,138 acres of tillage; 8,775 acres were under water, roads, and fences, 40323.

Fishermen.

Union extended along Atlantic Coast for thirty miles; people in divisions of Kilmurry and Clonnadrum lived chiefly by fishing and kelp; they had no land attached to houses, and went miles to get conacre lettings; there was a grass farm in Clonnadrum of 383 acres, valuation £205, let for grazing on eleven months' system; this land should be acquired compulsorily for relief of congestion; it could have been done by Congested Districts Board if district were scheduled, 40323, 40324.—Fishermen's gear of worst description; they had no aid such as was given in scheduled areas, 40323.

Congestion in District.

Kilrush Union should be scheduled in order to get benefits conferred by Board, 40323, 40393.—Several electoral divisions very congested; people in miserable hovels built of sods and thatched with rushes; sometimes ten in a family; area of Dromelihy was 6,472 acres; valuation £1,848; population 1,335; 913 holdings; townland of Sragh had 1,483 acres, valuation £236 10*s.*, with 64 ratings; there were about 40 householders in cabins unfit for human habitation; holdings were uneconomic, and the poor people subsisted on earnings from cutting turf and loading it on railway; holdings once barren bog, reclaimed by years of hard labour; yearly outbreak of worst type of fever cost considerable sum to ratepayers; union sunk pump in locality costing £40; holding of 393 acres in locality belonging to Mr. M. Walsh should be purchased and divided; portions of divisions of Einagh and Knocknagone were congested; some of the houses were on unsanitary sites, 40323.—Cultivation and drainage of barren mountain required, 40323.

Land Purchase.

Land Act of 1903 no improvement on previous ones; price of land between 1885 and 1903 was 13 to 18½ years' purchase; since Act of 1903 price was 18 to 24½ years', with bonus of three years' purchase added; few sales in union since Act passed owing to high price demanded and landlord's unwillingness to sell; exorbitant rents of the past the principal cause of poverty; rents had been reduced by Land Court by £80 a year on an estate of which the gross rental was only £220; during 30 years' tenancy £2,400 had been paid by tenants over and above value of holdings; much improvement could have been effected by tenants with such a sum; Estates Commissioners should inspect all estates sold under Act of 1903 to prevent tenants paying too high price; tenants agreed to buy at too high a price in order to escape arrears of rent; land purchase at fair value the first step to future prosperity; direct sale to tenants did not improve condition of people, because they had no capital; farmers depended to great extent on money from America and elsewhere, 40323.—Such an institution as Parish Committee would encourage people to improve holdings, 40325.

MESCAL, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Emigration.

Emigration still continued in union, 40323.

Creamery.

Manchester Co-operative Association built four principal creameries in union and some auxiliaries; company advanced money to farmers at 5 per cent. to enable them to buy cows principal and interest paid by giving milk to company, the latter keeping half price of milk till advance was repaid; borrowing absolutely necessary; without advances many farmers would be without beasts and unable to live, 40323, 40327, 40384-8.—Company really a private, not a co-operative company, 40326, 40382-3.—Efforts had been made to start co-operative creamery, but there was not enough capital, 40329.—Price of milk 3½*d.* to 4*d.* a gallon, 40328.—Separated milk was of the worst quality, 40389.—Creamery had been in existence seven years at least, 40330.—Its erection had nothing to do with diminishing tillage, 40331.

Tillage.

Tillage had diminished; it was expensive; would only pay a man who had his own labour, 40332-3.

Size of Economic Holding.

Uneconomic holding should be enlarged to £20 valuation, which would represent about 40 Irish acres in Kilrush Union, where land was poor; many circumstances to be considered; sometimes more land would be required, sometimes less; measure must be amount man could labour without paying for, 40334-44.—Some holdings of five to ten acres could be made economic by addition of five good acres; at any rate it would greatly improve holders' condition, 40390-2.

Agricultural Committee.

Agricultural Committee had schemes for poultry-keeping, live stock, prizes for farms and itinerant instructors, 40345, 40353.—Not much benefit from schemes as yet; they had only been in existence for six years; they would develop later, and some good would accrue, 40346-7, 40350, 40360-7.—Assistance given to small farmers; no one excluded, 40351-2.

Itinerant Instructor.

Itinerant agricultural instructor started two years ago, 40363.—He gave lectures in schoolhouses on up-to-date methods of cultivation, sometimes accompanied by demonstration on agricultural plots, of which there were several in the county, 40354-9.—No plots in urban area; nearest one to Kilrush was at Moyasta, five miles away, 40348-9.

Manual Instruction.

Considerable sum spent on manual instruction, which was given at many centres, 40368-70.—Continuous instruction not given; instructor returned only after one or two years, when some of his former pupils had disappeared, 40371-3.—Only six weeks' instruction given except in urban areas, which only taught use of tools, etc.; course should be longer, 40374-7.—Usually 24 to 36 pupils in class, 40378.

Live Stock Schemes.

Two-thirds nominations in horse-breeding scheme devoted to farmers of lower grade; farmers of higher grade contributed to raising of rate, so had to be included in scheme, 40380.

Rate for Instruction.

Rate of ¼*d.* in £ raised in County Clare last year for agricultural and technical instruction; this year ¾*d.* in £; County Council thought themselves justified in increasing the rate, no matter how small the results, 40380-1.

CASEY, Mr. G.

Fishermen.

Witness's farm was at Quilty West in Kilrush Union; size, 18 acres freehold, 40395-400.—There were 150 fishermen in Quilty, 40409.—Not

CASEY, Mr. G.—*continued.*

including families, 40413.—Most of the men in Quilty were fishermen; also those for two miles along coast at Seafield and Clonahinahy, 40437-8.—They were industrious people, 40439.

Improvement of Harbour Accommodation.

Sheds for canoes needed; harbour very open and afforded no shelter; canoes broken every year by storms, 40400, 40412.—Seafield pier good; harbour shallow and silting up; money spent on it would be lost unless something were done, 40406-8.—Dangerous rocks close to pier; man drowned coming in last year; feasible to cut rocks away and deepen channel, 40410-11, 40419, 40430.—There was a built harbour which could be made practicable for sail boats and schooners, 40417-9.—Schooners came in formerly, but could not now, 40419.—Seafield was three-quarters of a mile from Quilty; 800 barrels of mackerel cured at Seafield last autumn, 40420.—Fishery Inspectors had been approached on subject of pier, and Board of Works Inspector came to see it; he said more money was wanted to have something done to pier; fishermen's project considered a good one, 40421-5.—Railway close to pier, 40426, 40435.

Boats.

Canoes were small oar boats covered with canvas; the men fished for mackerel with nets in autumn until December, 40401-2, 40403-5, 40431.—Bank for ling 15 miles out; men could go there if they had boats, 40431-2.—About 35 canoes in Quilty, three men in each, 40416.—Effort should be made to develop fishery; Board should give boats and gear, 40402, 40427.—Sailing boats and steam trawlers required, 40419, 40430.—Change of system would be great advantage, and men were inclined for it, 40430.—Nets had to be left out all night because canoes could not stay out; nets often drifted from their moorings to another shore, 40429.—Fishery had not been developed because entrance to harbour was bad, 40436.

Kelp.

Kelp industry bad owing to want of competition; Fairleigh and Co., of Glasgow, the only buyers in the country; they supplied other companies with kelp and kept down prices; only £2 10*s.* to £3 15*s.* a ton paid now; £6 to £7 a few years ago, when other companies came to buy, 40441-5.—700 or 800 tons of kelp made in Quilty district every year, 40444-5.—Poor people would no longer be able to make it as it did not pay, 40447.—Population along shore about 500; kelp factory would prevent their emigrating, 40444.

CLANCY, Rev. JAMES.

Department of Agriculture's Methods.

Advantages accruing from Agricultural Department not commensurate with outlay; County Council justified in declining to continue outlay unless methods were radically changed; present system of lecturing without demonstration useless, and would never have any result, 40450, 40493-5.

Demonstration Plots.

Best way to teach agriculture was to have a plot of ordinary land in a central place; to give notice in neighbourhood that instructor would come, and owner of plot, under his supervision, would carry out all steps necessary for production of crops; people would thus see every step in agricultural process; instructor should reside in county, 40450-1, 40458-60, 40496.—Plots now existing were not shown; people knew nothing of them, 40451.—Technical instruction in agriculture necessary for district where it was the principal industry, as much as technical instruction in other things, 40450, 40494.—County Committee worked with Department and took interest in their own neighbourhood; witness had brought matter of plots under their notice, 40452-4.—They replied that they accepted instructor's idea of tilling plots and letting people see the results, but that it would be impossible to let people know when instructor came round; instructor did not hold it part of his duty to

show methods, only results, 40455-7.—Improved methods of agriculture all the more important as there was no untenanted land in Kilkee or Kilrush for relief of congestion, 40476-8.

Demonstration Farm.

Demonstration farm would be more instructive than plots, but could not be so numerous as they were expensive, 40461-4.—Instruction might take place for four or five years on one farm, and then farm could be sold and inspector could move on to another place; farm would be of immense advantage, 40465-6.

Agriculture in Schools.

Agriculture should be taught in schools; everything should be done in Ireland to give people proper instruction in agriculture, which was almost the sole industry, 40467-9, 40519.—Practical demonstration and instruction in agriculture should be introduced instead of Department's present schemes, 40485, 40518.—Schemes of bulls and stallions and poultry might be continued, 40486.

Market for Produce.

Market for poultry very important; that part of Department's schemes not so well carried out in Clare as elsewhere, 40486.—People dependent on local buyers, 40487.—Great market in Kilkee for produce such as potatoes, eggs, butter, table vegetables, but the people did not attend sufficiently to wants of the thousands of visitors that came to Kilkee in July, August, and September; they should be taught how to produce vegetables and place them on market, and generally to make best use of land, 40478, 40484.—Land poor, and holdings small, but large enough to be turned into market gardens, 40479-81.—Very special demand in Kilkee; even without that tillage would be the best economic use of peninsula going out towards Loop Head, 40482-3.—Department or somebody should help to provide means of transit, and also assist farmers to put produce on market; good thing to have co-operation under official of Department by which farmers could bulk produce and put it on market to best advantage; uneconomic as it was done at present, 40484.

Tillage.

Land going out of tillage because best of the young men were all looking forward to going to America, and would not work at home, 40505-6, 40507-9.—Could not be much improvement unless something were done to change people's ideas and methods; farmers now paying 5*d.* and 6*d.* a stone for potatoes they might grow themselves, 40507.

Cooking—Laundry.

Girls would not attend cooking and laundry classes, 40497-8.

Lace.

No lace school had ever been started in Kilkee; a little lace made locally; number of visitors to Kilkee specially favourable to this industry, 40499-500.

Creameries.

No creameries in neighbourhood or village dairies; effect of creamery was to make people loiter about when they came with milk; alleged deterioration of calves was farmers' own fault, as they knew separated milk was not proper food, 40501-2.

Fisheries.

Ten boats in Kilkee; 8 in Crusheencobbly; they were ordinary canoes, three men in each, 40469.—Technical instruction in curing fish needed, 40469.—Mackerel cured in Norway and other countries fetched higher price than that from Ireland, as methods of curing were more up-to-date, 40470-1.—Witness thought the mackerel caught at Kilkee was sold straight to dealers who cured it and exported to America; sometimes fisherman cured them himself, 40472-6.

Suggestions for Industries.

Local industries usually started on wrong principle; must be on commercial not philanthropic principle; bound to fail if people starting them had no business training, or interest in enterprise to make it pay; no use in Government subsidising such an

CLANCY, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

enterprise, 40510, 40512.—If conditions of neighbourhood pointed to likelihood of success of industry Government might start it on assumption that once started it would pay its way, 40512.—Witness knew of no industry started on philanthropic grounds that had permanently succeeded, 40513, 40516-7.—He had heard of success of Foxford tweeds, but that was quite an exception, 40514-5.

DALY, Mr. T. K.

Agricultural Instruction.

System of lectures and demonstration plots no good; people retained nothing that they heard in lectures; in each parish there should be one central school to teach agriculture, where boys of Sixth Standard, whose parents could no longer keep them at school, should be taught, 40523, 40528.—Funds at present devoted to other objects should be given to that school, 40524, 40527.—It should not be joined on to common school, 40525.—Suggested system of plots attached to school not good, as teachers knew nothing of agriculture, and would take long to train, 40526.

Direct Labour Schemes for Repair of Roads.

Direct labour schemes not carried out properly by County Council; large and small farmers' sons employed instead of labourers, 40529, 40543, 40549.—Large farmers' sons employed to exclusion of men of greater need, 40550.—Employment should be given to small holders under £5 valuation by lottery, each getting a mile section of road, 40529, 40534-5, 40539-40.—It could be done on contract, those not carrying out contract to be debarred from lottery the ensuing year, 40530, 40532.—Labourers were at present under County Council, 40531.—Section need not be limited to one mile; State should not interfere, 40533.—Remuneration would be fixed by County Surveyor; prices adopted at present were those of last three years of Grand Jury, 40536.—Old prices could be retained, 40541.—Work now done by County Council, 40542.—It was mostly hired contract labour, 40544, 40546.—Special staff of overseers employed, 40545.—Contract labour gave employment to small holders; witness's system better; people would be their own contractors, and there would be no influence to get billets, 40548.—County Council had departed from old contract system of Grand Jury for last two years on representations being made to them to give employment, 40551-5.

Improvement of Bar at Seafield.

Channel through bar at Seafield Pier needed improvement, 40555.—Seafield was the principal fishing station on west coast of Clare, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Quilty, 40556-7, 40561.—Dangerous rock at entrance, 40557.—Board of Works inspector recently examined it; nothing done yet; it would not be expensive to remove rock, 40558-9.—Waves struck it on northern side; if recoil of wave struck boat it would sink it, 40560.

HALPIN, Rev. J.

North-East Clare.

Wtiness was parish priest of Scariff, 40562.—He had written a book on temperance, 40656.—Scariff parish was to a great extent representative of North-East Clare; it was desirable that work of Congested Districts Board should be extended to Scariff and neighbouring parishes; the northern part of North-East Clare was mountainous, principally reclaimed mountain, and some of the townlands were certainly congested, even according to the legal definition; some of the holdings could scarcely support the people in comfort, even without rent or instalments, 40563.

Gurtaderra Parish—Valuation, Population.

Gurtaderra, a parish in Union of Scariff, in electoral division of Clonrusker, and four or five miles from Scariff, had an average valuation of about 18*s*. per head, 40563-5, 40572.—There were eighteen families, and the holdings were chiefly mountainous, the mountain land being used for pasture, and generally included in the separate holdings, though perhaps in some instances it was held in common, 40563-8.—The eighteen families averaged about six members each, 40571.—Gurtaderra was a type of Clonrusker division generally and the country beyond, 40568.

Migration.

Migration either to a neighbouring townland or some other part of Ireland would be a remedy for congestion in this district, 40575-7.—The people would not be unwilling to migrate, 40577-9.

Purchase of Holdings and Results.

Purchase of the land by tenants and re-instatement of evicted tenants were desirable; the people seemed incapable of attending to anything but the land question till it was settled, 40582.—More than half the parish of Scariff had been already bought by tenants, some of it under the Act of 1903, and some under the Ashbourne Act, 40581-2, 40583-4.—The whole Fitzgerald property bordering on Scariff had lately been purchased within the Ashbourne Act at about seventeen years' purchse, the rents being first term rents, 40585-7.—About twelve or fifteen years ago another property in the townland of Poweragower was purchased at fourteen years' purchase under Ashbourne Act, 40587-8.—Since the Act of 1903 the prices in many cases had been about 21, 22, and 23 years' purchase, 40589.—Mr. Stacpoole's land was sold at 21 or 23 years' purchase; there were first and second term rents on that, 40590-2.—Purchase of Mr. Moreland's estate was not yet complete, the price was $20\frac{1}{2}$ and $22\frac{1}{2}$ years' purchase, 40594A.—In each of these cases the entire estate was sold, 40595.—Mr. Stacpoole was not resident in Scariff Parish, but in the case of Mr. Moreland, whose property was at Tomgraney, the demesne had been retained; it was fairly large, 40596-9.—The prices quoted were typical of those in Clare generally, 40598.—Purchase was followed by immediate improvement in holdings and houses; two holders had received prizes under a county scheme for the manner in which their holdings were kept, 40599-602.—The purchases resulted in a reduction of rent amounting to between 5*s*. and 6*s*. in the pound, and from that to 7*s*. or 8*s*. in the pound, 40603, 40605.—The better class of holdings had thirty or forty acres, 40604.—One which Dr. O'Donnell had seen and admired was about twenty acres, and the reduction would be about £3 to £5, 40600, 40604.—The principal purchase took place about twelve or fourteen years ago, and there had been a decadal reduction in the meantime, 40606.—Under Ashbourne Act there were many advantages to tenants, 40607.—Emigration had been affected by purchase only to a small extent, 40608, 40620.—Reductions effected in the last twenty-five years, first reductions in rent and afterwards reductions of payment by the purchase, had not had so good a financial result as might have been expected, though occupiers who had purchased their holdings took a greater interest in them and were more thrifty than formerly, and the appearance of the houses and the system of agriculture had improved since purchase, 40608-9, 40640-1.—The reduction of rent took place about twelve years ago, 40623.—Payments for rent, etc., in 1907 were not half what they were before 1881, but individuals had no more money in the bank now than then; among the causes of this was the fall in prices of cattle and farm produce, 40610-7, 40621-34.—Some of the purchasers now put more money into their holdings than formerly, 40618.—The improvements did not necessarily involve great expenditure of money, as the farmers' families did the work; farmers lived in a better style than formerly, 40639, 40642.

Climatic Change.

Land was less productive than formerly, a change in climate being probably responsible; May winds were very severe in 1907; for the last few years summer months had been colder, and the summer rainfall greater, than in the past; both wheat and cattle were formerly produced where now there was no attempt to produce them, 40642-3.

HALPIN, Rev. J.—*continued.*

Industries.

Industries were needed, as the settlement of the land question could not afford a complete solution of the problem of congestion; Scariff had excellent water-power, a beautiful river, and canal communication with Limerick and Dublin; Scariff formerly had many industries; Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, printed in 1837, mentioned woollen, flour, and oil mills, an iron furnace and a glass foundry, as formerly existing in this locality; hats were also manufactured; witness suggested that the union with Great Britain was responsible for the disappearance of these industries, 40643-8.

Glass Manufacture Possible.

The material for making glass, a fine class of light sand, with silica, was found in the neighbourhood; a white sand found in the district, on the shores of Lough Greaney, had been exhibited among Irish minerals at South Kensington and at Cork Exhibition, and other places, and witness had received inquiries from manufacturers in Great Britain with a view to purchase for filtration, cement and glass; an expert had stated the sand would be suitable for manufacture of rough glass, but the quantity of iron in the sand would render the manufacture of fine glass costly, 40649-50.

Building Stone.

A new class of building stone, green, was also found in this district, 40649-50.

Re-afforestation.

Woodlands might be planted on the mountains and waste ground, and give immediate employment, 40651.—Monks at Mount Melleray had made successful and profitable plantations in Knockmealdown Mountains, near Mount Melleray, 40652.—The planting was begun about twenty years ago; the first thinnings realised about £35 an acre, 40652, 40660-2. —A branch of this Order of Monks had entered into possession of a broken-down mansion and a large neglected demesne at Roscrea, not far from Scariff, and they reclaimed the land, and set up mills with modern machinery; they set an example to agriculturists and other workers in the vicinity; the Monks of this Order were accused of being over-spiritually minded; they rose at two in the morning, and worked hard, combining labour and prayer, 40655-9. —A Danish expert about twenty years ago declared that if Ireland were properly reafforested the population might rise from five to twenty-five millions, 40662-3.—Professor Slisch had stated that no country in the world had a climate so well suited to planting as Ireland, and that Ireland was the least afforested country in the world, 40663.—In some places in France where the municipality owned the property the Government managed reafforestation, and the municipality got the profits, so that rates were unnecessary; this arrangement would be a great advantage to Scariff, 40666.—The Government would not lose on such an arrangement, 40669. —A grant of public money was not wanted, 40670.

HOGAN, Mr. PATRICK J.

Land Purchase in Clare.

Witness represented Clare County Council, and was on County Committee of Clare, 40671, 40731. —Land purchase in Clare was not more extensive because during the past four years the price of land had been too high, 40673.—Excluding Scariff Parish not more than two or three sales had taken place in Scariff Union under Act of 1903, 40674.—Negotiations had been opened between landlord and tenants, and had broken down; witness had been a tenant on estate of Francis North, who nine years ago negotiated for sale of the estate at fifteen years' purchase; the estate was purchased at fifteen years, including large arrears; the rents were first term judicial rents under Ashbourne Act; Land Commission's inspector recommended twelve years' purchase on a portion of the estate, and landlord accepted the twelve years; four years later, and two years before Act of 1903, Sir Robert Gardner, of Dublin, the landlord of an estate running parallel to North's, and equal to it in every way, offered to sell for eighteen years' purchase, but tenants refused; after Act of 1903 this latter estate was offered at twenty-five years' purchase of the same first term rents, and negotiations again fell through, 40675-9.—There was no residence on the Gardner Estate, 40679.—Since 1903 Lady Fitzgerald's estate had been offered for sale at twenty-three years' purchase of second term rents and a lesser period on first term rents; tenants offered about 21½ years' purchase on second term rents; the landlord having refused, tenants went into court, and got 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on an average; there were only a couple of second term tenants on the estate, 40680-3.—The cause of high prices in Clare was the high rent under which land was let, 40684.—This was due to short leases which prevailed before the Act of 1881; short leases were now no longer given, 40685, 40687-8.—The landlords were poor, and would buy an estate, mortgage it, and buy another; they gave short leases, and so secured a high rent, 40685, 40689.—Tenants were now judicial tenants, 40686.—On an estate which was typical of many the rent had been reduced by 75 per cent., and was still dear, as the land was mountain, 40689. —When reductions were made they were not made with reference to the real value of the land, but with reference to its former rent; in the 'eighties two farms of equal value had 30 per cent. difference in the judicial rents, 40691.—In some cases the rents would be under the valuation, but in Clare valuation was no criterion of value of land, because when Clare was valued much land was under tillage which had since gone out of cultivation, 40692.—In view of the high rents in Clare it was better for tenants to go to Land Courts than buy at present prices; in an estate in Clare that was very much broken up tenants had obtained a better reduction than they would have had under the purchase, 40693-4.

Enlargement of Holdings.

Holdings under £6 valuation in Scariff Union numbered 1,246, out of a total of about 7,060 holdings, with a population of 10,445; in this Union only about 400 acres of grass land were available for enlargements, 40696-700.—In other parts of Clare there was plenty of land, 40701.—Holders in Scariff Union were not earning a labourer's hire; they had been taught to cultivate their land, but the land was wet, and needed every effort to prevent it lapsing into a wild state, 40701-2.

Climatic Changes.

Seasons were better at the time Clare was valued, and crops could then be sown in December which now could not be sown till April; much land had now gone out of cultivation which then was under tillage, 40692, 40703.—Potato blight was unknown before 1845 or 1846, 40704-6.—Cultivation of wheat on the former scale was now impossible owing to the cold and damp, 40707.—Reafforestation and drainage would improve climate and soil, 40708.

Drainage.

Drainage of Scariff was reported on in 1846 by a Viceregal Commission, which recommended the expenditure of £40,000 on draining Scariff river and tributaries; owners opposed attempts at drainage; some of the occupiers favoured the scheme, but thought it impossible to execute without a free grant from Government, 40709.—The sides of the river were limestone rock, which needed blasting, at great expense; at present the land was a sheet of water; beasts were attacked by tubercular disease, and people in the many houses along the river by consumption, 40710.—Witness gave evidence before Drainage Commission, which had just reported, and he recommended drainage of Scariff River, each occupier paying in proportion to benefit derived; 300 acres in Tulla and Kiltannin could be reclaimed for 4*s.* an acre, but under the present law no local authority could effect this, 40712-3.—The land belonged to different occupiers, 40714.—When this land went derelict the owner was a minor, and the estate in hands of a receiver; the owner now had a smaller estate; he would not help, 40716-7.

HOGAN, Mr. PATRICK J.—*continued.*

Transit.

Transit was bad; Scariff Union was fifty miles from a railway; before the Local Government Act Mr. Gerald Balfour offered £66,500 to Grand Jury of Clare for a light railway through East Clare, but it was thought the tax on the rates would be too great, 40717-8, 40721.—The railway was to run from Ennis to Scariff, through Tulla, 40722-3, 40729-30.—The cost would be nearly double the £66,500; it would be better to have a broad line; a motor service by a line of Lord Pirrie's and another along the same route had also been hoped for, but the district could not fulfil the condition about keeping roads in repair, 40724-7.—Mangels, which did well in Scariff, could not be disposed of for lack of transit, 40718-20.

Agricultural Schemes in Clare.

An agricultural scheme existed in Clare; much good had been effected by lectures and by cottage and farm prizes, 40733, 40736, 40742.—Poultry and butter-making lectures would be eventually dispensed with, 40736.—A suitable agricultural instructor was employed; he had experimental plots; neighbouring farmers had plots equal to, and better managed than, the experimental ones, 40734-6.—Small farmers had benefited by the agricultural schemes, but with better transit better prices would be obtained for produce, 40738-9.—Spraying had been introduced into Clare by Father Clancy fifteen years before, and was done two or three times a year, 40741.—Witness had been a member of Board of Agriculture; the County Committee, the Council and Board advised, and the Department did as it liked, 40743-4.—Committee could only fix minor details, 40745.—Schemes fell through unless Department's wishes were followed, 40747.—Committees could refuse to subscribe, but this would involve the stopping of schemes already commenced, and cause injustice, 40748, 40752, 40754.—Particular schemes such as the poultry scheme could, of course, be dropped, while others were continued, 40749-50.—Complete abandonment of a scheme meant loss of the rate in aid, 40753.—There had been disagreement between Committee and Department about the poultry scheme, and Department themselves paid for instructors, 40751.—Control by some central department was quite necessary, and Department of Agriculture had to exercise control, as it contributed more than half funds for the schemes, 40755-6.

Congested Districts Board.

Iniscaltra North and South, Dromin and Mountshannon were scheduled under Congested Districts Board, but got no aid from it; their requirements had been brought before Board's officials, without result; these places were transferred to County Clare, for administrative purposes, under Local Government Act; when scheduled they were in County Galway, 40756-8, 40760.

O'CONNOR, Mr. WILLIAM.

Position of Witness.

Witness resided at Feakle, and was Chairman of Scariff Rural District Council; he had a farm of thirty acres, 40761-2.

Congestion in Scariff.

Congestion existed in Scariff Union, which contained 900 to 1,000 holdings, valued at and under £10, 40762-3, 40766-7.—Total number of holdings in the union was about 1,529, 40765.—There were two or three very congested townlands near Feakle; fifteen families lived there on a valuation of £70; the poorest families were the largest, 40808.—Land in these townlands was sometimes held in nine or ten different places; it was in rundale and held in common; in one case seven people had eight acres of meadow land in common, four of them having one-half one year, and the other three the other half; the next year they changed about, 40809-10.

O'CONNOR, Mr. WILLIAM.—*continued.*

Enlargement of Holdings.

About 1,200 acres of grazing land was available for enlargement; some of this was mountain, 40770, 40776.—It was mostly in landlords' hands, 40786.—A property of 1,084 acres near Killaloe had a valuation of £233 10*s.*, 40770.—General Gore had 129 acres of arable land valued at £100 10*s.*, Colonel O'Callaghan 114 acres of arable land valued at £92 10*s.*; valuation was the best guide to value of land in this district; acreage was no guide, 40771-5.

Drainage.

The river between Scariff and Tulla did much damage by flood, 40776-7, 40783.—Part of the land flooded had been sold by landlord to tenants, 40778.—Many tenants would be unable to bear additions to their instalments in proportion to the advantage to them of a great drainage scheme, 40779-81.—They would find it easier to pay instalments plus drainage if drainage were effected than to pay their original instalments without drainage, 40783.—Drainage would mean cutting away the rocky bed of the river above Scariff; there was a waterfall; the river needed to be thoroughly cleaned as far back as the mountains, 40785-9.—The rock extended about half a mile continuously, then the river became deep and further up there was rock again, 40790.

Industries.

Industries were confined to a little milling, flour and meal, in Killaloe, 40791.—Wool was exported from Scariff and Feakle to England, 40974.—A woollen industry might be made self-supporting, 40796-7.—It would be well to consult an expert on prospects of a woollen industry, 40798-9.—There was water power available, 40795.

Bad Transit Facilities.

Communication between Scariff and Killaloe was by boat, and too dear for anything but provisions, 40800-1.—No regular sailing was possible, owing to floods, which often caused a week's delay between Scariff and Killaloe or Limerick; a canal connected with the Dublin canal ran from Killaloe to Limerick; quantities of butter supplied by Feakle to Limerick had to be sent by car to avoid delays, 40802-3.—No creameries existed in Scariff Rural District, though every holder had cows; schemes for starting creameries fell through, 40804-7.—Everything was hampered by transit difficulties, 40808.

COLLINS, Mr. MICHAEL.

Farm of Witness.

Witness resided at O'Callaghan's Mills, and represented Tulla Board of Guardians; he held between sixty and seventy acres, some in Scariff Union, some in Tulla, six miles apart; he had 55 acres in Tulla, with valuation of £30; he had an abatement and hoped to get a further one; he settled about four years ago, 40811-3.

Congestion in Tulla Union.

Valuation of Tulla Union was £33,555, population was 9,834; there were 91 outdoor relief cases, comprising 111 persons; average weekly cost of relief, £10; there were many small holdings in lower end of Tulla Union, in Broadford, in south-east of the Union; at Killurin, which had much mountain land attached, there were at present six persons sharing a holding valued at £5; this holding was not held in common, but each person had his own "divide" or tenancy, 40813-7.—There was a large tract on Killurin mountain which would be useful to these people, 40818.—The six holders earned their living by labouring, 40820, 40824.—They could go into court if they wished, 40822-3.—These facts showed the eastern part of Tulla was congested, 40825-6.—Large grass farms in Tulla Union, held partly by the landlord, partly by grazing tenants, might be used for enlargement of holdings, 40827-30.—As a rule, owners resided on them, 40831.

COLLINS, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Turbary on Mr. Phelps' Estate.

One owner, Mr. Phelps, had recently sold his holding to his tenants, who would probably keep all the bog, which Mr. Phelps had formerly let to all small holders in the neighbourhood, 40831-8.—This bog was really only capable of supplying all the tenants on this one estate, 40835, 40840, 40842.—There was another large bog up in the mountains which was difficult of access, but should be made available to tenants on other estates, 40832, 40840, 40847.—Bogs were generally divided among tenants; a particular farmer would sometimes try to obtain the whole bog on an estate, but this was not allowed, 40845.

DELAHUNTY, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Rundale Tenants in Kilbarron, Scariff Union.

Witness was a farmer having about nine acres of land and residing at Kilbarron, Feakle, in Scariff Union, 40848.—The Kilbarron property contained 428 acres; there were fourteen tenants with a valuation of £98 10*s.*; a grass land on the property was valued at £98 8*s.* and was held by a grazier, 40848-52.—Some of the fourteen tenants had five to ten acres; some men with five acres had thirteen divisions on their land, which was in rundale; seven persons joined in a meadow of eight acres and had different parts in alternate years, 40852-4.—The agent had refused to sell through Estates Commissioners and demanded twenty-four years' purchase for the rundale, 40854-6.—If sold through Estates Commissioners the fourteen holdings could have been re-divided and enlarged by additions from the meadow land; tenants would have accepted Estates Commissioners' decision regarding redivision, 40857-9, 40869.—These rundale tenants had been in court, 40860.

MALONE, Mr. JOHN.

Occupation of Witness.

Witness resided at Bodyke; he had been engaged in cattle-dealing, and was a good while in Scotland as an assistant salesman, where he had opportunity of studying breeds of cattle, 40870-3.—He was a native of Ireland, and had been there fifteen years, 40874-5.

Cattle Breeding on Irish Mountains.

Cattle best suited to mountainous parts of Ireland were the long-horned West Highland cattle, 40876-7, 40890.—Witness had brought forty of these cattle into Ireland, after which the Veterinary Department refused to admit any more for fear of disease; there was no disease in Scotland at that time; those witness brought over did remarkably well, 40878-9, 40892-3.—The market for these cattle comprised the Highlands, the Grampians, and neighbourhood of Stirling and Perth, 40880.—These cattle were sold for other purposes besides ornament, 40881-2.—They were poor milkers, but were very hardy, and could live on the mountains with no feeding but grass, except when snow was lying, 40883-5, 40891, 40901.—They were sold for fattening, and would fetch up to thirty pounds when fat, 40886-9.—Five, sold by witness at £3 10*s.* each, fetched £13 15*s.* each after eighteen months feeding, 40892.—These cattle were now admitted to Ireland on certain conditions, and during last two years a small number had been brought in, 40896.—Board of Agriculture would probably not object to their introduction, which would only be for breeding purposes, 40899-900.—During the thirty years witness had been concerned in cattle-dealing, the price of stores had declined with that of beef, 40902-5, 40914.—In June 1907 stores were a little dear, 40413.—Well-bred cattle sold in Co. Clare were about £3 cheaper than thirty years ago, 40916-9.—Beef at one time was sold in Scotland at £4 10*s.* a cwt., 40906-7.—Statistics which showed a rise in price of beef since 1852, as compared with 1901-5, were based on the best prices, 40908-9.—Witness would not agree with statement that cattle as compared with cereals were much more valuable in 1905 than in 1852; his memory went back to about 1876 when American beef was unknown, 40910-1.—Fattening cattle in Scotland was done entirely by stall-feeding, 40920-2.—These cattle fetched higher prices than cattle from elsewhere, 40924-5.—The stall-feeding method was not practised much in Ireland, probably from ignorance, and because Ireland had better grass land for fattening than Scotland, 40923, 40926, 40931. —Raising stores was also practised in Ireland, 40932. —Stall-feeding would produce manure, 40930.—Where stall-feeding was practised in Ireland it paid, 40934. —Fat beasts sent from Ireland to England lost 10*s.* to £1 in value on the journey, 40935-7.—Killing cattle before despatch to England would prevent this loss, but was little practised, 40937-4.

Sheep-raising.

Sheep suitable for the mountains were black-faced horned sheep and Cheviots; on mountains between Scariff and Limerick only one man kept Scotch sheep, 40940.—Many ewes and lambs were imported from Scotland that could be as easily reared on these mountains which at present were waste, 40941-3, 40945, 40949, 40951.—5,569 lambs were imported to Derry, 40961, 40964.—The ewes were put on the good lands, a home ram allowed to run with them, and the lambs sold fat; they paid well, 40950, 40963-4.—The lambing season would be better in Ireland than Scotland if similar methods were used; the Irish mountains were more fertile for sheep, 40965.—Fattening of lambs for the butcher was increasing; the small Scotch sheep were better nurses than Irish sheep, 40960.—Wool of black-faced sheep was not warm, but useful for the pasture, 40962.—Rams should be imported for breeding, 40944.—Mountain grazing in Scotland was rendered valuable by being utilised for sheep, 40965.—Boards of Agriculture and Congested Districts should introduce sheep for breeding, 40946-8, 40952.—Galway and North of Ireland men understood sheep better than Clare men did, 40953.—Irish farmers generally needed instruction in sheep-breeding from Congested Districts Board, 40955-8.

MacNAMARA, Mr. MICHAEL.

Position of Witness.

Witness lived at Clountagh, Scariff, with his brother, who was a small farmer; witness represented Electoral Division of Inniscaltra South, in Scariff Union, as a Rural District Councillor, 40966.

Tenants Deprived of Grazing Land.

Inniscaltra South consisted of eleven holdings, valued at from £50 to £5, and was on Mr. James Wakeley's estate, Mountshannon, which was now offered for sale to tenants; some tenants had agreed to twenty-two years' purchase of second term rents, 40966-7.—The division contained, within the township of Clountagh, a grazing farm of about seventy acres, valued at £50 5*s.*, which, in spring of 1905, was given by landlord to a man called Bugler; for forty years previously the farm was devoted to grass, on which the tenants put their yearlings from May to November, making a monthly payment, and buying the hay for fodder in winter; the grass farm consisted of two sections, one-fourth of it being above the main road, 40968.

A Right of Way Needed.

Three families who lived behind this section had no access to the road, except through a river, which was often in flood for weeks; about sixteen years previous to 1907 the landlord gave these three tenants a road through the grass farm, which road Bugler had now closed to them; six tenants refused to sign agreements until the tenant of this grass farm was removed, and the land used to enlarge the other holdings, which would then be economic; compulsion was needed to secure this division of the grass land; the district should be scheduled as congested, 40968-72, 40974-6, 40981-2.—

MacNAMARA, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

The spirit of the Act of 1903 demanded the distribution of this land among small holders, 40979-80.—The right of way through the farm had not been established; it had not existed twenty years, 40973.—The grass farm was two miles from the demesne, 40976.—Witness's brother was one of the three tenants cut off from the road, 40984.

KEANE, Mr. PATRICK.

Mountshannon Electoral Division.

Witness resided at Clonamellon, Mountshannon, and represented Mountshannon Electoral Division, where he had a farm of 36½ acres, with rent of £7 on second judicial term, and valuation of £8 10*s.*, 40986-7.

Congestion in Mountshannon.

Mountshannon Division was already scheduled as congested; it consisted of five townlands, four being on estate of John F. George; there were fifty tenants in this district, thirty of whom occupied holdings under £5 valuation; more than forty holdings were under £10 valuation; holdings generally were small and poor, consisting of patches of reclaimed mountain, plus a few acres of healthy mountain; occupiers bought hay, and put their cattle to graze by the month; the children emigrated as they grew up; holdings needed additions of arable and meadow land; some of the people would willingly migrate; the district contained untenanted or demesne land, and 1,000 or 1,100 acres of mountain land in hands of landlords, which might be acquired for relief of congestion, 40989.—Tenants paid an additional rent for grazing on the mountain land; the terms of agreement for purchase of holdings would give tenants the right to grazing on the mountain, 40990-3, 41001.—The mountain grazing alone would not make the holdings economic, 40994.—The untenanted demesne land was partly by the lake, where it was let for grazing; another portion was let for meadowing; part was let to tenants on an outside estate, 40997-8.

Floods.

A river flowing into Lough Derg, east of Mountshannon, caused waste to holdings, and should be cleaned and banked 40998-9.

Roads.

Two old Board of Works' roads through the district would be useful if repaired; ten families lived either side one of these roads, which also led to a bog that supplied turf to Mountshannon, 40999.

Purchase of Holdings.

Negotiations for sale of the estate were proceeding, 40989.—Tenants had been offered twenty-two years' purchase on second judicial rents, and, witness thought, eighteen on non-judicial; there were not many first judicial rents; a minority of tenants had refused to sign agreements, 41000.—Owner had refused to sell to Estates Commissioners; if the Commissioners bought direct the grass would be available for enlargement of holdings, 41002-3, 41006-7.—Congested Districts Board had declined to interfere, as estate had not been offered to them, 41003-5.

Congestion in Inishcaltra North and Inishcaltra South.

Inishcaltra North and Inishcaltra South should be treated as congested; in Inishcaltra North the same conditions prevailed as in Mountshannon; on the Hibbert Estate, in Inishcaltra North, there were about fifty tenants, twenty-eight being under £10 valuation, and eighteen under £5; the small tenants were mostly in the townland of Selernane; they bought inferior hay, and paid £1 extra for grazing cattle on Bohatch Mountain, a mile away, 41007-8.—The mountain land held at present by the landlord should be bought by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners and striped, 41008.—Emigration was common on the Hibbert Estate; migration would probably be necessary if all holdings were to be made economic, 41008.—Some holders would be willing to migrate to a distance, 41011-3.

KEANE, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Parish Committees.

There was no Parish Committee in any Mountshannon district, 41009-10.

DRISCOLL, Mr. JAMES.

Congestion in Ballymacdonnell Townland, Tulla Union.

Witness resided at Drimeen, Broadford, 41016.

In townland of Ballymacdonnell, in Killuran Electoral Division, Tulla Union, three partners held in common fifteen acres of mountain grazing, valued at £6 13*s.*; they paid rent in common, 41016-8, 41021.—They had been there before witness could remember, 41019.—They had small holdings besides this common land, 41021.—A number of other small occupiers held small grazings in common, apart from their individual holdings; all were under £5 valuation, 41022-3.—In the same division about 1,200 acres of grass land, in six holdings, were let on the eleven months' system, 41023-30.—This grass land should be purchased and divided among the small holders who needed it, and would be willing to pay an equitable price for enlargement, 41031-3.—This grass land would suffice to enlarge the worst cases of small holdings, 41034.

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. J.

Migration from Clare.

Migration, even into other counties and provinces, would be welcomed by the people on the mountain if good land were provided; witness knew this from twenty-eight years' experience in six counties; between Ennis and Scariff there was much congestion, and also on another part of the mountain-side; the nature of the land made any radical improvement in the holdings impossible; the water oozed right through the mountain, 41036-7.—There should be no difficulty from the people in districts to which migrants were sent, because the natives of those districts were already fully supplied with land, and did not need, and should not be allowed more; there ought to be a legal limit to the amount of land in one man's hands; nine-tenths of the population were starving, while one-tenth had too much, 41038.—A hundred acres of good land should be the limit, and average farmer could work forty or fifty acres satisfactorily; the benefit resulting from division of the land among the people was the first matter needing attention, and had been overlooked, 41040-1.—Migrations should be preceded by enlargements of small holdings in localities to which persons were migrated, 41042.

Purchase of Holdings in Tomgraney.

Landlords and tenants in Tomgraney had shown a disposition to come to terms in regard to purchase by tenants of their holdings; this district contained little land for distribution, 41043.

Drainage.

Drainage would greatly benefit farmers, and they would be willing to pay interest; but for the proposed expenditure of £47,000 for the Scariff drainage a free grant from Government would be expected; the Arterial Drainage Commission's report would probably induce Government to assist the various localities; the drainage question had been pressing for over forty years; witness had corresponded with Secretary of Canal Commission in London on the project of running a canal along the Scariff River to Tulla; this canal would serve for communication as well as drainage, 41042.

Suggestions for Industries at Tomgraney.

Stone had formerly been worked in Tomgraney village, 41042.—A woollen factory could be started if capital and teaching were provided; four or five hundred persons could thus be given work; Clare and

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. J.—*continued.*

Galway were two of the best Irish counties for wool; The Tomgraney wool was being shipped away, but could all be manufactured at home, and a great local demand might be created for a Tomgraney frieze or tweed, as had been done in Donegal for Donegal tweeds; it was expected that, on application to Congested Districts Board, an expert would be sent to investigate the question of a woollen industry, and assistance for machinery and teaching given; the water-power of the Scariff, which had formerly been utilised for a flour mill, could be employed to generate electricity, and transmitted to a woollen factory at Tomgraney, 41042.—An embroidery class had been lately started by Father Halpin, and employed fifty to seventy girls, who were beginning to earn money, 41042.—There was an exhibition at Dublin from this centre, 41043.

M'AULIFFE, Mr. JOHN.

Water Communication Between Scariff, Killaloe, and Dublin.

Witness was Grand Canal agent at Scariff, 41044.—Passage of the canal between Scariff and Killaloe was rendered difficult by floods which occurred in January, February, and December, and sometimes in March; in these months fogs were also a difficulty, 41044-7.—In other months transit was fairly certain, 41047-9.—For about three-quarters of a mile before the quay the river was zigzag, with a narrow gut, rendering little steamers powerless against it, 41049-50.—Steamers came within a few hundred yards of the town, 41051.—Three boats ran every week, when fogs, etc., permitted, 41052.—Freight per cwt. to Killaloe would be about 6*d.* or 8*d.* under three cwt.; over three cwt. it was cheaper, 41053-4.—Between Scariff and Killaloe boats called at O'Brien's Bridge, 41055.—There was a service from Scariff to Dublin; this was not affected by floods on the canal, but down to the lake vessels were held by storms, so that the town was often kept short of food supply, 41056.—A plan had once been made for a new cutting between Scariff and the lake, to avoid the old stream; the plan had once been with the Board of Works, 41058.—The canal would need a lock; there was an immense current of water from the upper country, which was held up in two large basins, one six, the other nine miles from Scariff, 41059.

RYAN, Mr. DANIEL.

Congestion and Grass Land in Broadford.

Witness resided at Kilsealy, Broadford, 41060.—He was a farmer, with about forty-six Irish acres; rent £20, valuation £22 5*s.*, in Limerick No. 2 Rural District; In this district there was one property of 259 acres of grass land, and another property of 25 acres, both let on eleven months system; round these properties thirty families had holdings with valuation of £3 to £9; an average family had six members; the holdings were very poor on the mountain; in some years there was a small crop, in others none; most of the grass land was formerly in meadow, and the landlord sold hay to tenants at a high price; now hay had to be bought elsewhere at a higher price, and the tenants were obliged to sell their cattle before they were ready, 41062.—Graziers did not give grazing to small holders' cattle, but bought cattle for themselves at fairs; sometimes graziers bought calves from small holders near, 41063-4.—One of the graziers was a cattle dealer, and jobbed in cattle, 41067.—If the grass land were divided among small holders they could live fairly well, 41064, 41068.

Slate Quarry.

A slate quarry was held by some of the tenants, but they could not work it properly; if properly worked it would give much employment, 41068.

Mill.

An old mill, once worked by water-power, had been idle thirty-five years; the weir was throwing back water and damaging the land, 41069.

O'CONOR DON, The.

See also p. 616.

Landlords buying cheap and selling dear alleged; Witness's experience.

A property was bought in Landed Estates Court about 1863-4; price paid, with stamp duty, costs, etc., £10,000; it was sold through Estates Commissioners under Act of 1903 for £3,800, including bonus, within a month of Act coming into force; large sums had been spent in interval on improvements; purchaser paid costs in ordinary sales; under Act of 1903 vendor paid them, 41071-5, 41081-2, 41084.—It was bought when prices were high, and was bringing in £650 a year, of which £200 was paid out as head rent; rents were reduced by 30 per cent.; reduction fell on the £400; net receipts had fallen to £200, 41076, 41083.—Head landlord's charges remained unaltered by Act of 1881; fall in rent affected sub-landlord's interest only, although value of property depreciated, head landlord's income remained the same, 41077-9.—The same happened all over Ireland where there were fee-farm grants, 41080.—Within a year of purchase witness's father sent out two farmers to value property, and reduced rents by 3*s.* in £, 41082, 41095.—In 1883 or 1884 further reduction of 3*s.* in £ given to tenants who signed fair rent agreements; all the tenants signed, but agent forgot to register agreements; large number of tenants went into court, and got further reductions, so they had really third term rents, 41095.—Price of estate when bought was 22 years' purchase; price when sold was 19 years' purchase, including bonus, leaving head rent left out of account; costs, expenses, and charges about equal to bonus, 41085-92.—Drop in sale price due to reduction in rents, and, in case of large amount of Irish estates, to fact that nominal owner had to bear reduction on whole, 41093.—Different agreements made with tenants on estate; it worked out at average of 20 years' purchase, 41094, 41096.—In most cases landlords bought land dear and sold cheap, 41097-9.

Criticism of Definition of Congestion—Townland suggested as the Unit.

Definition of congestion in 1891 Act did not coincide with poverty-stricken districts intended to be dealt with; good deal of fishing in some districts which was not included in poor law valuation, 41100.—A place was not congested if people had means of livelihood even if valuation were under the mark, 41101.—Board dealt with other sources of livelihood besides agriculture, and they should be considered, 41103-4, 41159.—Statutory definition took into account nothing but agriculture; there were districts scheduled which had other resources, and poor congested districts not scheduled, because there were rich and sparsely-populated areas in the same division; definition in 1903 Act of congested estates was also defective; it depended largely on amount of mountain or bog or an estate, not on poverty of inhabitants; Cloonfower division an example; great part not congested, yet whole was scheduled; Clonalis Estate not congested according to Act, yet portions were very poor; many townlands quite well-to-do, yet came under definition of congested, because they had large amount of mountain or bog on them, 41138, 41159.—More discretion should be given, and the two definitions got into line; Board should act on any estate in congested area or portion of which was in congested area, 41139-40.—Requirements as to mountain and bog should be left out of definition of a congested estate whether estate were inside or outside congested area, 41141-4.—Area too large; better to restrict it to townland if congested divisions were to be adhered to at all, 41100, 41102, 41105, 41119, 41159.—Limit of valuation to be left to Board's discretion; 30*s.* limit did as rough and ready test; better to have inspection and confidential report to Board, 41120, 41159.—Townland a well-known unit in West of Ireland; most country people did not know what an electoral division was, 41121-3.—Board should be free, but not obliged, to bestow differential treatment on any townland outside the western province requiring it, 41124.—For drainage and such schemes townland or even electoral division would be too small an area, 41109.

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

Full Discretion for Congested Districts Board.—Power to Schedule and Unschedule.

Board should not be limited to any district, at least throughout West of Ireland, but given a free hand, with discretion to deal with congestion where they thought necessary, 41106, 41115-7, 41119, 41156, 41411.—They knew the country, and would be hampered by cut and dried definition, 41157.—Restrictions to Connaught would exclude Donegal and Kerry, which needed Board's assistance, 41107.—With regard to purchase of estates they could be restricted to Connaught, 41108.—Board need not deal necessarily with every poor district, only where they thought it advisable; operations at present very much in patches, 41110-11, 41167.—Easier for them to exclude particular districts if they had very large area, less chance of pressure being put on them to go to a particular spot, 41112, 41168.—It would mean giving them purchase powers over the whole country for enlargement purposes; they practically had that at present, only without power of dividing land amongst people in neighbourhood, 41113.—Giving free hand to Board would do away with many present difficulties; they would not be expected to exercise their power in respect of small scattered plots, 41114.—Increase of responsibility slight, 41158.—Board should have power to schedule and unschedule, 41120, 41159.—When their work was done in a district, as, for instance, on the Dillon Estate, that district should be unscheduled, 41160, 41162.—If district were cut off the Board could not be bothered for grants, 41161.—Agricultural instruction could still continue in the district, though even that might cease eventually, 41163.—When district was sufficiently improved it could be handed over to Agricultural Department to deal with as an ordinary district, and excluded from Board's care, 41164-5.—Area of Dillon Estate fairly substantial, 41166.

Special Grants to County Committees.

Special grants given by Department of Agriculture to County Committees in poor districts in Tyrone, Antrim, or Down for preferential treatment would cut up distributing body into too many units, waste a good deal of money, and not do much good; personal pressure would be put on members of the Committee; proposal for Estates Commissioners to exercise Board's functions in those districts was much what witness suggested, 41125-31.

Work of Department of Agriculture.

Department's work in poor districts not so successful as Board's, 41132, 41149.—Board should do Department's work if basis of districts were maintained, 41133, 41449.—Witness lived on border of congested district, and had seen considerable improvement where Board operated, but not much result from Department's work, 41134.—Bulls, sires, etc., might do good to poor men, but Department could not do small things as well as Board, 41135.—Not the same necessity for improvement in non-congested areas as a rule, only in certain portions, 41136.—Department's special supplementary schemes not yet in operation in Roscommon, 41137.—County schemes unsuitable for poor districts; Department's instruction was given by lecture, whereas Board went direct to poor man; Department more for county at large, 41449.

Purchase of Land Outside Congested Area.

Purchase of land outside congested area should be left to Estates Commissioners' discretion; impossible to frame definition to suit every case; Commissioners should be given discretion as to loss of 10 per cent., 41146, 41148.—Landlord could refuse to allow estate to be declared congested; no landlord would do so, 41147.—Feeling used to exist that landlord would get smaller price if estate were declared congested, but that was now dying out, 41149.—It was expressed by the House of Lords, who added the objectionable words, 41150-1.—Only four estates treated as congested since Act came into force; these words nullified intention of section, and should come out, 41152,

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

41155.—In witness's case Estates Commissioners insisted on consent being given, 41152.—Advantages and disadvantages of treating estate as congested had been considered, and the 10 per cent. found to be the only difference, 41153.

Nature of District a Factor in applying Remedy.

Nature of district must be considered; remedy useful in one place impossible in another; hopeless to try and migrate seaboard population to inland grass lands; they would not go, and would not know how to use land if they did, 41169.

Remedies for Congestion.—South-west Galway.

Maritime districts in South-West Galway the worst in Ireland; earning power of population should be increased; people industrious, and did not complain so long as potato crop was good; failure of crop should be avoided by interchange of seed, provision of facilities for and instruction in spraying; teaching people to use land to best advantage; hopeless to expect improvement from migration; existing industries, such as turf and fishing, should be encouraged, and people rendered as little dependent on potato crop as possible, 41169, 41417.—Where estates were bought land should be striped, and roads made to enable tenants to go more inland; land on seaboard now used, because there were no facilities for getting manure inland, 41169.—Where there were facilities people had gone inland; there was room there for reclamation; no limestone, but as good land as on seaboard, if they could get seaweed there for manure, 41170-3.—Land along shore had probably gone out of cultivation, and was now poor grass land, 41173.—It was dry, but so were some of the hillsides further in; it was only by great manuring and enormous labour that seaboard land produced anything, 41174.—Population on seaboard dependent on seaweed, 41175.—Shipping of turf another industry and burning of kelp; no fishing, 41176-8.—Places in Connemara where piers could be built, 41180.—No natural harbours, 41181.—Great expenditure necessary to make piers of use without harbour, 41182.—More sheltered places in Galway; inlet at Costello would give shelter, 41183-4.—Large boats would be required, 41185.

North Mayo.

There was fishing in North Mayo; the land there would be better used if it were in South and West Connemara, 41178.—Population of maritime districts in North Mayo comparatively comfortable, houses good, there was grass land near Kilcummin and Killala which could be obtained at fair price without compulsion for enlargement of holdings; not wise to increase holdings to make agriculture main source of living, as population were accustomed to fishing, 41185, 41209, 41214, 41417.—They did not fish all the year round; while not engaged in fishing they should cultivate land with their families, 41211.—No vegetables grown in West of Ireland except cabbage, 41212.—Board had bought several estates in district, 41213.—Estates should be kept in hands and improved before sale to tenants, 41214.—No one should be drawn from fishing to agriculture; the latter might not be the better means of livelihood, and land was scarce, 41215-6.—Undesirable to take a small population from labour which brought much money into the country; not a bad thing for people to go away sometimes, 41217-9.

Seed.

New seed wanted in North Mayo, advantage to sell seed, and send elsewhere for a change, 41185.—New seed made decided improvement, 41186-7.

Potato Seed.

Better to change every year on small scale than to do it once in a way on a big scale; some system of changing seed would be very good, 41190.—Witness and his father gave seed to tenants when there was a failure; generally an improvement for several years afterwards, 41180.—Seed got from North-East Ireland, 41194.—Change from one part of estate to another of some use; witness got seed from the North this year on account of failure last year; amount given insufficient to plant whole estate, but was an assistance, 41195-6.—New seed not a different kind; difficult to get tenants to take any but Champions; many people thought Champions a failure, 41197.—Difference of opinion as to which was best potato to take for seed; some took big, some small, others medium; they should be put down whole, and they should sprout them, 41199.

Potato Sprouting

By sprouting witness meant packing potatoes dry in boxes, and allowing the sprouts to grow; they were planted later, and came up earlier than others, 41200-1.—They could be made to sprout quickly or slowly, 41202.—Professor Campbell suggested the method, and witness and his father found it so successful that he continued it, 41203.—Weak potatoes could be discarded; another advantage was that only the strongest shoot appeared, and whole strength of potato centred in it; country people weakened potatoes by cutting them into several parts; medium sized potatoes the best for sprouting, 41204.—Late frosts did little damage, wet affected potatoes more, 41205.—Blight affected sprouted potatoes less than others, as they were more advanced when put out; witness was experimenting with sprouting; return yielded was larger; he wished to see if it was useful for early and late planting, 41206.

Spraying.

Two or three reasons for apparent success of potatoes after year of failure; little spraying done after good year, after a bad one everyone sprayed, 41189.

Districts in Mayo South of Belmullet.

Districts in Mayo south of Belmullet were poor; land was bad, but capable of improvement by drainage, etc.; population was sea supported; no land in vicinity available for enlargement; improvement of fishing; assistance in draining and methods of cultivation, etc., suggested as remedies; district wet; no grass land of any value; much unoccupied derelict moor with no population, which could not repay cultivation; some of it inland might graze sheep; road-making might help; little could be done; Parish Committee had done a good deal, and improved appearance of houses, 41417-9.

Lace.

Lace industry was doing some good, 41419-20.—Enlargement of holdings might be useful in inland districts bordering grass lands; local industries should have all possible encouragement, 41420.

Foxford.

Foxford an instance of what could be done in a short time without migration; wonderful how district had been changed, 41420-1, 1426.—Failure in other places due to want of management rather than bad management, 41422.—Foxford was in the wilds of Mayo, excessively congested; had looked a hopeless place to start anything in, 41423.—Assistance given by Board, but people set industry going themselves, 41424-5.—Difficult to get man to manage local industries; Foxford lucky in that respect, and they had large installation of machinery and plant, 41426.—Mostly women employed; large part of plant burned sometime ago, but that did not interfere much with industry, 41427.—Wages not high, 41428.—Unnecessary to import labour, 41429.

Acquisition of Land—Question of Compulsion.

Acquirement of grass lands necessary for enlargement of holdings and pacification of the country which would result; compulsion might be needed if lands could not be got by amicable agreement, but witness thought there were grass lands available, 41239-43.—As much land as was needed could be acquired at fair price, 41274, 41835.—Even if a body like the Board decided it could not acquire enough voluntarily, still there would be no case for compulsion, because that body might wrongly decide what quantity was wanted, and what it was not able to acquire, 41275-6.—If Board were found saying they wanted large quantity of land, and yet were unable to divide what they had, it would be no case for compulsion, 41277.—Even if a landlord objected to sell a small piece of land Board might go elsewhere for what they wanted, 41278-9, 41282.—Witness opposed to compulsion, but if anything were taken estate should be bought *in toto* (exclusive of demesne), not the best parts only, 41279-81.—To establish a case for compulsion necessity for obtaining grass land must be shown, and it must be proved that owners as a whole refused to sell what was necessary; not that one or two people with bits here and there refused; real object of demand for compulsion was to get land cheaper, 41282-3, 41835.—Compulsion only necessary if it were proved that land that was necessary could not be obtained at fair price; witness maintained large quantities could be so obtained, 41285, 41293-4, 41308-10.—If owners of land in Roscommon were unwilling to sell, value of land should be ascertained and offered if Board could afford to give it, 41285-7, 41321.—To suppose landlords would refuse to sell was to suppose circumstances that did not exist, 41288.—Witness objected to compulsion on principle; only if there were great public need would it be fair to take land, as in case of railways, 41289.—Voluntary system might break down without justifying compulsion; Estates Commissioners under present Act might not be permitted to give value of land, as they might only give price they could recover on cutting up holdings; holdings might be less valuable after being cut up than when used for grazing, 41290-1.—Compulsion might be necessary under certain conditions; these conditions had not arisen; Estates Commissioners had already as much land as they could deal with, 41308.—Plenty of land to be obtained without compulsion if fair price were given, and, above all, delay in completion of sale avoided; if it were true that graziers were getting into difficulties it would be better to wait, and get land cheaper; alleged demand for land by graziers did not point that way; if land were too dear graziers could not make it pay, and it would return cheap on market; if it were too cheap Board could offer more and buy; compulsion could be used as easily after grazier had bought as now, 41835.

Inspection by Estates Commissioners preliminary to Purchase.

Landlords afraid of inspection of grass lands by Estates Commissioners, because if they did not agree to Commissioners' terms trouble might result, 41220-2, 41225-8, 41232.—They thought Commissioners were trying to get land below its value, which was the reason many landlords refused to allow preliminary inspection, 41220-2, 41224, 41228-9, 41356.—They would sell later on when things had quieted down 41227.—With a little discretion they could be managed now if told they would get price to satisfy them 41229. 41345-7, 41351.—A certain number of landlords applied for inspection, and did not get it, although Commissioners sent out circulars requesting leave to inspect where they had not been asked, 41223, 41620.—The only people who allowed inspection by Estates Commissioners were those who were very anxious to sell, hence failure to come to agreement after inspection exceptional, 41295-8.—Wrong to say that present situation in West of Ireland was due to landlords refusing inspection, 41299.—Generally speaking, landlord's price was a fair one, 41352-5, 41362.—Estates Commissioners should approach owners privately, not by circular, and tell them a fair price would be given; many landlords would take lower price than they were asking, 41356, 41413.—It should be made known that Commissioners were prepared to advance price beyond

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

recent offers; that would bring in large quantities of land, 41357-61.—More land available than was supposed, 41402.—Inexplicable that Estates Commissioners refused to take land offered to them at their own price, and though they stated that they could not pay for £35,000,000 worth of land already bought, yet continued to send out circulars saying they wanted to buy more land, 41619-20, 41626.—Estate could not be bought without inspection, but a promise might be given to buy at certain price, subject to inspection; cases where land was found to be worth less than that paid by grazier would be rare; right to have inspection at the start, but landlords objected to it, because they thought they were not given high enough price, and there was too much financial delay, 41330-4, 41337-9.—Confidence of landlords must be restored in order to make them allow Estates Commissioners to inspect, 41340.

Delay in completing Sale the chief cause of unwillingness to Sell.—Instance of Delay.

Delay the chief cause of unwillingness to sell; if Government could offer cash down large portion of difficulty would be removed, 41232, 41236, 41356, 41791, 41797.—Burton Persse Estate was offered by landlord and provisionally taken; after two years it was declared unsuitable; owner practically lost use of land in interval, 41232.—Government policy was to acquire land to enlarge holdings; Land Commission had adopted policy of not giving proper price and of huge delay, and blame should rest on them; if landlords thought they would be paid in reasonable time they would agree, but Land Commission did not complete within two or three years; £35,000,000 worth of property at present in process of sale which could not be completed for a great many years, 41233. If landlords could be told they would be fairly treated and paid without delay thousands of acres could be got in a week, as many as 40,000 acres in Roscommon and Mayo after certain amount of time and negotiation, 41245-51.—Speed almost as important as price; many landlords not unencumbered, and delay in paying purchase money was almost fatal to them, 41252.—Much land could be bought at price of a year or two ago if there were quick sales, 41344.—Less price given now than a few years ago, 41344-5.—There was also delay in getting a contract; Estates Commissioners did not bind themselves as to definition of estate and price; they only gave provisional agreement until the last moment, 41253.—Witness's own case an instance; provisional agreement made to buy 400 acres of grass land; land was inspected and approved of, cut up and settled, without binding agreement on either side; sale went through; when Commissioners divided land they excluded certain patches, and deducted value from purchase price; report on land had not mentioned that part was a useless swamp; it said land was suitable for enlargement of holdings; State must take some risk of not being able to re-sell if it wanted land; landlords would not sell on the chance of having small patches returned, 41254-60.—Swamp was returned because tenant could not be got, and for no other reason; land had had two inspections before offer was made for swamp; witness offered to procure tenant, but got no reply, 41260-1, 41616-18.—Portion of the best land was divided between two local publicans in large business, 41261-3.—There were plenty of people on other estates who could have been transplanted there, 41302, 41306.—In selling the 145 acres witness accepted the Estates Commissioners' figure; extra grass land not taken because no tenant could be got for it, not because witness wished to extort higher price, 41609-11.—Estates Commissioners did migrate people sometimes, and had large number of estates for that purpose, 41307.—Delay casued by absence of money; this had recently been contradicted, 41335-6.—Purchases could not be carried through in a way to treat everyone fairly without more funds; they must be prepared to lose more money; amount given to landlords could not be recovered from tenant purchasers, 41341-3, 41348, 41401.—Lack of funds responsible for delay, not solicitors; private sale got through in a month or two; sale through Estates Commissioners took two or three years, 41415.—Witness had purchased land in Ireland privately, and title was proved and sale completed in six weeks at longest, 41416, 41794-5.—Witness could quote instances of sale of ground rents; six weeks the longest period taken; public body necessarily slower, but two or three years was too long, 41794-8.—Estates not paid for by Commissioners till long after purchase, 41621.—Interest of 3½ per cent. on purchase money paid meanwhile, whereas charges on estate were sometimes four or five per cent, which had to be continued to be paid for perhaps two or three years, leaving landlord nothing to live on and in greatest difficulties, 41622-3, 41625.—Owner relieved of management charges once property was taken over, but Estates Commissioners did not take over till they were just ready to pay; loss of about two years' income in witness's case, 41624.—Low rates given, which had to be collected as owners best could; no evictions could be carried out; much income lost, 41626.—Land in hand should be paid for before more was bought; real difficulty a financial one, 41626.—Finances of the Act framed disadvantageously, 41627.—Land Commissioners did not pay punctually, even under Section 6; witness had only received November instalment in June; quick payment important to people in difficulties, 41785.—If vendor of tenanted or untenanted land were guaranteed four per cent. of purchase money from six months after lodgment of originating request or on application, hundreds of owners now afraid of delay would be willing to sell, 41787.—Impracticable to make agreement at 4 per cent. with small tenants, 41788-9.

Price of Land—Basis of Valuation.

Difficult to give instances where price was considered too low, as there would be trouble on the properties if it was known, 41235.—Landlords as a whole willing to sell at a fair price, 41310-11.—Estates Commissioners in position of purchaser without a free hand, they were bound to see there was enough security and therefore could not give as much as an ordinary purchaser, they were without personal pecuniary interest, but were not proper parties to fix price in case of compulsion, 41315-20.—True value pretty clearly fixed on estate that had been let for many years on grazing system, 41322, 41331.—Inspection required to prevent fraud, 41323-4, 41327-9.—Often impossible to arrive at true value even with inspection, 41325.—What a man had paid for land and been able to make living out of was the strongest evidence of value of land, 41326.—Board had made good bargains up to the present, they got £25,000 a year grazing receipts for land valued at £16,500 a year, they paid Land Commission less than they received, though they let grazing at 30 per cent. below usual rate, and were unable, through magnitude of their operations, to buy cattle with same care as ordinary grazier; this was conclusive proof that Board purchased 30 per cent. too cheap, 41677-80, 41684-6.—Board bought at price based on Poor Law valuation; Poor Law valuation in Roscommon admittedly 5*s.* in £ lower than it ought to be, 41682.—Witness's father had sold at 15 per cent. under Poor Law valuation, but only under quasi compulsion, having been in negotiation for two years he could not withdraw, 41683, 41853-4.—Land sometimes put up for auction; before Board came there was difficulty in refusing grazing; unfair to say price charged by landlord was too high, when people were willing, and it paid them, to give it, just because Board was able to buy at fixed price and charge lower rates, 41684.—Interest on purchase-money paid by Board less than Poor Law valuation, 41688-90.—Land would yield more than Board got from it, landlord naturally wanted price that would recoup his actual income; even if land yielded only what Board got from it price should be more than Board paid, 41703-5.—Grazing income meant practically no expense, £16,500 not excessive rent for receipts of £25,000, 41698-9.—Not much difference in profits from grazing land oneself or taking in cattle; men without capital took in cattle, those with capital grazed land themselves; many think bigger profits made by being grazed by occupier, 41702.—Experts said land was worth more as tillage or cut up than as grazing; supposing it to be worth the same then, seeing that 1½ times Poor Law valuation was made out of grazing, the fair annuity of land cut up would be 1½ Poor Law valuation, 41692.—Witness put bonus against cost of sales, no cost of management after sale, 41693.—No bonus in what Board received, if £25,000 was paid for grazing, and land was as valuable when cut up, the holdings' rent of that land would be £25,000 a year, which was far more than landlords suggested, 41694-5.—Profits on stock being included in the £25,000 only showed that price charged for stock was not too high, 41695.—£25,000 would not be excessive profit if land were divided amongst various holders; witness did not agree with experts who said profit on holdings, allowing for man's labour, etc., would be more than grazing rents, 41696-7.

Chance of Rise in Price of Land.

As much chance of rise in value of land as of fall, importation of Canadian cattle would reduce price of young stock and injure small man, but would help grazier with good land as stock would be cheaper; price of beast when fattened would not be proportionately lower, there would be more profit; there might be Protection, but political possibilities on both sides must be considered, 41706-8.

Graziers' Rents and Prices.

Landlord who had let land regularly for many years wanted price that would yield his income; Estates Commissioners would not give it; occasional grazing rent should not be considered; land in Roscommon let regularly on eleven months' system, eleven months' tenant was permanent in practice, though he could be ejected at a moment's notice; if rents could be got in that way from tenants who flourished it proved land was worth it, 41708-12.—To give eleven months' tenant privileges of an established tenant would add to difficulty of relieving congestion, 41709.—Men did not begin as graziers, they were well-to-do men willing to continue system and prosper under it which showed they were not paying too much for land; grazing system might be a monopoly, but same could be said of any property, 41714-6.—Grazier had paid same rents in Roscommon all the time, no attempt made to raise them, 41717.

Rack-Rent True Test of Value.

Statutory rent was a rent fixed by a body appointed by statute, and was not a true test of value; statute was passed to protect small tenants from rents being forced up by demands for small holdings; rack-rent fixed in open market; where people were prospering for years and paying rack-rent it could not be said land was not worth it, graziers were substantial men, able to look after their own interests, and should be left to do so, 41718-20.—Rents agreed on in open market truer than those fixed by statute, 41721-2.—It depended on class of land; difficulty in England of letting for large rents was where there was tillage, not where there was good grass, 41723-5.—Some grass land in England fetched as good price as in Roscommon, land mostly not good, Irish climate moist and gave better grass; England had advantage of proximity to market, Ireland of climate, 41726-7.—Bad land in Hampshire let at 18*s.* an acre, which Land Commission would value at 5*s.* an acre in Ireland, 41728,—More rent would be got for a thousand acres if put up for auction, for eleven months' tenant than for future tenant, 41730-2.—Eleven months' rent was not a gross rent; fences, etc., had to be maintained, 41733.

Market Value of Land.

Witness had been offered larger price cash down for a piece of his land than Estates Commissioners gave; land adjoining sold at much the same price had since changed hands, purchaser gave £1,200 or £1,300 for interest over and above the annuity, which showed market value of land, 41732.—Difficult to get tenant-occupiers if quantity of land were cut up, they could only be got by giving land cheaply, 41349.—Supply of land in Connaught equal to demand, 41350.—Witness advocated acquisition of grass land simply for purpose of relief of congestion, 41377.

True Value of Untenanted Land.

Annual value of untenanted land should be taken as at least one and one-third Poor Law valuation thus providing for interest of both owner and occupier; where valuation was under net income owner should have option of proving his receipts; these receipts should then be taken as value, and vendor should get capital sum to yield him his net income, 41835-6, 41869.—This would do away with uncertainty prevailing about price when left to valuers to fix; even expert valuers differed enormously in opinion as to value of land, 41869.—Poor Law valuation was 6 per cent. higher than second term rents, 41837.—Poor Law valuation represented landlord's interest; the third the occupier's interest, 41840.—Difficult to get at fair rent of grass lands, 41838.—15 per cent. below valuation taken in one case, objection raised as to price being sufficient, it would not have been sold but for the tenanted land, 41842-5.—Owner's interest for sale price represented by second term rents, 41850.—No second term rents on grass lands, 41846, 41867.—State put occupiers' interest at one-third owner's in calculating income tax, 41841, 41849.—One and one-third on Mr. Doran's figures would be low, 41847.—First and second term rents often the same, no second term rents on good land in Roscommon, almost impossible to find average of second term rents on similar lands in the county, 41851-2, 41867.—Grass lands had been sold on Poor Law valuation at 25 to 30 years' purchase, and demesne bought back at higher price, 41858-9.—Multiple might be different if the third was added, but practice was the same, 41861.—Board went on Mr. Doran's valuation, not on Poor Law valuation, 41863.—Twenty-seven years' purchase was given, 41865.—That was not necessarily on Poor Law valuation, but on Mr. Doran's estimate, or that of whatever valuer was employed, 41868.—Three or four years' purchase was added to valuation, witness put it at one-third; difficult to ascertain net receipts where man farmed himself, profits could not always be allocated, many resident owners gave more employment than necessary as was done at Clonalis; Mr. Doran's evidence showed true value of grass lands was in excess of standard witness suggested, 41869.

Dealings with Board and Estates Commissioners.

Dealings with Congested Districts Board preferred in some districts, in others with Estates Commissioners 41238.—Idea prevailed amongst landlords that in sale through Board money was more quickly paid than in sale through Estates Commissioners, 41414.—Great speed in enlarging holdings and migration undesirable for needs of population, but desirable in view of present state of country, 41264-5.—Huge mistake would be made if matter were rushed as probably would be done, 41266.

Land for Tenants' Sons.

Scheme suggested to quiet the country was to give holdings to tenants' sons; this would not relieve congestion, in fact might create it; less grass land required for cases where old holdings were relinquished than for giving to sons of tenants who remained on their holdings; there were two distinct schemes, giving holdings to sons that might be desirable, and would give them a living, 41360-73.—More difficult to relieve congestion by migration if land were in hands of tenants' sons, than if it remained in hands of landlords who refused to sell, 41374-6.—Best way was to obtain grass lands first and use them in profitable manner shown by Mr. Doran, then fill them up gradually as congested estates were acquired, 41267-8, 41363-7.

Board's Lack of Funds.

Regrettable that Board was at present debarred from negotiating for land required by want of funds, 41269-70, 41272.—That showed it was money, not land, that was not available, 41271.—Adequate funds should be provided, and with the quick purchase that made landlords prefer Board to Estates Commissioners many more sales of grass land would take place, 41273.—Board's income should be largely increased to enable them to give more assistance to poorer districts for piers, boats, roads, drains, etc., and subsidising industries, 41430.

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

Board and Estates Commissioners both operating in Connaught.

Board and Estates Commissioners had both done good work, undesirable to take powers away from either; Board should have more power, 41378.—Difficult for Estates Commissioners to hold large tracts of land for relief of congestion until Board were ready to put migrants on them, pressure would be put on Commissioners to break up land for tenants' sons and others; they could hold small quantities, 41379-83.—If grass land were to be held for relief of congestion it should be held by the authority who was going to move migrants, namely Congested Districts Board, 41385.—Board and Estates Commissioners should be quite separate, and not move migrants on to land held by each other, 41385.—Each should hold enough land only for its own immediate needs; good could be done by holding land adjoining estates purchased and using it for grazing, 41386.—Both bodies could operate in same area; rule might be made that one should not try to purchase land offered to the other, 41387.—Board should deal mainly with congested estates but no hard and fast rule need be made, prices offered might be different, 41388-9.—Mistake to put all Connaught under Estates Commissioners, it might all be put under Board as they knew more about management of congested areas, 41390-1.—Drawback to that was that Board's time and money would be wasted buying uncongested estates, there would be no one else to buy the latter if Estates Commissioners were excluded from Connaught, 41392-3, 41404.—There was, at present, an arrangement by which estates not requiring special treatment could, on certificate of Board, be transferred from owner to tenant, 41403.—Estates Commissioners might be allowed to purchase non-congested estates, but a third body would be necessary to determine which was to deal with estates offered, 31394.—Objections to Estates Commissioners having sole powers of purchase and leaving management of estates after purchase to Board was that the latter knew more about estates, purchasing authority should be the one for subsequently dealing with estates because in fixing price subsequent use of land must be considered, 41395-400.—To allow Board to purchase non-congested estates would give them an immense amount of unnecessary work in determining whether estate could pass direct to tenant, 41407-10.—Giving Board a free hand would not necessarily relieve them of work, 41412.

Efficiency of Congested Districts Board.

Board a most efficient body; if scheduled areas were retained as basis, purchase of lands in districts scheduled should be in their hands with power to buy grass lands outside these districts; Estates Commissioners should not interfere except for purpose of financing and carrying through sales, undesirable to give Board trouble of investigating sales, 41429.—Undesirable to schedule whole of Connaught and put uncongested estates in Board's hands, 41430.

Parish Committees.

Work of Parish Committees should be enlarged; improvement visible in most places where they worked; means insufficient to drain or improve lands, they could easily do such work; strict supervision necessary, a Committee found wasting funds should have them cut off, 41430, 41433-5.—Committees began with homesteads, and in a few instances went outside, 41431-2.—Methods, good, cost of material usually provided, 41433, 41449.—Drainage could only be done by them in a small way; arterial drainage impossible, 41436.—Committees successful, as a rule; they depended on the person who worked them, who was usually the parish priest, 41191-3.—They were unsatisfactory where priest took no interest, 41437.—Priest the moving spirit at present, in a few years they might do without guidance, 41439-40.—Mayo system of giving grants worked well, 41441.—Committees had an elected element, 41442.—Work consisted mostly of clearing cattle out of houses, building sheds, thatching, and sanitation more than improvement of land, 41444-9.

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

Migration and Enlargement of Holdings.

Migration and enlargement of holdings not complete solution of problem of congestion; carried out in wholesale way it would lead to complete ruin in many districts, 41450, 41500.

Hay Market destroyed by Cutting up Grass Lands.

Cutting up all grass farms into small tillage ones as proposed by Mr. Finucane would put an end to market for hay, as there would be no one to use it; cost of transit, even at low rates, would prevent its being sent to a distance; small man would grow hay, not use land for grazing, as he would not have capital and hay paid better for time being, 41450-5, 41543.—Not economic to grow hay, it deteriorated the land, 41455.—Quantity of grass land at Belanagare cut up last year among tenants, all meadowed this year, it would be ruined unless something were done to prevent constant meadowing, 41543.—Price of hay reduced; witness bought it at £1 a ton this year, largely to help tenants, 41543.—Fall in price of hay from £2 to £1 a ton not entirely due to splitting up of grass land, partly due to high crop, 41560.—So long as even £1 a ton were paid hay would pay more than annuity; land being let at 15*s.* an acre, for which £4 used to be paid, 41561.—Three to four tons got off an acre, 41562.

Tillage and Grazing.

Keeping stock not economic for small farmer; cost of fencing and labour of looking after them would prevent their being kept, stall-feeding in winter out of the question, 41456.—Run of 30 or 40 acres on most fields at present, big grazier took cattle from one field to another, small man would not be able to do that, so cattle would not do so well, 41457-64.—Mr. Finucane proposed 30 to 50 acre tillage farms, 41466-7—Many cases where cutting up grass into mixed farms had not met with success, 41468.—Large holding contained more stock, acre for acre, than small holding held in grass, 41470.—More could be kept on small holding but not economically; in practice more were maintained on large than on small holding in West of Ireland, 41471-5.—On small holding man and his family looked after thirty-acre grazing, on large one man and family looked after 200 acres, 41476.—Unfair to reckon nothing for tenant's time in valuing land, 41477.—Twenty acres too small a holding to pay as grazing, 41479.—Evidence hitherto given as to mixed farming was mostly from men in Government institutions where they always lost on farms, 41480, 41501.—In-feeding of cattle to be sold eventually to butcher was being abandoned in Roscommon as impossible to make it pay, 41483.—It was still done in Wexford and in Ulster, 41486-7.—Conditions in West less favourable; people did it in Wexford to get manure, but it hardly paid, 41488.—Land in grass would pay better; Wexford land unsuitable for constant grass, 41489.—In-feeding necessitated large use of cake and artificial food stuffs, even large farmers with a capital gave it up, it had been tried at Clonalis without success, 41509.—Some areas in West suitable for tillage, but small farmers would not till, 41490.—No centre for wheat; barley would not pay, a little rye grown; oats would grow but crops not good, 41491.—Land too sticky for tillage, root crops poor; Roscommon land mostly on limestone, climate wet, small range of crops to choose from, 41492, 41585.—Belanagare lands not suitable for tillage, 41585.

Decline of Tillage.

Free Trade blotted out tillage, 41493-3a.—Since its introduction the general practice in England and Ireland was to reduce quantity of tillage, 41501-2.—In Scotland tillage probably decreased before it increased, 41503.—Tillage would never pay as compared with grass, 41494.—Witness has two or three farms, one worked as well as possible as a tillage farm, it was the only one that did not pay, 41495.—It was a disastrous loss, 41506.—Possible that tenants lived by mixed farming in Donegal; in Roscommon land was turned from tillage into grass; unlikely that tenants would do the opposite if given grass lands, 41496, 41506.—They would have potato garden and oat plot, which were the only tilled crops grown in Roscommon to any extent, 41506.—If no allowance were made for labour tillage would pay, 41497.—Much land near Castlerea had been turned from tillage to grass, 41497.—Without emigration there would be tillage, 41498.—Few labour-saving appliances had been introduced; under system of cutting up grass farms they could not be used as farmers had only small capital, 41499.—Impossibe to expect small farms to give proportionately as much profit as large ones, 41500.—Broadly-speaking tillage was decreasing on small holdings in England and Ireland; that was difficult to explain if experts were right in saying tillage would pay, 41504.—Witness remembered many fields on small holdings in Roscommon formerly under tillage, now under grass, 41505.—There would always be a certain amount of tillage as land required to be tilled occasionally; land that did best in grass would be kept in grass, 41507.—Tilled land paid something, if it were good grass land it would pay more, 41508.—Little of the grass land broken up in Roscommon was brought under tillage; people would meadow in spite of fences, 41551-2.—Only one small plot tilled on Belanagare, 41553.—Great difficulty would be experienced the first few years on a new holding if tenant wanted to till, 41554, 41581.—He would let the grazing at first, 41555.—He would never till, it would be the wrong thing for Roscommon land which was largely fattening land, 41556, 41562.—Tendency was not to till, advantage to have grass as adjunct to holding, it was the most profitable and easier to let, 41557-9.

Migration.

Complete transformation of country into small farms impracticable as wholesale migration was impossible; people would not move, they said they would when Commissioners went round, but when it came to the point they refused, Clonalis tenants an instance; they asked for new holdings, and said they would migrate, Estates Commissioners got land for them at Belanagare, 41509.—Commissioners refused to declare Clonalis an estate unless grass land of Belanagare, twelve miles away, went with it, witness's father wished to keep that to sell with Belanagare Estate, but eventually sold it with Clonalis; he thought tenants would not go there, 41855-6.—Price of grass land was affected by sale, and if he had known what was to be offered he would not have sold, 41853-7.—He had offered to give Belanagare lands to Belanagare tenants when that estate was sold, 41509.—Clonalis tenants were asked to go and choose holdings at Belanagare; thirteen went to look at them, eventually only one more or less non-residential tenant migrated, 41509.—Also the Belanagare schoolmaster, whose holding was worth 15*s.* a year, 41521, 41888.—Result was estate was divided amongst Belanagare tenants, 41509.—A few Clonalis men had since moved to Taaffe Estate, which was nearer, and the land was cheaper, 41510, 41512-3.—People could not be found to occupy grass lands, 41518.—Estates Commissioners, finding they could buy more land than they could dispose of, refused 185 acres offered at their own valuation, 41509.—Large fields at Belanagare given to two publicans, 41511, 41524.—Clonalis people who had asked for other lands were probably relatives of tenants who wanted holdings, 41514-5.—Tenants now more willing to move than they were two years ago if they got good bargains, but not unless; number of migrants not much increased, but the spirit was moving the people; Clonalis Estate had been bought by Commissioners, but there was practically no relief of congestion there because the people would not move, one big man had gone to Belanagare, and his holding helped about six tenants; very little done besides, 41516-7, 41519-20.—Clonalis people did not fear opposition from Belanagare men as there was more than enough land for them, 41522-7.—A few still wanting land, but there was enough to satisfy them, 41526-7.—A few Clonalis tenants had been moved, but not from congested parts, 41882.—Clonalis was in a scheduled area, Belanagare was not; estate in non-scheduled area had had holdings enlarged because land was available, that in scheduled area had not; something could be done to improve Clonalis, 41883-4.—In the past more care had been taken to select right man than could be taken in future because it was proposed to work on such a huge scale, 41573-4.—Probably all available people had not been taken as land was so scarce, 41575.—Prejudice against migration was diminishing, 41576.—Board could not help moving unsuitable people, 41577.—It was said that migrants as a rule were doing badly, 41578.—They kept land in grass about Roscommon, with a little tillage round house, 41579-80.—They were the migrants of both Board and Estates Commissioners, 41580.—They must have been hard up for migrants if a woman who paid a rent of £1 10*s.* was selected; perhaps she was specially chosen, and had means outside her holding, 41583.—New occupier should be supplied with ample capital, he usually had none, and no knowledge of how to manage a farm, he naturally used it as grass with enough tillage for use of family, 41585.—Another objection to migration was that people in the district objected to strangers; they thought all available land should be given to them, even though they did not actually need it, 41606-7, 41665.—Feeling comprehensible though congestion would never be relieved if it were yielded to, 41608.

Migration and enlargement of holdings useful, more money should be spent on it, and in starting new occupiers than hitherto, 41649.

Turf.

Lack of turf and water difficulty the great difficulty; practically no turf in grass land district between Castlerea, Roscommon, Stokestown, and Belanagare, 41585-6.—In Limerick, where there was also no turf, farmers went in for grazing and dairying, perhaps as result of turf difficulty, 41587-8.—No turf in Wexford, which was near sea, and coal was cheap; in Carlow and Kilkenny people were not accustomed to have turf at their door, 41589-91.—Turf could not be got from Bog of Allen; there was a canal into the Shannon, but it was too far to cart to Roscommon, there was turf nearer than that, too costly to send it by rail, 41597-600.—Pressing turf had been suggested; not a success so far, near Limerick machinery was got for pressing, but nothing further done; plenty of turf further west, it was expensive to cart, 41600.

Water Supply.

No rivers or streams on some grass lands, great expense in providing water at farms near Ballintubber, 41593, 41602-3.—Land cut up in what would otherwise be an improper way to overcome difficulty, 41606.—Artesian wells could be sunk, but it all added to difficulty of re-selling at a price that would be fair, 41594.—Difficulty not the same on 200 or 300 acre farm under cattle; there might be water on it to which cattle could go, yet not enough for each plot if it were divided, 41595, 41604.—There had already been trouble over the water question, 41596.—Water was there, difficulty was in carriage, 41605.—In some places a dam could be made to supply cattle, 41606.—Turf and water difficulties not insuperable, 41606.

Subsequent Sub-Division and Meadowing.

Enlargement where grass lands adjoined poor holdings was advantageous, provided steps were taken to ensure proper use of grass lands; added land would be ruined unless precautions were taken against sub-division and constant meadowing; prevention of sub-division impossible, but it could be kept in check; present powers of Land Commission inadequate, idea of rate collectors to informing about it was ridiculous; witness's father tried enlargement of holdings at Cloonsack; it had worked well, but sub-division took place although everything was done to prevent it; added land had been kept in grass, 41543.—Only means of preventing sub-division was to make holdings such that they would not easily be sub-divisible, 41572.—Quantity of grass land at Belanagare was cut up last year among tenants; all meadowed this year, it would be ruined unless something was done to prevent constant meadowing, 41543.—Land only split up in

April or May, 41545.—It was not fenced and could not be grazed; meadowing the only use it could be put to, 41546-7.—Since then fences had been put up largely at tenants' expense, with grants to help them, 41548-9.

Control of Tenants' Management of Land.

Estates Commissioners should have power to see that land was properly used, danger that poor tenants would ill-treat the land, 41562.—Good deal could be done by holding up vesting order for certain period, the man in occupation paying interest meanwhile; if a man got into right way of doing things for four or five years he would probably continue it, 41563-9.—Annuity now began with vesting order, law could be altered to make it start at once, 41570.—There would be a difficulty over the matter, 41571.

Labour.

Not always easy to get labour, 41528.—Labourers were small holders, 41529.—Witness got labourers from his own tenants, small holders up to £4 or £5 valuation, 41530-1.—Labour supply would shrink when tenants became economic, difficulty of getting men at present on account of work of Board and Commissioners, wages higher, 41532.—Some labourers in better position refused to work with witness, preferred going to England, 41533.—Doubtful if they were better paid, 2*s.* a day earned at home, 14*s.* a week in England, 41534.—Married man with family could not save £15 in seven months, 41535.—£15 rather high, 41536, 41538.—It would mean 12*s.* a week for time work, 41539, 41542.—Few women went from witness's district, it was generally young men with father and mother to support, 41537.—They had to pay their railway fare, and did not get £1 a week as agricultural labourers, even at harvest, 41539-40.—Men earning £1 a week at piece-work of course would not stay at home, 41543.—People working in England had practically nothing to do in winter, this fact must be put against high wages earned in summer; high wages to be earned in Ireland also in summer, 41611-2.

Grass Land Available.

Thousands of acres of grass land available in Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon, if fair price were paid; proof of this was given, in fact that Commissioners returned 185 acres on Carrowreagh Farm to witness, which they were getting at their own valuation, 41613.—This perhaps had no bearing on matter if only best land were wanted, 41614.

Letting of Grass Land by Board.

Board should buy grass land and let it to tenants at low rates, grazing more economical that way than in small plots; even if migration on large scale were possible there was plenty of grass still available if fair price were given and no delay in carrying out contract, 41649.—System not unpopular, could be carried out where small holdings were around the grass land, 41650, 41655.—Could not be adopted on 40,000 acres mentioned by witness, but could be, and was, adopted a great deal, 41651.—Board could graze without loss and make more than the $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. required to pay interest on purchase, 41652.—Mr. Doran gave £25,000 a year as amount realised on property of 15,000 to 20,000 acres, 41653-4.—If Board bought 50,000 acres they would not lose in interval between purchase and distribution, 41654.—They would not graze 50,000 acres permanently, 41654.—Board grazed and stocked their farms as well as taking in cattle, they charged one-third less for grazing and the system was popular, 41655.—Advantage for small holders to have facilities for grazing at low rate even at a distance, although landowners might disapprove of system as cutting down grazing rates, 41656.—They would not object if land were bought, if it were for good of country they must submit, 41657.—Smaller areas could be permanently grazed, it would be great advantage to people round, 41658-9.—Grazing could enter into migration scheme and people might be given patch for tillage, and be allowed to graze cattle at low rate; land unsuitable for cutting up must often be bought and could be used for grazing, 41660.—Two or three miles away was the furthest that permanent grazing could be from holding, there would be difficulties if people went further in attending to cattle, and adjoining owners would object, 41661-4, 41668.—Could be done temporarily at greater distance, 41669.—Letting grazing was only an expedient, it would not solve whole problem of congestion, 41666-7.—Grazing tracts should not be sold, only let; Board likely to continue for a great many years, if not some other body could take over grazing, 41672-3.—It was done at present with idea that it would accustom small occupiers to lands to which they might afterwards migrate, 41675-6.

Losses on Land Stock.

Expenses of flotation of Land Stock and banking losses in that connection fell on Irish tax-payer, unnecessary loss of $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., if consols were at 85 Land Stock ought to stand at $93\frac{1}{2}$, 41630-2, 41646.—England got the advantage, and Irish tax-payer met the loss, owing to way Land Stock was doled out; if it was raised as Consols, for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 85 would be paid, whereas now they were only 85 for $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., 41633.—There were two sources of loss, apart from those in connection with non-payment of annuities, discount and bank loss, 41634-5, 41648.—These were taken either out of Irish Development Grant or grants-in-aid and fell entirely on Irish taxpayers, 41636-8, 41642-3.

Question of Representation to Correspond with Taxation.

There should be representation to correspond with taxation if possible, 41629.—Simpler way would be to do away with taxation, 41640.—Sales would never be carried through if there were an elected body to deal with the matter, 41639, 41641, 41644.—Majority of taxpayers would not want it, 41645.

Bonus and Loss during Interval of Sale.

Bonus went entirely to landlord, but in sales to Land Commission landlord paid costs, in ordinary sales purchaser paid them, or else fixed sum for vendor's costs; bonus simply a liberal allowance for costs and loss during sale, 41733-5.—No compensation to agent in case alluded to, he was only paid very small sum of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 41736, 41741.—£12 out of £100 not an extraordinary amount for clerical work, etc.; landlord on selling had to pay certain sums to get sale through, bailiff had to be given something; $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. paid to solicitor; there were also surveyor's fees, and costs of various people having charges against estate; head rent had to be cleared; witness had worked out figures in two cases, one of direct sale, the other under Section 6, losses in first case came to 12 per cent., in second to 11 per cent., 41737-41.—Biggest item was loss of rent during interval, that was calculated on rental for five years previous to sale, and on receipts during two and a half years that sale was going through, when $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was supposed to be received, 41744-5.—$3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. never received, 41747-8.—It was supposed to run from signing of agreement to date of contract with Estates Commissioners, 41749.—Practice adopted was to negotiate with tenants under Section 6 and see what price they would give, then to inerview Estates Commissioners and see if they were likely to sanction sale, then to get agreements signed, 41748.—In one case tenants insisted on agreements being signed because unless it was done there was a loss, 41750.—Commissioners usually insisted on it, 41754.—Tenants were not asked to sign in order to get higher price in witness's case, 41750.—Nor did he expect to bring operations within the zones, they were mostly non-judicial tenants, 41752-3.—After signing of agreements application was lodged, tenant was then supposed to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

in interval; he often did not, and could not be compelled to do so, 41755.—Nothing could be added to rent after signing agreements, 41756.—Application to add half-year's rent to purchase-money in one case was refused although tenants wished it, Commissioners gave every facility for collecting arrears, 41757.—No arrears had previously been added, 41758. —Rent only paid once a year, 41774.—Never on day it was due; hammer came down on particular day after which nothing could be paid, 41759.—It did not pay to wait, landlords preferred to lose the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 41760.—If hammer came down on 1st November, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. only paid up to 1st May; to add hanging gale to purchase price would be to increase number of years' purchase, it had never been done, 41760-5, 41768.—Theoretically it could be done, but not in practice, 41766.—Tenants would pay to Congested Districts Board but not to landlords; they would not come in to the day, there was always the broken period lost by landlords, 41767, 41782.—Taking income prior and subsequent to sale loss was found to amount to bonus, 41768.—In direct sales the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was paid more regularly because Estates Commissioners had power to collect it after sale had gone through; it could not be collected in indirect sales once sale was sanctioned; a case had occurred where agent got agreements signed before arrears were paid and tenants then refused to pay, 41770.—Witness had sold both direct and under Section 6 during last two years; direct sale was the smaller one, but costs were proportionately higher, because tenants only consented to buy if they had no rent to pay, 41771-4.—Year's rent was due, 41777.—Nothing added to purchase price for it; 22 years' purchase paid, bonus went in costs and expenses, 41780, 41792-3, 41817.—Rest of bonus went in costs, 41793-4.—Loss of one year's rent due was part of cost of sale, 41783.—In stating that landlord got high price for land and bonus all these costs must be considered and allowance made for loss of income in interval of sale; landlord got low price and bonus, not high price and bonus, 41785.—Board paid punctually so there was no loss of income in sale to them; they also paid something for arrears, 41786.—During period of payment of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. landlord's income was smaller, and in case of encumbered owner it sometimes all went in charges, 41790.

Witness's Property.

Actual receipts during ten years from property mentioned by witness were £175 on rental of £375, with charges amounting to £200, 41775-6, 41822.—Rent £400, net receipts after deducting expenses, £375 every year, 41800-1.—Agent's fees of 5 per cent. deducted, bailiffs' fees £7 a year, bad debts, *nil*, some arrears included; receipts every year were more than the rent, 41800-8.—Twenty-two years' purchase gave £8,800, which, invested at 4 per cent., would yield £352, as against £375, 41818-9.—£8,800 plus bonus of £1,056 gave £9,856 as gross purchase-money; £5,000 redemption price or head rent being deducted left £4,856, then £1,100 deducted for costs and loss during sale left £3,756, which invested at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. yielded £131 10*s*., as against £175 on £160 if arrears were deducted, 41820-6.—£3,656 invested at 4 per cent. only yielded £150, 41826.—Witness and his father were resident landlords; margin for management of absentee landlord's estate might be greater, 41827-8.—As a fact, one of witness's estates was practically on absentee estate, yet receipts from it were larger than from the residential one, 41829.—Absentee estate more easily managed, rents paid more regularly than where landlord was on the spot and was a good-natured man, 41830-1.—£375 out of £400 a high average, 41832.—At time this was received management had been transferred from witness's father to himself, and he was then an absentee, 41833-4. —On a property worth £1000, sold at 22 years' purchase, price would be £22,000, which, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., would yield £715 a year; cost of management at 10 per cent. would leave £900 a year, loss £185, 41880, 41810.—Loss less if expenditure were greater and *vice versa*, 41811.—Interest on charges, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent., loss heavy if margin were small, 41813.

Three Systems of Sale.

Estates adjoining witness's property had been sold on three systems; Clonalis under Section 6; Sandford under direct sale; De Freyne and Dillon Estates sold to Board; sale to Board gave most satisfaction, because holdings had been improved, 41870-1.—Estates Commissioners had no money to improve holdings because Clonalis was not bought as congested estate; landlords would have raised no objection to that, 41872.—Clonalis not congested as a whole, two or three townlands very poor, 41873.—Little difference in practice between direct sale and sale under Section 6, except possibility of migrating tenants; Clonalis sale had been delayed one and a half years to provide for that, 41874-5.—Grass lands bought to transplant tenants to, 41876.—Estates Commissioners could spend money on fences, etc., for new tenants up to 10 per cent., 41877-9.—Even with direct sale money could be spent, £2,000 spent on Sandford Estate on draining bog, nothing on Clonalis, 41880-1.

Board's Operations on Dillon Property.

Witness lived next to Dillon property, 41885.—Board had done much for occupiers there, especially in giving employment and good wages, 41886.—Estate stretches for twenty-five miles, grass lands available ten miles from end nearest Castlerea, 41887.—Tenants might be migrated; more desire to get enlarged holdings than new ones, 41888.

Landlords of the West.

Landlords of the West did much for their tenants, rental of Clonalis and more spent annually in labour; in 1880 £4,000 spent by witness's father on relief works chiefly on tenants' holdings; timber, etc., constantly given to tenants for houses, bridges, etc.; tenants allowed to pay rent by feeding cattle; since witness sold property he had had numbers of applications for cattle to pay Land Commission rent; cattle sent to poorest although it was not the most profitable way of feeding them, many landlords helped in similar way, 41869-70.—Estates Commissioners had spent nothing on holdings, tenants expected a few thousands to be spent, 41870.

Fuller Powers for Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board should have ample funds and full powers of regulating holdings and carrying out drainage works, proper staff, and ensure quick payment of purchase-money to vendors, this would do much towards ameliorating lot of the poor in West of Ireland, 41870.

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HARRINGTON, Mr. W.

Scheme for extracting Iodine from Kelp.

It was many years since witness had been in touch with kelp industry; his firm manufactured chemicals, and had hoped to do something in the direction of recovering iodine from kelp in connection with other matters; witness had therefore proceeded to West Kerry, and there interviewed a Mr. M'Donnell or O'Donnell, who had started collecting seaweed and burning kelp, with a view to profit and to assisting the people of the neighbourhood; he thought of extracting salts from the kelp, which contained potash salts and soda salts; it was proposed that he should send the concentrated iodine to witness's firm; the scheme only just paid its way; one difficulty was that sufficient weed was not always obtainable, owing to weather, etc.; witness's firm extracted the iodine partly, and also sent it in concentrated form to France, where a market was obtained; this was done through a London agent, whose application for concentrated iodine solution had first suggested this scheme to witness's firm; the concentrated solution was got into France without duty under name of soda lye, and it paid the agent well; the death of

Mr. M'Donnell caused the scheme to collapse, 41889-91.—Mr. M'Donnell cleared his expenses, but he did not work economically; he used a kind of out-house, employed men collecting and burning kelp, extracted the salts himself, and sent up the concentrated liquor containing the iodine and many of the soda salts; he extracted the potash, which witness thought he used as a manure, 41933-5.—He did the burning in the open, a wasteful method, 41936-7.

Market for Kelp Products.

The principal source of iodine was Chili saltpetre; witness discovered years ago that the controllers of this source had immense stocks of iodine, and could at any time swamp the market, so that it would be dangerous to establish works in Ireland to extract iodine and potash and other salts from kelp, 41891, 41869.—Potash salts were always marketable; they were not know in gerat quantity when kelp-making started in Ireland; deposits of potash since found in Germany had greatly reduced profits of kelp industry, 41892.—Kelp contained 35 to 40 per cent. of chlorate of potash, about 10 per cent. of sulphate of potash, and perhaps 5 or 6 per cent. carbonate of potash, 41893-4.—Potash salts were worth about £9 per ton; it was troublesome to extract them from kelp, and doubtful whether doing so would pay, 41895, 41900, 41929-30.—Good kelp sometimes cost £4 a ton, 41898.—Controllers of Chilian supply of iodine did not mind the competition, as amount of iodine extracted from kelp was small; it was their interest to keep the price of iodine steady; the Chilian supply regulated price of iodine, and if kelp became a serious competitor controllers of the Chilian supply would lower the price, 41900-1, 41915, 41918, 41970.—They were not likely to do this, so that a certain market for Irish kelp would probably continue, 41971.—The question whether kelp iodine would compete seriously with Chilian iodine depended on the amount, the iodine being the same in quality in the two cases; iodine had declined in price in recent years; it was now about 8*s.* a pound, but was never much more; there was plenty in Chili, where it was got out of the nitrates,, 41902-4, 41925.—It was as much used in medicine as ever, 41905.—The price of kelp was entirely controlled by the buyers; no firm in Ireland worked kelp, extracting iodine from it, and as far as witness knew, only one firm in Scotland, namely, Paterson's, 41908-10, 41912-3, 41917.—The price paid by Paterson for kelp might be the highest that would admit a profit, but at present he enjoyed a monopoly, 41922-4, 41975.—It was a bad sign if kelp was left on the burner's hands in some places as at present; whether the object of this was to get the price down was impossible to say; perhaps the manufacturers found that at £3 a ton it did not pay them, 41908, 41974.—Paterson's had no connection with the American supply of iodine, 41911.

Prospects of a Kelp Factory for Ireland.

The starting of a factory for kelp in Ireland would merely result in a diversion of some of the kelp from Paterson's factory, the general output of iodine would be no greater, 41919-20.—The starting of works in Ireland by Congested Districts Board in the idea of securing better prices to kelp burners would be a big undertaking, and might prove a failure, 41926-7.—Such an undertaking would be the only way to raise the price of kelp, but it was a question whether it would pay, 41946.—To pay it must not be done on a small scale, 41951.—In such a factory every marketable product should be recovered from the kelp, 41941.—If these products were then exported to Paterson's no advantage would be gained as compared with exporting the kelp, because freight would have to be paid on the sulphate of potash, 41942.—The danger of starting a factory on the Irish coast was that Paterson's might be put out of the market, not that the controllers of the general iodine industry might be offended, 41977-8.—The kelp for such a factory would have to be taken from every part of Ireland, as no one part could produce enough kelp to keep a factory going all the year; it would be cheaper to

ship to Glasgow than from one part of Ireland to another; an Irish-controlled factory in Scotland would be feasible, 41952, 41979-81, 41983.—Kelp was not bulky but heavy, 41982.—There might not be enough kelp obtainable to supply Paterson's works as well as new Irish works, 41983-4.

Method of obtaining and extracting Products from Kelp.

The percentage of iodine in a ton of kelp varied from ·2 to 1·4; the general run was ·4 to ·5, or about one-half per cent, 41906.—The present method of burning involved great loss, 41907.—Burning in brick houses with furnaces was a more economical method than burning in the open, and was method pursued in Scotland, 41938-40.—If a factory were started the people of the coast should still be left to burn the kelp, but to encourage methods which did not waste iodine payment should be made according to the amount of iodine in the kelp; at present kelp was adulterated with sand put in to make weight, 41940, 41943-5, 41955.—There would be a difficulty in estimating the amount of iodine in the kelp, 41956-7.—Some of the iodine must necessarily be lost in burning, but carelessness caused unnecessary loss, 41946.—In burning kelp it was important to get the May weed; some weed had more iodine than others, 41954.—When the kelp was burned all the organic matter went away, leaving the minerals, all vegetable matter had a certain amount of mineral contents which remained as ash with a certain amount of blackness from carbon, and the iodine there was combined with soda to a certain extent, 41958.—The weed burned in a lump produced something like a black stone, which was kelp, 41959-80.—It was sold solid or in ashes; in ashes when it was desirable to prove there was no admixture, as in that form it could be run through a sieve and stones easily detected; sand was also put in, and this would pass through the sieve, 41961-2.—The solid form was hard burned; the ashes were fused; for the hard form, which was the usual one, greater heat was needed, 41963-5.—In both forms only the mineral matter remained, 41967.—To extract the salts the kelp was dissolved by water heated in a series of tanks; some salts were more soluble than others; sulphate of potash was the most insoluble salt contained in the kelp and crystallised out first; more was then evaporated, and the soda salts crystallised out next; then chlorate of potash; iodine salts were the most soluble, and remained in the last liquor; the cost of production depended on the method of evaporation, 41928, 41968.—Sulphate of soda was also contained in the kelp, but was worth nothing, 41929.

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.

Experience of Witness.

Witness was chief of the Mapping and Surveying Department of Estates Commissioners, and did any expert forestry business that came before Commissioners, 41985.—He had twenty years' experience in India, and was trained in French National Forestry College; he had been interested in question of afforestation in Ireland since the 1885 Parliamentary Commission, for which he procured some evidence, 41986.

Afforestation of Ireland.

Ireland contained vast tracts of land, which could be best utilised for State forests for the production of timber and minor forest products, such as osiers, 41988-91.—It had been stated in evidence before a previous Parliamentary Commission, and in a recent pamphlet of Department of Agriculture, that osiers could be profitably grown, 41992.—Witness was not aware that many acres of osiers had gone out of cultivation for lack of demand, and that the basket used in the fishing industry were manufactured by several factories in Scotland, 41993-5.—There was a large trade in osier baskets generally, 41996.—Various Commissions of Inquiry had established that forests properly managed under conditions of soil and climate such as prevailed in Ireland were a sound financial investment, 41996.—Afforestation of waste lands would pay the State better than reclamation for agriculture, 41996-7, 42001-6.—As regarded trees dotted about, Ireland was not insufficiently wooded and compared favourably with Spain and Italy, 42124, 42126.—Of woods Ireland's percentage was 1·4 per cent., the lowest of any country in Europe except Portugal, 42018, 42124-5.—Ireland was formerly celebrated for her timber, and potentially she was the best timber-growing country in Europe, 42018.—There were practically no scientifically-managed woodlands in Ireland; in France, Germany, etc., scientific management of forestry by the State had proved of economic advantage; in general the State alone could afford the initial expense of planting or reclamation on a large scale, could wait until the capital began to yield interest, and could secure continuity in management, 41999-42000.—The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Forestry (1887), and the Departmental Committee on British Forestry, appointed by Department of Agriculture in 1902, had recognised the importance of forestry, and there had since been grants from the Treasury for instruction in forestry, 42085.

Land Purchase Acts and Forestry Question.

Since the Land Act of 1903 trees had been felled recklessly, and under present conditions the existence of woods interfered with the transfer of grass lands, 42018-20, 42024, 42092.—Both vendors and tenant-purchasers felled trees; tenant-purchasers had only single trees, small belts and wind-screens to fell, 42021-3, 42065.—Planting of wind-screens was not a universal practice, but was increasing; tree-planting was reviving in certain parts, 42021-4, 42040.—On the Wallace property in Down, in Armagh, and in certain parts of Limerick, Wicklow, and the West, there had been clearances of trees, 42025-6.—Vendors had cut down woods before selling, 42027-8.—Land Act did not deal with woods except under Section 4, which empowered the vesting of woods in hands of trustees for certain purposes; owners sold woods to get rid of their estates; in one instance, typical of many, a large landowner had arranged with his tenants for sale of an estate, except a large wood, tenants refused to buy the wood, but would not permit its being felled if they were to purchase, it was settled that the owner should apply to Estates Commissioners to purchase his wood, 42029.—Estates Commissioners could only buy such woods to re-sell at a profit; even if Commissioners were a forestry department the possession of numerous small woods would be an embarrassment, and unprofitable, as they would need a large staff to tend them, 42030-7.—Where small woods were required in the interests of the tenants the latter could assist in their preservation, 42037-8.—Witness procured a good deal of information for the late Dr. Lyons, who interested himself in afforestation, 42063.—It was conveyed to occupiers interested that it would not be difficult to them to look after the trees planted if they received periodical visits from a skilled forester; many lands already planted were so small in area, or so situated that they could not effectually be protected from injury once the surrounding lands were sold, such woods might, with advantage, be preserved or added to where any person or public authority was interested in safeguarding them; it had been adready proved that in the case of estates purchased by the Land Commission under Section 6 of the Act the increased value of the estate after re-arrangement of holdings and sub-division of untenanted lands might allow of such woods being re-sold at a low figure or retained by the nation almost free of cost on the purchase amount; in some cases such woods might properly disappear, having regard to their prospective value or the superior requirements of agriculture; there was, however, no one to advise with authority, and vendors unable to find other purchasers sold the woods to timber merchants; in one case where there was a dispute over timber rights between a vendor and his tenants who had signed purchase agreements, both parties quickly felled all the available trees; once the fee-simple of the land was vested in a tenant-purchaser the latter had a full right to fell and sell timber unless his doing so unduly lowered the value of the land as security for the purchase-money advanced; even if the Land Commission had a right to interfere it lacked the power to prevent; so long as the trees remained unfelled the presence of outlying scattered woods might prevent the sale of an estate to the Land Commission; that Commission, while empowered to hold woods temporarily, had no means of managing them or protecting them for the time being; it might be expected that the sanction by law of compulsory sale would bring with it the necessity of purchasing all poor untenanted land in each estate affected, and thus place woods on the Land Commission's hands, while the re-arrangement of estates prior to re-sale would facilitate in a manner not likely to recur the acquisition of extensive tracts of mountain and heath suitable to planting, 42065.—It would be more difficult to reafforest waste lands after their transfer to many small peasant proprietors as it would then be more difficult to acquire the land, and its price would be increased, 42018, 42065.—If a scheme of compulsory purchase, such as that proposed to the Commission, were applied the State would become proprietor of practically all the waste lands in the western districts; these lands could not be finally dealt with by any re-arrangement of agricultural holdings though till such re-arrangement it could not be determined which lands were waste and how much of the waste could be planted; the agency administering compulsory purchase might undertake new planting and manage existing woods, but could not hinder the destruction of timber; vendors were constantly selling to tenants lands which were economically surplus lands for tenants' purposes, and were thus increasing the difficulties of utilising those lands; the difficulty of preserving woods surrounded by newly purchased tenanted lands was not confined to the West; in other parts there were extensive mountain tracts suited to planting, as in Tipperary 68,000 acres, in Tyrone, 102,000 acres; any comprehensive scheme of State forestry must be permanent, and would take a century to mature financially; financially an investment in forestry might be as well secured as one in agricultural land, but advances made by the State for economic forestry could not be recovered with the certainty and regularity expected in the case of Irish land purchase advances, 42093.

Local Control of Forests Impracticable.

Neither trustees in the ordinary sense, nor a local Committee of tenant farmers could be trusted to control forests because of the expert knowledge required, 42041, 42062, 42098-100.—In France, while the communes held the forests and took the profits the control was vested in the State, the trustees being highly-trained officials, 42043-5, 42047, 42050-3.—Such small expenses as the State incurred for forestry were paid in France out of the profits, 42054.—The State, as far as possible, met the wishes of the communes, 42059.—Management of forestry by County Councils was open to the objection that local interests being of a varying nature would interfere with a business so essentially conservative as forestdy, 42047-9, 42098-100.—The question of dealing with isolated trees and shelter belts on holdings was admittedly difficult, a difference would have to be made between non-registered timber, and timber registered as planted by the tenant; registered timber could probably not be interfered with, 42095-7.—Under local management the tendency would be to cut down rather than plant trees, 42101.—Shelter belts were the double hedges put up by the tenant to shelter his holding from the prevailing wind quarter; to plant these did not require much knowledge, and the people were sufficiently intelligent to do the work, but they could not at present be trusted to look after the shelter belts, as they were often unaware of the value of existing belts, many of which were being felled, 42102-5.—These belts were on small holdings near the house, so that they could only be dealt with by the men themselves, but the latter might receive a bonus from the county if they attended to the belts well, 42106-9.

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—*continued.*

Department of Agriculture as a Forestry Authority.

No new Government Department for forestry should be created, but the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should superintend forestry matters, as was intended under its constituting Act, under terms of which it could, however, act only experimentally or for purpose of instruction, 42078, 42088.—A few woods with an area of about 2,000 acres had been vested in Department of Agriculture, but otherwise Section 4 of the Land Act of 1903 had proved inoperative in preserving woods and plantations or setting apart lands for planting; in 1904 the Agricultural Department represented to Estates Commissioners that it had previoutsly been debarred from exercising its functions in the matter of forestry, because suitable land was almost entirely in private hands, but that the Act of 1903 had fundamentally changed the conditions; the Department was, therefore, given the option of purchasing any woods or lands offered for sale to the Commission, but nothing was done owing to lack of funds, and want of a proper agency to deal with forestry; the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899 empowered County Councils to strike a rate for forestry purposes, but only a few of the counties appeared to have moved in the matter, and funds were too small to be of value, 42085-7, 42089-93.—The definition of forestry purposes in the Act included aiding and developing forestry; for this the Congested Districts Board also had powers; Agricultural Department had practically no funds for forestry, 42088-9.—County Councils could not hold land for purposes of Labourers Act of 1906; Rural District Councils could hold land for labourers' cottages, 42093.—A special forestry branch should be incorporated with Department of Agriculture, which should take over surplus Crown waste lands suitable for afforestation, and such plantations purchased by Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board as ought to be permanently preserved, 42093-4.—Department should be able to purchase waste land or formed woods direct from vendors, and should manage existing Crown woods and such sylvicultural or arboricultural work as was now performed by various Government authorities; its duties would include collection and diffusion of useful information relative to tree planting in relation to agriculture and raising stock, and it would also deal with forestry as part of the general question of land settlement, with a view to improve agriculture and develop industries by assisting in arboriculture on farms and by creating a national forest property; the Crown Quit Rents, and the sums for which they were redeemed under the Land Act, might be utilised for planting and instructional purposes; in England quit rents were applied by Commissioners of Woods and Forests to acquisition and development of Crown property; the main duty of the Agricultural Department in regard to forestry would be to acquire suitable lands while possible; sufficient land must be acquired fairly cheaply in advance if advantages claimed for national forestry in Ireland were to be secured; protection of trees on holdings vested under Land Purchase Acts should be facilitated by a change in the law; but former laws, or terms, under which tenants were required to plant, or refrain from cutting timber, often operated harshly, 42079, 42094.

Land suitable for Planting.

Much of the present woodland must eventually be striped up with the grass land; three classes of land might become available for tree-planting on an extensive scale—(1) Mountain and heath land, (2) turf bogs, (3) narrow ravines, steep slopes, rocky or poor land in sub-montane or low-lying districts generally; the mountain and heath lands, comprising 2¼ million acres, were best suited to economic forestry, 42079.—These 2¼ million acres were not all waste land; draining before planting was usually unnecessary or inexpensive; fencing and general protection could be economically arranged for where the plantations were large and had suitable boundaries, 42080.—It had been stated before present Commission that there were tracts of mountain side that would be better under planting than used for grazing or included in holdings, 42068, 42076.—It would be difficult to persuade tenants to agree to giving up for forestry purposes mountain slopes that could be utilised for grazing, 42071.—Though none of the mountain land might be at present derelict, it might be obtained from tenants at a small price for timber purposes, 42075.—It had been suggested to Commission that most farms contained an angle of land which could be planted as a shelter belt, 42076.—The operation of the Land Purchase Acts had increased the importance of the question of utilising turf bog, 42007.

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—*continued.*

Turf Bogs and Afforestation.

The origin of the timber underlying turf bogs had never been proved; either the trees grew on the bog land or the bog grew after the trees died down, 42008-13.—At present the bog grew in many places by increase of bog mosses; the wettest portion of bog was often the highest, 42013.—Scotch fir could never be grown on deep bogs with financial success unless they were previously drained and manured, and this would be very expensive, 42014.—Witness could not determine whether the charred roots seen in the sunken forests had been charred before or after the destruction of the forests; the destruction of the timber in historic times might have resulted in a great off-rush of water from the hills consequent on the denudation of the slopes, and this off-rush would have increased the growth of the bog-land below; there might have been a great change of climate, 42015-6, 42081.—Planting firs helped to keep up the water; firs were planted about waterworks; the French Government spent large sums in acquiring pasture lands to plant them up and cure torrents which carried down stones and débris, 42017.—The fallen leaves took up an immense amount of water, and the leaves stopped some of the rainfall, but the main effects was by the roots, and a deep layer of decaying vegetable matter, sometimes several feet deep, which took up an immense quantity of water, 42018.—Forestry had been successful in European countries on mountain and heather lands; timber could be economically grown on shallow turf bog, though on deep bog the cost of manuring and draining made financial success doubtful; in bog-land generally the acidity and inertness of the bog substance and absence of mineral nutrients must be overcome before plants which strike deep into the soil could thrive; slopes of ravines and rocky land were often well suited to tree-planting; Ireland must once have contained vast tracts of natural forest whose restoration would greatly improve the natural drainage of the country; Ireland's total area of turf bog was returned at about 100,100,000 acres, excluding 398,000 acres of marsh, and, presumably, all shallow bog or "barren mountain land"; of the 1,100,000 acres only 390,000 were untenanted; according to report of the Bog Commissioners of 1810, six-sevenths of the total area was comprised between two straight lines drawn from Howth Head to Sligo and from Wicklow Head to Galway; the Bog Commissioners' Report of 1814 stated that 1,576,000 acres of Irish peat soil was red flat bog, which might be utilised for agriculture, while much of the mountain could be improved at small expense for pasture or more beneficially for plantations, 42081-3.—Since time of this Bog Commission wonderful results in improving land had been obtained cheaply (as in Luxembourg and Holland) by use of lupins; artificial manures were unknown; turf bogs might be made profitable under agriculture where success in forestry was doubtful, and they should therefore not be planted, 42083.—Lupins increased the quantity of free nitrogen in the soil and formed a surface mould, 42084-5.—Of the 640,000 acres untenanted land in Ireland some were only temporarily untenanted; 354,000 of the 640,000 acres were mountain land, with an average valuation of 5½*d.* per acre, and 286,000 were valued at £10,135, or 8½*d.* an acre; it had been stated to Select Committee of Forestry, 1887, that immense areas could be acquired for 10*s.* an acre, and that the people, in Connemara at least, would cheerfully acquiesce in reservation for forestry purposes; the results of witness's inquiries were against the view of acquiescence; the real value to the people of this land was, however, often small, and compensation for disturbance would be little; many persons would willingly relinquish their rights enabling them to pasture a few animals over large tracts in exchange for a small area of good land near their homesteads; 301,000 acres of woods and plantations were included in agricultural returns, 95,000 acres being classed as untenanted; it was improbable that all these woods ought to be permanently retained, if Ireland were to have four per cent. of forested land, as the United Kingdom had, the wooded area would have to be 773,000 acres; the 286,000 acres of untenanted land might be acquired for from £100,000 to £200,000; in poor estates in the West owners might be glad to part with mountain for planting if they retained the sporting rights; though large tracts were desirable for forestry, it might be well to begin with small areas of from 500 acres near supplies of labour; additions of even 50 acres to existing plantations might be worth making, 42085, 42110-2.—Western counties offered greatest scope for protection of existing woodlands and reservation of lands for afforestation; administrative counties comprising congested electoral divisions contained nearly one-third the total wooded area of Ireland; about 70 per cent. of the area classed as mountain, and over 80 per cent. of the 286,000 acres of untenanted land valued at not more than 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre, 42093.

Roads to Forests.

Good roads were needed to secure financial success to forestry, and the cost of their construction must be included among initial expenses, 42113-8.

Price of Timber.

The constantly increasing price of timber would compensate for cost of roads, 42118.—In England the price of imported timber had increased 20 per cent.; native timber was, if anything, decreasing, 42120-1. —The best wood was a very paying market, but it was necessary to wait more than forty years for the harvest; from the twentieth to the fortieth years there might be two thinnings; felling could be done at the twentieth, thirtieth, and fortieth years, but except from larch not so much could be got from earlier thinnings; hard wood took a hundred years to mature, 42122-3.

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O'CONNELL, Mr. M.

Scheduling Two-thirds of Listowel Union Proposed.—Definition of Congestion No Guide.

In district of Listowel there were ten electoral divisions congested; population 10,784, or about one-third of population and area of entire Union; Rural Council thought remaining two-thirds should be scheduled, seeing that average valuation per head was £1 19*s.* 3*d.*, and of congested divisions £1 3*s.* 2*d.*, 42129.—The 30*s.* or under per head rule should be abolished, and Board should have discretion to schedule a townland as it saw fit; present method no guide; scheduled division of Kilshenane had valuation of 16*s.* 3*d.* per head; cause of its low valuation of £486 was that land which was nearly all reclaimed bog land was of little value in 1852, when valuation was made; holding in Kilshenane which was only £5 or £6 valuation might have ten to fifteen cows; Lisloughtin, Tarmons, Liselton, Urlee, etc., were more congested, 42129a.—If revaluation was made valuation would be higher than at present, 42130.

Untenanted Lands.

Schedule of untenanted lands in the district submitted to Commission last October, also replies received from some of the owners of the land; since then townlands of Baunacaulig, Coolagown and Ennismore had been sold to Estates Commissioners, and holding at Gurtereen had been sold to a tenant; there were 846 acres of very good tillage land in Kilehenny; letter from Messrs. Reeves and Sons, solicitors to Scottish Provident Institution, stated that they were in communication with Congested Districts Board as to sale; demesne lands were excluded, 42130.—It was almost all grazing and tillage land, 42131, 42132-3.—Where there was bog it had been indicated in the schedule, 42132.—About fifteen to twenty acres of the 846 acres were under tillage, 42134, 42135-6.—Only holding in the schedule that was farmed in mixed way, including tillage, grazing, and dairying, 42134.—It was situated near Ballybunion, and in season from June to October there was a good market for milk; farm supplied the whole village, which was the reason that more land was not tilled, 42137.—Farm was all in one hand, 42138—It probably paid better to use it as dairy farm rather than have it tilled, 42139.—Local market for milk necessitated a large dairy farm, 42140.—Scottish Provident Society were the owners and occupiers of the farm, 42143-4.—They held a mortgage of it, and it came into their possession, 42145, 42147.—A caretaker occupied it for them, 42146-7.—Head office was in Edinburgh, 42149.

Cottiers and Milk Supply.

Part of the farm mentioned might be given for holdings, and part might be vested permanently in the Board, 42141.—In the event of buying any lands it might be desirable to vest a portion in the Board, to permit of letting of grazing to cottiers; the labouring classes could get very little milk; it was all sent to creameries or kept for feeding calves; condensed milk was imported for feeding young children; establishment of creameries had intensified the lack of milk; appearance of children showed they were not well nourished, 42149-60.—Seeing that there was not enough land to go round, there would be number of small occupiers who would not have sufficient means of feeding cows in winter, it would be well to give them grazing somewhere, 42141, 42143, 42161.—Congested Districts Board should let land at so much a year, 42162.—That contemplated the permanent control of Congested Districts Board or some similar institution, possibly of a Rural District Council, 42163-4.—They would be willing to undertake the duty, 42165-6.—The class of people was the same as those for whom labourers' cottages were provided, 42167-8.—Common grazing would be a very popular thing, and would be very satisfactory, 42171.—Having number of labourers' cottages built, provision for communal grazing for the cows belonging to these people was needed; project was distinct from the labourers' cottages, 42172-5.—Witness had never known cases where people had been inclined to live on the acre of land and tillage and not work as labourers, 42176.—He had known cases where tenants of Union cottages who had succeeded chiefly by their own industry, and they were just as willing to work as labourers as they were before, 42177-9.—Object was to try to get sound milk for the children of these people, who had, as a rule, very large families, and when they had a cow it was generally an old hard-skinned, probably tuberculosis cow, 42180.

O'CONNELL, Mr. M.—*continued.*

Questions of Loans for Purchase of Cows.

If land was obtained near congested places, how were the people to purchase a cow, and if they got a loan to buy or to replace cow, what security could they offer for repayment of loan? 42160.—Extract from previous report of witness's showed that out of a seed loan of about £2,000 in rural district, out of first instalment over 99 per cent. was collected, and in not one case out of over 1,800 recipients of seed potatoes was any attempt made to repudiate the debt; large number of these poor people were too poor to offer any security; they were trusted, and proved themselves worthy of trust, and they would also repay a loan to buy a cow, 42160.—There was no way at present where people could borrow at a reasonable rate of interest for purchase of a cow, 42182.—There was no co-operative bank, 42183.—If there were one it would be a great improvement, but question of security would arise, 42184.—In the seed loan instance the security was their own character, 42185-6, 42188.—In case of the bank it would be their own character, backed by personal guarantee of two others, 42187.—It would be well to try if self-help could provide the necessary capital; it would be a great improvement if there were such banks in the district, 42189.—Congested Districts Board should provide the land, and then let their successors administer the estate afterwards, 42190.—It would come largely to personal character of people, and Board would not be troubled much, but they would have to get the land, 42191.—Great improvement if they got land independently; it would do away with question of loan, 42192.—Their relations in America helped them, but in a large number of cases, when they did possess a cow it was a bad one; probably a menace to public health, 42193.—If they could get a loan to purchase a cow they would get a much better one, 42194.

Supply of Milk in Tenanted Localities

If Parish Committees could make arrangements for a contract with a local farmer for supply of milk to the poor throughout the year in localities situated near tenanted land; it was possible that there would be no economic or other difficulty about the matter, as it would be worth farmer's while to enter into these contracts for a continuous supply, and portion of money paid for dear tea would be diverted for supply of milk, 42195.—It was possible to organise such a system; there could be a weekly collection of the debt; in a townland where there were perhaps twenty-five to thirty farmers, if one farmer was selected, a contract might be made with him to supply milk at a reasonable rate throughout year, at 7*d.* per gallon, 42196.—Organisation was required, 42197.—All the farmer wanted was a price for his milk; any individual could set up as a kind of middleman, and enter into contract with farmer to supply him regularly with milk for these people's use; but there must be some machinery or organisation to bring it about; farmer could not be expected to break existing contract with creamery and keep proportion of milk unless he was sure of the other arrangement, 42198-9.—Point was to bring about the state of assurance

O'CONNELL, MR. M.—*continued.*

that he would be paid regularly, 42201.—Necessity for the milk existed, but nothing was done, 42201.—Creameries did not pay better prices, only about 4*d.* per gallon, and it was worth 7*d.* to consumer, 42202.—The people would pay that, 42203.—They were proprietary, not co-operative creameries; proper organisation and business arrangement were the only things necessary to carry out reform, 42204.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

There were 444 cottages provided in Listowel Rural District, 310 completed and occupied and 134 building or near completion; there were 516 applied for at inquiry, and, allowing 350 to be passed, there would be 800 cottages provided, but as rate limit of 1*s.* in the £ would be reached when 800 had been built, some other sources must be sought to improve condition of remaining insanitary houses, 42204.—Rural District Council built the cottages, 42208.—It took land compulsorily from anybody it chose, 42209-10.—Money came from Board of Works; it would now come from Land Commission, 42211-2.—Rural District Council got portion back in rents, at rate of £2 15*s.* for each cottage, and rates often had to bear remaining portion up to £3 7*s.* 4*d.* per cottage, 42213.—County Council levied rate for thirty-five years, 42214-5.—It was a district-at-large rate, 42216.—It was acting much better now than it had done, 42217.—Nothing like so much lost; liability reduced, 42218.—Under present Act man who applied first got first chance of a cottage, 42219-21.—Practically the same under the old Act, but under old Act applicant must be a *bona fide* labourer; it was not passed really for any individual, 4222-3.—Gross cost of these cottages was £137 10*s.* per cottage in Listowel Rural District up to March last; that would be from £105 to £106 for cost of each building, and from £30 to £33 for the land; various other expenses, such as engineering and inquiries, 42224.—There was a kitchen and three bedrooms, 42225.—And under Public Health Act it was necessary to have a privy attached to the house, 42226.—Nothing paid for expense of compulsory acquirement, but there used to be up to last year, 42227.—The existence of the power of compulsion made the seller more reasonable, 42228.—There was practically no need to exercise power of compulsion, 42229.—An insanitary house could possibly be made sanitary, 42230.—Houses generally provided for people who had no house, who were lodging with their father-in-law or someone like that, 42231.—Generally in case of an insanitary building it was pulled down, 42232.—Rural District Council collected the rents, 42233.—No trouble about rent out of rental of £722 odd; arrears due up to March 31st amounted to £75, 42234.—Arrears not of long standing; they had all been paid since, 42235.—1*s.* 1*d.* was the average rent per week, 42236.—A shilling in the pound was the maximum rate which could be struck; actual rate struck was 4⅞*d.* to cover the liability; the loan in Listowel was a thirty-five years loan; eighteen or nineteen years of it was expired; as the old loan was paid off it relieved the pressure on the rates, 42237-40.

SANITARY OFFICERS SHOULD BE AIDED BY PARISH COMMITTEES.

Respecting the strict enforcement of the Public Health Act, it was not to be expected that a sub-sanitary officer who was paid at the rate of £10 a year should be very enthusiastic about the performance of his duties; one important witness made a statement that no return was given by the sanitary officers for the salaries they received; witness held that the statement did not apply to his part of the country, 42241.—Work of sanitary officers was not so effective as it might be, owing to the poverty of the people; the Parish Committee had funds to encourage the people to keep their houses neat; Rural District Council thought that Parish Committee should be formed to assist in removal of manure heaps, lime washing, etc.; hundreds of notices were served, but the manure, if removed, was soon allowed to accumulate again, 42242-50.—There was no Parish Committee in Listowel, 42205.—No reason why there should not be, 42206.—If there was one it would greatly improve condition of the insanitary houses, 42207.—A local committee, including the clergy, with an instructress possessed of some such qualification as the diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute of London, should have authority to deal with sanitary matters; the county instructress should visit homes of the poor; those who attended classes in towns were educated and qualified to be instructresses themselves, 42250.

INSANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

To improve sanitary conditions it was necessary to begin with the schools; report of Medical Officer of Health on the Listowel district said the school was "a menace to public health"; a recent improvement was suggested with regard to use of earth closets, but the reply threw responsibility on the managers, and they had no funds; witness concurred in the verdict on condition of the schools, 42250-52A.

TREE-PLANTING.

Forest trees in lots of four or five hundred should be given in congested areas, free to occupiers under £10 valuation, and at half-price, or 1*s.* 9*d.* per 100, to occupiers under £20 valuation, to plant shelter belts; witness thought the people would plant them; several small occupiers had said they would be very glad to have them, 42252A-4, 42257-9.—Parish Committees might get the trees for small shelters, 42255.—No trees should be given to a man who did not enclose the place; one side was fenced already, 42256.—The nearest nursery was Mr. Power's of Waterford; an occupier planted an Irish acre with 304 apple trees twelve feet apart, with small fruit trees in between; total cost of fencing, trees, planting, etc., was £17 9*s.* 2*d.*; the soil was quite unsuitable for tillage, but the trees grew well, and this year ten or twelve were yielding ten to eighteen apples each; in five or six years it was expected the whole money would be made in fruit; above instance showed that, if sheltered from the north-west, apples flourished in poor, cold land; to encourage planting trees should be provided at a much cheaper rate than 9*d.* each, 42257.

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M'MAHON, MR. WILLIAM.

POWERS OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Congested Districts Board should have more powers for extending congested areas and for other purposes; they should also have compulsory powers for purchasing untenanted grazing and unreclaimed land, for building houses on those lands, for enlargement of uneconomic holdings, and for giving plots and houses to farmers' sons, labourers, and artisans; the whole of Listowel Union should be scheduled as congested, 42261.—There were already ten electoral divisions in Listowel Union scheduled as congested, and people considered that the other electoral divisions ought to be scheduled as well; there were thirty-two electoral divisions altogether; great deal of congestion not in congested electoral divisions at all, but scattered throughout the union; necessary to have whole of the Union scheduled as congested, 42262.—Otherwise untenanted land could not be taken for migration of large population of congested areas, 42263.—Nothing to prevent Congested Districts Board going outside scheduled areas, which was reason for asking that whole union should be scheduled as congested, 42263.

MEMBER TO REPRESENT KERRY ON CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

There should be one elected member on Congested Districts Board for each of the congested or partly congested counties; people in Kerry considered they were entirely forgotten by Congested Districts Board, because there was no member from Kerry to recommend to Board the wants of the county and congested areas of the country; more money spent in Donegal and other counties than in Kerry, 42263.—No elected member for Donegal, 42264.—County Council should nominate a member subject to approval of, say, Lord Lieutenant, 42265-7.—Member of County Council should not be excluded; there might be members admirably fitted, but they might not like the position, 42267.

Congested Districts Board and Fishing Industry.

Congested Districts Board ought to have encouraged fisheries in the rivers by establishing hatcheries, giving money for boats and nets, and protecting mouths of the rivers from trawlers and fishing boats; great many people of opinion that boats with large nets prevented fish from entering the river; salmon and other fish prevented from coming into River Feale and River Shannon, too, 42268-9, 42271-4.—It was since the establishment of boats with nets for mackerel fishing round the coast that salmon fishing was injured, 42270.—Nets, not set in the sea for salmon, but for catching ling, cod, and other fish, 42272.—Good deal of salmon net fishing in Ireland, even in River Feale; for six or seven miles there were thirty or forty nets there fishing salmon; nets outside that prevented salmon coming into the river, 42275-6.—They made a livelihood by it near the rivers; very probable that the amount of shipping at mouth of Shannon frightened fish from coming up the Feale and other rivers, 42277.—Hatcheries had been asked for, and application made to Board of Agriculture, and some little help had been given, but not much, 42278.—Damage to local fishermen by trawlers had been spoken of to Mr. Green, but it had never been represented to Board of Agriculture or Congested Districts Board, 42279-80.—If fishermen kept a mile or so outside mouth of Shannon it would give fish an opportunity of coming in; nets over three miles long, 42281.—Salmon fishing gone down very much, even for net fishing, 42282-3.—Board of Agriculture inclined to do very little, 42285.—Lot of salmon killed by trawlers fishing for mackerel and things of very little consequence; fish also killed in spawning season, which caused great loss to fisheries, 42286.—Not enough water bailiffs up the rivers, 42287.

Congested Districts Board and Peat Industry.

Congested Districts Board ought to have powers to work and develop industrial resources of the country and power to buy land for better development and encouragement of peat industry, 42288.—Wonderful amount of employment could be given by the bogs in Ireland, and new factories could be started; over 2,340,000 acres of bog in Ireland, with a depth of twenty feet; peat could be utilised for many valuable purposes, extraction of ammonia, etc., and production of a fuel with which all the railways in Ireland and the canal barges could be worked at much less cost than with fuel at present in use, 42289.—Two tons of dried peat had more gas-producing power than one ton of best coal, 42289-90.—Even if it could be properly worked for ordinary fuel it would pay, 42290.—At Celbridge the profit was now £75 a week after paying all expenses, 42291.

Oil Found in Bogs.

Large amount of oil in the bogs which, if properly worked, would be a great commercial success, 42293.—People very slow in Ireland and very little help came from English Government; they would be sure to veto any commerce that was prospering in Ireland, 42294.—Good thing to bring it under the notice of the Commission, 42295.—Great apathy in Ireland in starting any commercial undertaking, because it had shown to them from time to time that there was hardly any profitable industry formed in Ireland that was not handicapped, if not by British Government, English manufacturers would send their agents, and they would under-cut for a time till the trade in Ireland was cut down; only remedy for Ireland was to put a protection tariff on all manufactured goods coming into the country, 42296.

Drainage.

Congested Districts Board ought to have powers for draining of floods and marshes, etc.; large amount of flooded lands and marshy lands in witness's district, 42297.—Feale and Brick were the principal rivers, 42298.—Many other flooded places along the rivers, 42299.—1,800 acres along Feale river flooded; low-lying lands along banks ought to have protection from these floods; large proportion of River Brick needed to be scoured and cleaned, 42300.—County Council had no power to undertake large drainage, nor any power to compel a tenant or landlord who, by neglecting to scour those large drains, caused the roads even to get flooded, 42301-2.—Flooding due in a great measure to the rising tide, 42303-4.—County Council had not the power to erect a tide wall or anything of that kind; some letters had been passed with regard to drainage some time ago, but it was left in hands of a committee; witness thought the Government was proposing some scheme, but in the meantime these lands are flooded, 42305-6.—Mr. Julian, Dublin Castle, had suggested that County Council should take up the work of the Cashen Board which was at present defunct, but by an order of Lord Lieutenant their functions could be taken up by County Council, with all their powers and duties; not enough members to form a quorum, so whole thing was at a dead-lock; question had been adjourned in order to find out what responsibilities would fall upon County Council if they undertook duties, 42306.

Decay of Trade at Listowel.

Rural District Council of Listowel ought to be scheduled as congested for purpose of giving small holdings to working classes for gardens and for means of supplying milk for themselves and families, and also for encouragement of industry; market towns were going to decay; Listowel was entirely dependent on its market; twenty years ago there used to be 2,400 pigs in market once a fortnight and over 2,000 firkins of butter; now not 200 firkins; trade coming into Listowel entirely lost, 42306.

Creameries causing Injury to Ireland.

Creameries had not benefited Ireland, but only caused loss, 42307.—Dietary of working class had changed; could not use creamery milk as food; cost of food so much increased that employment had fallen back very much in country districts, 42308-9.—Farmer could not well pay for labour, and had to try to do without it; people found hand-separators much more beneficial; application for loans on behalf of poorer class of farmers for purchase of hand-separators, 42310.—Much cheaper than they were, £14 10s. the proper price, 42311.—Farmer did not keep back enough from the creamery for his own consumption, 42312, 42328-9.—Good many of them got money in advance to purchase stock from creamery, and would then send all milk to creamery in order to repay loan, 42312.

Butter.

Higher price obtained now than when farmers made butter themselves, 42313.—2s. to 6s. or 7s. in English market; at Listowel price differed from week to week, 42333-4.—Five guineas a firkin for a long time, twenty or twenty-five years ago, now only £2 5s.; price down all round, 42335.—Dropped considerably after creameries were established, 42337-8.—At present it was 40s. to 52s., 56s. the average for the year, 42339.—Average price for firkin of butter 49s. or 50s., 42340.—Two hundred and ten gallons of milk to make a firkin of butter which would represent something more than 50s., 42341-4.—Skimmed milk carried home and used for calves and pigs, 42313, 42319.—Farmer would not consume any new milk, but only milk after cream had been taken off, 42314-6.—This could not be done now; there was no nourishment in the milk, and there was contingent sickness, 42317.—The old separation was by hand, the present by machinery, 42318.—By the old method of separating milk the skimmed milk contained more fat, 42320.—There was less use for skimmed milk now for feeding purposes, 42321-2.—Looked upon as wholesome food when separated by hand, 42323.—The creamery had the advantage of any extra butter that might be extracted, 42324.—Good deal more butter made with hand separator than out of the other, 42325.—People did not get same return of milk as they carried to the creamery, though amount from the cow was just the same, 42326-7.—There was no organisation which made the best use of their butter and got them as good a price as possible, 42330.—Creameries established for profit, 42331.—Butter went cleaner into the market than it used to; butter made at home preferred to creamery, 42332.

JULIAN, Mr. JAMES E. J.

Congested Districts Board did Much Work in Some Districts and Nothing at all in Others.

Work of Congested Districts Board was sporadic and was overlapped by Department of Agriculture; in Brosna and Killorglin it had done a good deal of work, but in Lixnaw until recently it had done nothing at all, 42345.—In Lixnaw the Board had bought Ardbeg Estate, re-arranged it, and spent money on it satisfactorily to the tenants, 42346.—Work of the Board had been confined to a few places; whether the selection of places was good or bad would depend on the people who were questioned, 42362-3.—Witness did not know that the Board's expenditure had been made in the poorest part of the county; until two or three years ago, when Mr. Thomas O'Donnell, member for West Kerry, took it up; no money was spent in Kerry, 42364.—The money had not been badly spent; Ardbeg expenditure was very good, 42365.

Board's Grant to Kerry Agricultural Society Withdrawn.

The Board's grant to Kerry Agricultural Society had been withdrawn, as they wished to confine it to holders under £4 valuation who lived in congested districts; Society found it almost impossible to accept grant on these terms, 42346.—Society divided exhibitors into two classes, those over £30 valuation, and those under; small men as a rule would not show; ridiculous to ask small farmer or cottager to show at Tralee; it would have been possible to accept grant if it were to be expended in prizes for cottages or best-kept farm; considerable expense involved in viewing farms; inspectors had to be sent in different directions; expense of judging green crops two years ago amounted to £12 or £14, 42347-8.—If grant were split up, so much to each scheduled area, and the local people were allowed to distribute it, in such case it would be useful, 42348.

Grant to Parish Committee.

Board gave a grant of £40 to Ballyduff Parish Committee, but it was burdened with certain troublesome conditions, 42349.—All work had to be completed before any grant could be given; man building a house was obliged to get credit for materials or labour; a co-operative bank would be useful, 42350.—Grants were given on same conditions as in other places; if witness had been living in the district he might have advanced the money; only help came from the dispensary doctor, 42351.—Witness had advanced the money in case of a grant of £15 for a road to some holdings that were cut off; the money was returned when the work was completed, 42352.—Witness did not know what had been done in Killorglin district; a great deal of good had been done; but the money difficulty had existed at Ballyduff; only £20 had been expended out of the £40 promised; one widow wanted to concrete her floor, expenditure for which would be almost entirely cash; nobody would be security for such an amount, 42353.—Ballyduff Parish Committee received a grant of £40, but as a rule the grants in Kerry amounted to larger sums, in some cases to £120; total amount given in grants amounted to £1,500 this year, 42396.—Kilflynn schoolhouse was in a disgraceful condition, there were no sanitary arrangements at all, 42475.

Poultry Farm.

A poultry farm had been established at Kilflynn, but it had been given up; the above was all the Board had done in a district stretching from Cashen mouth down to the other parts, 42354.

Fishing Industry.

Fishermen at the Cashen mouth needed nets and boats badly; also a settlement of fishers at mouth of River Feale, who were badly off; a grant for nets and boats would assist them considerably; Electoral Division of Ardagh was scheduled, but some of the fishermen lived outside it; rule as to boundaries of scheduled districts proved hampering, 42354.—Fishermen had not made any application; some body had

given a grant to some fishermen at Ballyheige, but the fishing was not available owing to want of a harbour and roughness of the tide, 42355.—Congested Districts Board had no fishing representative in County Kerry; such a thing would be specially useful all round the western coast; it would be a good thing if there were a permanent fishing superintendent, 42356-7, 42359.—The fishing settlement of Ballymore was on the north side of the river; witness had made application to Department of Fishery, but received the reply that no grants were given to inland fisheries, 42457-9.—The people fished in the estuary; their boats were not good enough to fish in the mouth of the Shannon, 42359-60.—Salmon used to be a great fishing industry, but supply of fish had fallen off; witness did not know why, 42361.

Condition of Muckinagh Estate.

Muckinagh, the estate next to Ardbeg, should have been bought as well; it was not offered; but it was an estate that should be taken compulsorily; case of a bankrupt landlord and mortgagees who could not agree; it was a question of getting the bonus; on a bankrupt estate if the landlord would lend his name the bonus could be obtained; if the mortgagees sold themselves they got no bonus, 42366-9.—Tenants were extremely poor; the estate was an oasis in the middle of bogs, and was subject to floods, fever, 42366, 42477.—Some of the tenants should be migrated; a farm had been offered to the Board, but the price they offered was insufficient to secure it, namely £400; farm was value for the £600 given, 42370.

Representation of Kerry on Congested Districts Board.

Representative of Kerry on the Board would be extremely useful, although more money for the Board was a greater necessity than a representative, 42374-5.—Witness was in favour of representative of congested districts counties being on the Board, 42376.—It would do if they were appointed by the Castle; Lord Shaftesbury had been appointed with special reference to Kerry the last time there was a vacancy on the Board, but someone who lived in the county would be more useful, 42377.—It was difficult for people in Kerry to see the value of concentration of work in Galway, but probably it was right that the Board should find out where money was most wanted; allocation of money to different counties on account of representation might lead to loss of power, but witness thought a good deal depended on who asked, 42378-81.—There was no favouritism, but the people were inarticulate; witness had asked on behalf of Ballyduff and had got the help; effect of representation would be that wants would be voiced; nothing had been done in Kerry until Mr. Thos. O'Donnell took matter up; if Kerry representative had been on the Board he could have pointed out estates for sale; anyone living in the county would point out its wants better than a person living at a distance, 42382-8.—Sea-work in Kerry had received attention before the advent of Mr. O'Donnell; several piers, etc., had been built; live stock schemes had also received their due share of attention; witness did not know that any scheme had been put before the Board, neither did he know that the Board had ever asked for estate; very possibly it was not the Board's fault, 42392-4.—The first estate bought by the Board in Kerry was the Rea Estate; since then they had bought the King, Hartopp, Ardbeg, Sandes, and Brosna Estates, 42395.

Lixnaw Quay.

There was a small landing-place for sand boats at Lixnaw; the fishermen brought sand in lighters up the river, but there were difficulties, owing to lack of a proper landing-place; County Council agreed to put one up at a cost of £380 if half cost were provided; Department presumably refused contribution, and Congested Districts Board said they could not contribute because place was 200 yards outside boundary of scheduled area; it would be extremely useful because farmers were using sea-sand instead of lime; it was instance of the way in which strict scheduling of districts interrupted useful work, 42396-401.

Alteration of Definition of Congestion.—Question of Variation of Area.

Townland would be a more convenient unit for scheduling than the electoral division; there was a big gap in witness's division, a great deal of which might be scheduled; there was a tract of bogland running from Abbeyfeale to Ardfert; some of it was not congested, and it could be scheduled by townlands, but not by electoral divisions, 42405-6.—The 30*s*. limit was not a proper guide; inspectors should be sent round who could decide the matter by experience; witness would practically leave the matter to the discretion of the Board, 42407-11.—Area of congested districts would not necessarily be enlarged; a good deal of country now scheduled might be cut out as non-congested, while in middle of non-congested districts there were places like Conamore where people were living in a bog on the top of a hill, 42412, 42419.—Harm might be done by excluding too much, and witness would not go so far as to give power to exclude when all had been done that reasonably could be done; Board had the power now simply to do nothing, 42413-6.—There was no reason against reviving the Lord Lieutenant's power of including or excluding any division, 42418.

Discretionary Power for Board to extend its Operations wherever found desirable.

No reason to limit operations of Congested Districts Board within certain counties; if funds admitted, there were just as poor districts in parts of Wicklow as in Kerry; they might operate in any part of Ireland where it was found desirable, 42420-2.—The Board's work was well adapted to Ireland, to a place where paternal government was needed, and where there was no resident gentry to help the people, 42423.

Drainage.

The Cashen River was formed by junction of Feale, Brick, and Galey; these rivers and their tributaries drained an area of 280,000 acres, of which 11,000 acres were subject to flooding; a comparatively small expenditure would reduce the damage, and it was necessary for the sake of the farmers, the health of the people, and also to save the ratepayers the constant expense of mending the roads, 42424.—It was two or three miles from the River Brick to the mountain; the place was level at the bottom; the biggest rise was at Lixnaw, 42425-6.—River Brick had a fall of about fifty feet in from ten to twelve miles; dredging the river would make a difference, for at present there was not room for the water to flow out of the river, and it spread over the country, 42427-8.—Mr. Doran knew the facts, 42429.—Mr. M'Clean had supplied the following points:—The Cashen being a tidal river, the principal flooding occurred along the Feale, Brick, and Crumpawn, a tributary of the Brick; owing to a ford below the ferry bridge, and the large volume of salt water which flowed in during rise of tide, water from depth of eight feet in River Brick, and from ten to twelve feet in the Cashen was locked up; there were other smaller obstructions; with exception of the obstructions, the rivers were sufficiently deep, and if the obstructions were removed the average level of the water would be reduced two feet, and navigation would be possible at ordinary tides for purpose of transfer of sea-sand to inland districts, 42430.—The Cashen Board had spent £12,000, had never finished the work, and had made things rather worse than they were before; nothing had been done since, 42431.—£5,000 or £6,000 would do a good deal, but no one had gone into it sufficiently to state the exact cost, 42432-3, 42470.—The £12,000 was spent on a long embankment; also the mouth of the estuary was made narrower; the sea broke a great deal of the embankment; the failure was largely due to omission of dredging operations, 42440.—The £5,000, witness estimated, would be for conclusion of the work; the Cashen Board was now defunct; it had never held a meeting for ten years, during which time most of the members died; witness did not know who was responsible for the failure to hold meetings, 42441-2.—The landlords were at present paying the Board of Works for the £12,000, 42443.—There was apparently no authority in Ireland that had the responsibility of making appointments to a drainage board, or of supervising the working of it; the Cashen Board had the power of co-opting themselves; three formed a quorum, but only two were alive, 42444.—Matters had gone too far for any proceedings, 42445.—(*Member of the audience*—The owners of land along the banks were formed into a drainage board; speaker was the agent, and had his own views as to discretion of the Board in selecting engineer who was employed, 42446-7).—Witness had proposed that County Council should take over the undertaking, and was at present making inquiries whether they could take it up safely without incurring responsibility; County Council objected to spending money, and had made up their minds not to do the work; it was a local thing; men in Waterville and Cahirciveen would not care to have it put upon them; the riparian owners would be willing to pay, and the others ought to be made to pay, 42448-50.—The whole neighbourhood was poisoned; if occupiers contributed to the expenditure they would be better off than at present; in one case where a man's land was valued at 15*s*. an acre the flooded part was valued at 8*s*., 42451-2.—Doubtful if above argument would overcome County Council's desire for economy; the rates were particularly high in Kerry, 42453-6.—County Council had no expeditious machinery for recovering money due to them under schemes by occupiers; a special rate would be needed on the area; it could be quickly recovered if there could be a special rate like railway or sanitary rate, 42458-9, 42461.—Witness had an idea of his own; the County Council received £33,000 at the time of the railway amalgamation, of which Claremorris received £7,000, Claremorris being the barony where the floods occurred; the £7,000 was being used in relief of the rates; if £2,000 could be applied to needs of flooded area it would give relief, 42463.—Congested Districts Board might contribute, county might contribute, and also somebody else, 42464.—Witness's private opinion was that County Council should do the work, provided they got a grant in aid from the Board, 42465-6.—There was no rate existing, the landlord having redeemed it when he sold the land, 42467.—The only people who could do so were the County Council or the Cashen Board, 42468.—At present the land was hardly fit for meadowing; if reclaimed some of it could be tilled, 42471.—Drainage area mentioned included a good many estates; the chief ones were those of Lord Listowel, Lord Ormathwaite, Sir John Tuite Neligan and Mr. Talbot-Crosbie, 42434.—Most of them were sold to the tenants, 42435, 42463.—Lord Listowel tried to make an arrangement between tenants and Land Commission that a certain sum of money should be set aside for maintenance of drains, the burden of which would fall on the tenant, 42436.—If a public body had bought those estates it could have improved the drainage before re-selling to tenants; witness believed that large drainage works were done in Mayo by Congested Districts Board, 42437-9.—Congested Districts Board could not be expected to undertake burden of maintenance; it should be thrown on riparian owners; on the Listowel Estate they had undertaken it, with a grant from Lord Listowel; each owner would keep up his own drains, 42473-5.—Very useful if Congested Districts Board or Department would take it up; almost too large a work to be done locally Treasury might bear some of the cost, 42475.

Labourers' Cows feeding along the Road.

Mr. O'Connell's suggestion with regard to the labourers' cows was excellent; many labourers had cows which fed along the road; witness had offered grazing to a labourer, but he refused, as his cow was doing well on the road; rather a nuisance; desirable to have cow confined, 42475.

Constitution of Agricultural and Technical Education Committees.

The Agricultural and Technical Education Committees were two distinct bodies now, although originally there had been one committee, consisting of the whole Council; the Agricultural Committee consisted of the whole Council and some seventeen gentlemen appointed for their knowledge of agriculture; they were co-opted or appointed by the Council once

JULIAN, Mr. JAMES E. J.—*continued.*

a year, and as a rule they were re-elected; the Technical Education Committee consisted of the County Council, with a certain number of co-opted members, twelve or fifteen; the co-opted members were largely school managers, clergymen, etc., 42620-1.—Agricultural schemes were drawn up by the Department and put before the Agricultural Committee to adopt; they could be thrown out, but that would dislocate the whole business of the year, 42622-4.—Great difficulty in getting a quorum for the Technical Committee; County Council met on Thursday and Friday; Agricultural Committee was summoned for 12 on second day, and Technical Committee went after them; by that time most of the people were very tired, and had left; few of the elected members turned up, 42628.—The members came from all parts of the county; there was no tendency for representatives of non-congested areas to have more influence than representatives of congested areas; until recently the Congested Districts Board were not in it at all, but witness did not know that there was any particular difference between them, 42630-3.

Details of Agricultural and Technical Schemes.

The two committees spent altogether about £2,500 annually, 42625.—About £1,400 went to the Agricultural Committee; £450 was spent on 150 nominations of £3 each to mares selected to be sent to registered stallions; there were only three registered stallions in the county; it might be useful if the Department would send a really good sire; not a sire in the county that had cost more than £500 or £600; the county was far behind Limerick in horses; possibly the present method was the best method of disposing of the nominations, 42638.—Another £150 or £200 was spent on premium bulls; a farmer received a nomination, bought a premium bull, had to keep it for benefit of himself and his neighbours, and at end of the year he received £14 from the Department; there were agricultural instructors, and a certain amount was expended on demonstration plots; witness had never looked at them, and did not know whether anybody ever did; there were two instructresses in domestic economy, 42626.—The items were rarely discussed; but there was much discussion concerning removal of the art master in Listowel; his classes were not largely attended, so an additional domestic economy mistress was put on instead; Listowel was much aggrieved, 42627.—An efficient net-mending instructor had been sent out, but did not stay long enough to do good; Cashen fishermen said they knew how to make nets; much objection had been raised to exclusion of Kerry bulls from the schemes; only lately been allowed to have them, 42633.—There were not so many itinerant instructors before transference of agricultural work to the Department; no dissatisfaction at the change, 42635-6.—If the money given by the Board were given to the County Council they could probably spend it better; they might do better with a demonstration farm, 42637.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY.

See also pp. 1, 495, 611 *and* 623.

Cashen River Drainage District.

Witness had been asked to give some information with regard to the Cashen River Drainage District; catchment area of the Cashen and its tributaries comprised about 430 square miles; the area was drained by Rivers Feale, Galey, Brick, and Crompaun; Rivers Feale and Galey joined about six miles from the sea, and from their junction to the sea watercourse was called the Cashen river; about 5,000 acres were subject to flooding, and another 5,000 acres were waterlogged and comparatively unproductive; total area that would be benefited by a proper scheme of drainage would be 10.000 or 11,000 acres; between Ballybunion, Listowel, Kilflyn, and Causeway there was a patch of country which was practically a swamp, but was capable of being made into valuable agricultural land; the Cashen flowed within tidal walls and embankments to about a mile below Ferry Bridge; the surface of the 5,000 acres was not more than eleven to fourteen feet above low water mark, and was about the same or lower than the spring tide level; the tides affected the Cashen for its entire distance of six miles, 42779-80.—The level of the water in the river was raised at high tide by reason of its being confined within embankments; also the fresh water was banked up by the tidal pressure, 42481-2.—The tides not only affect the Cashen for a distance of six miles, but the Feale was affected for a distance of five miles further on, the Brick for four miles, the Galey for 2½ miles, and the Crompaun for 2½ miles; about 17 miles of these rivers were embanked on both sides, and drainage of lands adjoining was discharged, when tidal waters receded, through sluices inserted in the embankment; many of the sluices only acted for a short interval between the tides, with result that greater portion of the low-lying lands were comparatively worthless; if the tidal water could be prevented from flowing into the rivers the sluices would act continuously except when there were high floods, efficient drainage would be secured, and advantage of converting the water-logged land into good pasture would be immense, 42483.

Works Already Carried Out.

There had been large expenditure in construction of tidal embankments, but they had been found insufficient; in 1884 a Drainage Board was formed and a loan obtained from Board of Works to lower outlet of Cashen River to level of low water mark at neap tides from the seashore to about 125 perches upstream; two cuttings were made; one opposite Kilmore School, 900 feet long and a maximum depth of 13½ feet; it was intended to extend the cutting for 800 feet, depth to be 5½ feet, but no sinking was made in the second cutting; the level at present showed that the new cutting at the lower end was about 3 feet lower than the river bed; the expense of sinking the 3 feet was money thrown away, as the depth was not sufficient, 42483-5.

Cost of the Work already carried out.

Cost of the work as originally designed was estimated at £5,800; actual cost was £10,000, and the sum was levied on the drainage area although works contemplated were not completed; witness had the award showing the proprietors, and what each contributed; total amount was £10,054; area of lands improved was 5,784 acres; estimated value of land before drainage was £1,126 15*s.*, and estimated increase in value £972 17*s.*; if such a project were to be revived the landholders would naturally fight shy of it, and would be afraid that the estimate of expense might be as inaccurate as the previous one had been, 42485-6.—The estimate must have been very imperfectly formed, or the work had been very badly carried out, 42487.—Value of the land had not increased, the whole thing was a complete failure; witness did not think it would be successful if more was spent in the same direction, 42487-90.

Defects of Original Design—Suggestions as to what should be Done in the Future.

Promoters probably abandoned the design having ascertained that it had not the anticipated effect; design was fundamentally wrong, it provided for lowering discharging outfall of river waters without making provision to regulate inflow of tidal waters; result would be that more tidal water would enter the slob area than before the cut was made; tide rose ten feet in six hours, and would exert far greater pressure in forcing itself through the cutting than the river area could exert in forcing itself out; conditions necessary for success were to lower discharge of fresh water outlet, and at the same time to regulate or cut off the inflow of the tide; there should be erected across the estuary a tidal wall provided with flood gates which would shut out the inflowing tide when it had reached about half the height of neap tide, and impound the fresh water in the slobland during the interval of the last half of flood tide and the first half of ebb tide, when the flood gates would be opened and impounded waters allowed to escape; no tidal waters would flow to the upper side of the tidal wall, and the fresh water would be impounded for a maximum period of six hours, or twelve hours in the twenty-four, 42491.—In case of spring tides the influx of tidal water did not all escape before the next

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flood tide, therefore when there was high tide and very wet weather concurrently there was an accumulation of water on the sloblands for days and weeks at a time, 42493.—A wind from the west or north-west following the tide would have the effect of heaping up the waters on the estuary, 42424.—If there were a tidal wall the waters impounded by the closing of the flood-gates would in the intervals from half-flood tide to half ebb tide not accumulate over the slob area to a greater depth than two feet, and they would be from two to three feet below the surface of the 5,000 acres; at present an ordinary neap tide rose to the level of the greater portion of the 5,000 acres, and a spring tide would cover the whole area were it not for the embankments; unless witness's design or something similar could be adopted the land could not be sufficiently drained, because there could not be sluices to let off the land drainage; adjacent lands were water-logged, and the state of things was also likely to have an injurious effect on the health of the people, 42495.

COST OF PROPOSED WORK AND EXPENSE OF MAINTENANCE.

Cost of a tidal wall, etc., would be about £10,000; if the charge were confined to the lands directly subject to tidal influence, and if the money were advanced by a loan, repayable in thirty-five years at five per cent., it would mean a charge of £500 per annum; the estimate was exclusive of maintenance; both the Government and the county might contribute, leaving the land benefited liable to a moderate charge; the 4,000 or 5,000 acres outside the zone of tidal influence would be much improved, and ought to be included in the area of charge, but at a lower contributory rate, on the ground of benefits conferred; one result would be that the water would be taken away quickly, and a different kind of herbage would replace the aquatic grasses, etc., at present growing there, 42495-8.—Expense of maintenance would be comparatively small if the work were really well done, £50 a year would do it, 42500.—The works would require keeping clean, and the embankments would have to be maintained, 42501.—The embankments were maintained now, but it was very imperfectly done, 42502-3.

SOURCES FROM WHICH FUNDS MIGHT BE OBTAINED.

Hopeless to efficiently drain the area by a continuation of the works on the lines on which they were started; the people ought to be ready to charge themselves with the amount of benefit conferred; possibly the County Council would see its way to contribute, and Congested Districts Board would no doubt feel it a duty to assist, as the rivers affected the congested areas, 42505.—Some Department, either Congested Districts Board or some other, ought to contribute, because failure had followed the sanctioning of an imperfect scheme; the landholders ought also to contribute to the cost to the maximum extent of the benefits conferred, which should be measured as follows: lands should be valued in their present condition, and two years after the work was carried out they should be re-valued; each landholder should then contribute annually a sum representing the difference between the present value of the land and the estimated fair rent of the land in its improved condition; landholder would thus have his land improved without any risk; if that plan did not provide sufficient money the Government and the county should contribute, 42506.—It might be reasonable not to demand the whole of the improved value of the holdings, 42550.—A Drainage Board should be formed, which could then borrow money from the Board of Works; the money would be repayable in the form of an annuity through the Drainage Board; if the works cost more than estimated, and if improvement value was not sufficient to repay Board of Works, the balance should be obtained from some other source than from the owners of the land, either from the Government or the county, 42510-2.—The work would be carried out by engineers of the new Drainage Board, 42513.

QUESTION OF CONTROL OF DRAINAGE SCHEME.

A Department of Public Works ought to be created; people did not like the name Board of Works; but it

DORAN, MR. HENRY.—*continued.*

was not necessary to wait for that; if the Congested Districts Board had the control over the districts in question that they ought to have, in the absence of a Department of Public Works, such a scheme as witness had outlined might be taken up by Congested Districts Board so far as arranging preliminaries went; the people would probably be reasonable, but if not scheme would have to be abandoned, 42513-5.—Only about one-sixth of the drainage area lay within the scheduled area, and the Board would not be justified in undertaking responsibility of that kind, 42516-9.—Schemes had often been carried out outside congested areas for benefit of people inside, and present scheme might be considered such a scheme; proportion of total outlay assigned to congested area would be very small, 42520-2.—Before the Board could properly act either a larger area must be scheduled or the artificial line of congested and non-congested districts must be removed, 42523-5.—There was nothing to prevent the County Council and the people acting at once, and inviting co-operation of Congested Districts Board; the magnitude of the scheme would make the people chary of undertaking it, having regard to their previous experience; some Government Department should undertake it, 42526.—The Board would not be in quite the same position as at Kiltimagh, because there they were landholders, 42541.—If the whole district were scheduled the owners who had not yet sold to the Board would do so; the proprietors could then be formed into a Drainage Board; instead of landlords they would be tenant-purchasers; the sale of estates would not be a serious obstacle unless the people knowing their liability said the scheme could not be carried out, 42542-7.—If Congested Districts Board had control over the area they might give advice, instruction.

FISHING RIGHTS.

One difficulty might be that people might have vested rights in the fishing in the estuary, 42527, 42539-40.—The Lixnaw navigation would be done away with; witness did see a sign of sand being landed; these things would increase the cost, and perhaps put an end to the project; witness thought no part was navigable at low water; the people did not go up to Lixnaw except at high water; the only other way would be to lower the bed of the river, 42527-30.

CASHEN DRAINAGE BOARD.

The Drainage Board which had been formed had ceased to act; everything had been allowed to go loose, and the members were allowed to die out without being replaced; rivers must be in a worse condition now than they were in 1884, 42503.—Under the Act of 1863 when a Drainage Board was formed they were bound to hold a meeeting in September of each year, and in the event of a member of the Board dying or ceasing to act they could have a new election; probably it had not been done in the case of the Cashen Board, because the whole business was a complete failure, and they thought they were throwing good money after bad; an action could be brought against the Drainage Board to compel them to do their duty; it was the duty of the Board of Works to advance the money to put a drainage system in efficient condition if Drainage Board failed to do it after notification; in this case Board of Works had been as inactive as the Drainage Board; there had been several cases of the same kind where the Board of Works lay dormant until Congested Districts Board bought estates, 42531-5.—Witness had not looked into possibilities of lowering bed of river, and allowing facilities for mud to be drawn up for manurial purposes, 42537-8.

LAND PURCHASE IN KERRY.

The Board had not been offered any very suitable estates in Kerry, the failure to buy in some cases being caused by the prohibitive price asked, 42551.

Document put in by Mr. Henry Doran. *Page in Vol. VIII.*

Map of Cashen River, in connection with Drainage Scheme, ... to face 208

HAYES, Very Rev. Canon.

DECAY OF BALLYLONGFORD.

Aghavallan comprised the two modern parishes of Ballylongford and Asdee; it was bounded on the north by the Shannon, and extended along the river seven or eight miles; population of 2,700, principally agricultural; town of Ballylongford once busy and prosperous, was now industrially dead; population which forty or fifty years ago was 800 and 900, was now reduced to half; the little fleet of boats that had once studded the harbour and been a source of livelihood to fifty families was now reduced to two or three; Saleen Harbour had been in these days full of commercial life and energy; large boats could have been seen discharging cargoes and taking away agricultural produce; trade now reduced to importation of flour and meal and other products which ought to be manufactured at home, 42552.—Principal reason for the decay was the building of a railway between Limerick and Tralee; it was the outlet or harbour for supplying most of North Kerry and Listowel, and that was a great source of revenue to small town of Ballylongford; goods that used to come through Ballylongford came now by rail, 42553.—Listowel depended before on sea transit; now the railway brought what it wanted, and Ballylongford suffered thereby, 42554-5.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Industries were principally agricultural; there was pottery industry at one time not far from Ballylongford, 42556.—Absence of fish was the reason for decrease in fishing boats to great extent, 42557.—Permanent disappearance of fish in later years; improvement present year, 42558.—The fish were herring and salmon, but herrings had gone away to great extent, never much mackerel fishing, 42559-60.—Witness had never made representations to Mr. Green in connection with fishery off the coast; he did not feel justified, as it was not a congested area, 42607.—Volume of fisheries had very much decreased, it was a singular phenomenon and could not be accounted for, 42608.—There was salmon to any extent; two weirs worth £500 a year to owners, 42609.—Fishermen used to go to deep sea for mackerel and herring, 42610.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS. CONDITION OF TENANTS.

In Wren and Stokes' Estate there were ninety-two holdings, seventy-two of which were under £10 valuation, whilst fifty, or more than half, were under £5, 42561.—Eleven were judicial tenants, and others were never allowed to go into Land Court to get fair rents fixed, 42576.—Sixty of them were evicted and put back into their farms, twenty as graziers and forty under court leases; they were thereby excluded from going into court; remaining twenty either future tenants or hold under old lettings; land inspector had been sent down by Court of Chancery, report showing need of improvement on the estate; many families had no road leading to their houses from main roads; portion of estate bordering on the Shannon suffered from spring tides, which flowed over the land, as there was no embankment; since 1863 fifty-seven acres had been swept away, and four or five houses were now threatened with destruction, 42577.—In Asdee portion of Hickie Estate there were twenty holdings, and only four were over valuation of £10.

CRITICISM OF SYSTEM OF LAND TENURE, MIDDLE INTERESTS.

These estates were in Chancery, and should have been taken over by Congested Districts Board and declared congested; wretched condition of tenants revealed a system of land tenure as bad as could be found in any part of the world, principally on account of middle interests; each tenant had two or three landlords over him, 42561-2.—Landlords all supposed to get something out of the holdings, 42563.—Trinity College was head landlord in Ballylongford and Asdee, and sole owner of a few townlands, where Colonel Crosbie, the middleman, was evicted for non-payment of rent; that was the sole position of the two parishes having only two landlords, 42564.—Colonel Crosbie owed rent to Trinity College, and when fair rent was fixed, margin was left so small, 42565-6.—Trinity College had never taken any interest whatever in improving condition of estimates, 42570.—Reduction of rent did not affect head landlord; system of land tenure responsible for most of the distress and poverty of these parishes; rents were excessive before Act of 1881 came in, 42571-2.—Fair Rent Acts did not afford them anything like reasonable relief; personal element or middle interests entered into the fixing of fair rents; no matter what value of land may have been, middle interests must be protected; landlord's interest, irrespective of the value of land, was considered in determining fair rents, otherwise lands in witness's part of Kerry would be entitled to no rents at all, because land was not capable of yielding an agricultural rent, 42573-4.—Rent of more than two-thirds of holdings from Ballybunion to County Limerick was paid by American wages, or by household economy involving semi-starvation; consequence of evil of land tenure had entered into and vitiated land purchase; purchase prices were merely graded rents, 42575.

EMIGRATION.

Had it not been for the large emigration a great many people in poor areas would be in a far worse position; they would starve altogether, but for emigration, in such uneconomic groups; no means of living whatever, 42576.

REPRESENTATIVE OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD PROPOSED.

These two parishes afforded fine field for exercise of Congested Districts Board powers, but Kerry was practically shut out of benefits of this Department, and no representative had been placed on the Board; Kerry one of the poorest counties in Ireland, and it would have been a great advantage to have a representative on the Board, 42577-9.—As regards association with the county, Mr. Doran would be about the best authority, 42605.

WAYS AND MEANS OF RELIEVING CONGESTION.—LAND AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION.

There were 1,120 acres of untenanted or non-residential holdings, and distribution of these would be first step in direction of relieving congestion; valuation of this land was £435, and, allowing £10 for each holding, provision could be made for forty families, or for twice the number by the migration of these occupiers whose valuation was £5 or so, 42580-2.—To promote anything like prosperity along the northern seaboard Government would have to come to the aid of this poverty-stricken region; no use to look for agricultural prosperity until every foot of land along borders of Limerick to mouth of Shannon had been drained; this portion of sea coast, like the West of Ireland, not brought under notice, principally because there was a ridge of good land a quarter of a mile from the Shannon; there were two farms, one at £78, the other £74, which put up valuation of uneconomic holdings, 42587.

COURT LEASES.

These farms were held under Court leases, 42587.—Dividing valuation by population the high valuation on a few farms would interfere, 42582.—Farms held by tenants, 42583-4.—Negotiations were going on in case of large holding of Mr. Blacker Douglas, which he farmed himself; there was a proposal for Land Commission to buy it, but he would not accept price; witness thought they would come to terms later on, 42585.—The people were all small holders, even the graziers, 42586.—When a person was evicted, Court of Chancery sent down a valuer to value land at what price he liked, and it was a great grievance; people could not go into court for a fair rent afterwards, 42588.—Evicted tenant was put back and given seven years' lease at rent which was arbitrary on part of valuer; no chance of going into court, and there was a great difficulty in completing the sales, because these rents were higher than judicial rents, and purchase prices were based on the high rates, 42589.

HAYES, Very Rev. Canon—*continued*.

Drainage.

If district were scheduled it would have helped people to drain these areas, although Dr. O'Donnell appeared to indicate that it was only in those properties that the Board bought that they expended much money, 42589.—Drainage was an absolute necessity for the two parishes; it would be useless to give them tillage until land was drained, 42604.

Need for Drainage.

Land for most part in parishes of Ballylongford and Asdee was reclaimed bog land, entirely unsuitable for tillage, and would remain so until subjected to thorough and general scheme of drainage; aid of some beneficent Board necessary, as occupiers would never have sufficient capital to meet outlay; congestion of very pronounced type prevailed in both parishes, especially in Asdee; though they had not been scheduled as congested; two divisions in Ballylongford came nearer definition of congested area than Asdee, 70 per cent. of the holdings being uneconomic; definition of congestion very misleading; population and valuation no measure of congestion, 42561, 42582.

Dairying as compared with Tillage.

With present system of farming people could never hope for more than the means of furnishing mere necessaries of life; Government aid in the shape of loans or grants absolutely necessary; present system was all grazing and all milk; mistake for farmers to give up tillage completely; far more profitable if they turned to tillage; a farmer with ten cows sent milk to a creamery, and only got 3½*d*. at most per gallon for it; he could only send about twenty gallons daily to creamery, and that would be about 6*s*., or £2 for week at most; this could only go on for five weeks; all he could make out of his ten cows would be £40 a year, which was very little to support a family; if he had more tillage to feed his cattle and pigs it would be more profitable, 42591.—Farmers said they did not do this because they had not the labour, it was too high, and that there was nothing to pay but grazing the country, which was becoming impoverished because of emigration, 42592.—The only farm where they did a little tillage was where they had sons at home; in families where there were seven or eight children only one or two were at home; the rest had gone to America; tillage had been given up altogether, 42593.—People required education, 42594, 42603.—They had tilled before; with the collapse of agricultural prices in the seventies, when corn was sold for little or nothing, people gave it up, 42595-6.—Parts of Ireland well tilled, and other parts going out of tillage owing to emigration, 42598.—Tillage in Clare not so great as between Listowel and Tralee, hardly any tillage, 42600-1.—Place poorer along River Feale to Tralee, 42606.—If tillage were extended farming would be more profitable, 42611-2. —Should be encouraged by Government in some way; means of transit would give people greater taste for tillage.

Construction of New Pier proposed.

Construction of a new pier would be of immense advantage to Ballylongford, 42613-4.—Present pier practically useless owing to insufficient depth of water, and unsafe by reason of exposed situation, 42614.—It was built in the wrong place; other places where there would be no difficulty, and where the largest ships could come up; amount paid for transit was very high; if a boat or ship could come in there once a month there could be fairs and means of transit, 42615.—Boats called from Limerick sometimes, but very seldom; could not get in except at high tides, and then it was dangerous, 42616.—Dredging would not do; there was a primary difficulty, which was unforeseen in building the pier; there was a bar outside, which should have been cut away; provision of a new pier was one of the functions of the Congested Districts Board; pier was absolutely necessary for development of fishing industry, 42617.

HAYES, Very Rev. Canon—*continued*.

Railway from Listowel to Ballylongford Proposed.

Line of rail to Listowel would be an advantage to the district; only seven miles from Ballylongford, and if connecting line were made to Listowel, Ballylongford Harbour would become landing place for a large portion of the agricultural produce of North Kerry, 42617.—Corn, cattle, pigs, and similar agricultural produce would then be sent to England, 42618.

MOLYNEUX, Very Rev. Canon.

Poverty of Non-Scheduled Division of Ballybunion.

More poverty in non-scheduled division of Ballybunion than in any division in Listowel, congested or non-congested; more outdoor relief given than in any other division of the union, 42639.—Poor in North Kerry were exceedingly poor.—Whole of the parish of Glengariff in County Cork was scheduled as congested; there the average valuation of ten, twelve, or twenty occupiers would be about £2 per occupier; it would be evident to strangers who visited the place that these poor people needed relief, living, as they did, on uneconomic holdings, 42640.—In North Kerry there was such poverty that people had not a cow or two, as they had in Glengariff; emigration was most extensive, people went to iron furnaces in South Wales, etc., and the women did the work in spring after the potatoes were planted, 42640.—Land in North Kerry was mostly all bog, very little arable land; very little land which was productive and fruitful; heavy lands did not pay for tillage, especially when labour was high; witness did not think rising generation would ever approach the old people in their attention to business, such as drainage, etc.; extremely difficult to get them to go through slavish work, which was done so well and so long in time past, 42641.

Labourers' Cottages.

Very poor people in North Kerry had no holdings; Rural District Council had lately generously provided labourers' cottages and attachments, 42640; more labourers' cottages in North Kerry than in any other part of Ireland; necessity had arisen from fact that people were so badly housed, and had no land; Rural District Council had taken up the recent Act to such an extent that poor farmers in North Kerry were frightened; they did not know what to do with the taxation that was being heaped upon them; the Council doing all they could to carry out a great and useful business, but it was imposing a very heavy task upon them; notwithstanding reductions given in rent, difficulties of farmers had increased by increase of taxation, cost of labour, and its scarcity; witness had never seen the country in such a position as it was in now in its struggle to make ends meet, 42641.

Land Purchase in Kerry.

Witness knew of a large district on which tenants had purchased twenty years ago, but under duress, and when they were all under notice of eviction, and purchased at very high figures; purchasers were now prepared to forfeit twenty years' purchase and sign agreements under new Act of 1903; and, so difficult did they find it to pay their annuities that they would willingly agree to commence paying new annuities for sixty-eight years, provided they got credit for the twenty years they had paid already; no people would forfeit twenty years and sign again for sixty-eight years unless they were hard pressed, 42641.

HANRAHAN, Mr. JAMES.

Fishery at Ballylongford.

Salmon fishing in Ballylongford opened on February 12th, and lasted till 30th April; peel fishing opened May 1st and ended 1st July; then herring fishing commenced and ended on 1st November, and from this date until 14th May oyster fishing was in progress; fishermen of the locality could be profitably

HANRAHAN, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

employed all the year round; thirty fishermen living in the district, but only three had been fishing in past year; remainder mostly did occasional work, while some depended for their living on ferrying from Saleen to Kilrush; ten to twelve boats were required to supply these men; probable cost of each boat for salmon and herring fishing would be about £16 when fully equipped, 42642-3.—Congested Districts Board should provide boats for these men under present circumstances; also facilities in the way of a pier; present pier absolutely unsafe; in most important times of the tide the boats had to remain at Saleen for fully two hours in order to float out, and dangers were incurred by fishermen, and boats, in some cases sailing boats, had to remain altogether at Saleen owing to strong currents, 42644.

Pier at Carrig Proposed.

Witness suggested a pier at Carrig; it would be of highest advantage to fishermen, 42644.—Pier would be of commercial use to Ballylongford as well, 42645-6.—Only twenty feet of water at highest tide at the old pier; if new pier were provided there would be thirty-three feet, 42646.—Proposed pier would be accessible at almost any time of the tide; it would secure boats against any wind, especially north-west and south-west, which were dangerous to boats lying at Saleen pier; some boats had been swamped while lying there, 42651.—Trawling was carried on in the Shannon, but boats from Ballylongford never fished at this place, because they were too lightly built and too old, some of them practically obsolete; four boats should be given for dredging, trawling, and fishing; they should be built exceptionally strong in consequence of the heavy strain on them, and should be eighteen feet in keel, 42651, 42654, 42656.—Trawling had done great damage to salmon fishing which was outside the river, 42652.—Fishing outside the river was with nets; some of the nets were five miles long, 42653.—Coast was very dangerous, 42655.—Herring grounds were about one mile from proposed pier, 42657, 42661.—Resident fishing superintendent would be of great use on coast of Kerry, 42658.—It would help to keep Congested Districts Board in touch with local people, 42659.—Within last three years herring and mackerel had been caught by people from Ballylongford, 42660.—They waited until herrings came into the river, 42662.

Oysters.

Season for oyster dredging opened late in September and continued during winter months; very often boats engaged in this business were obliged to remain at Saleen for weeks owing to continued winds from south-west, west, and north-west, and this also occurred in summer time, when salmon and herring fishing was going on; public oyster bed was over three miles square, and was insufficiently stocked with oysters; two boats at present dredging never touched Ballylongford harbour, as they would not get sufficient to pay them for their trouble, 42646.—Irish oysters were very marketable; witness suggested laying out half a million oysters on this bed; they would be marketable in two years' time, 42651.—No application had been made to Mr. Green; people did not know whom to ask, 42647-9, 42650-1.—District was not scheduled, 42650.

DORAN, Mr. JOHN.

Description of Treatment of Labourers on Mr. Blacker Douglass's and Lord Listowel's Properties.

In a part of Mr. Blacker Douglass's property, of Kilconly, about 1881, and previously, there lived six families of householders, about thirty-six altogether, and all labourers; two families had one perch of land, and the other four held about fifty perches in all; each tenant had to pay £2 10*s.* a year in labour, at 8*d.* per day, even if others obtained 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* per day, thereby proving that the six tenants were paying £3 each, or £18 per annum, for their six mud cabins and fifty perches of land, and still had to maintain their families; Mr. Blacker Douglass was not responsible for this, as these men were only sub-tenants to farmers; four of these houses had since been levelled, and most of the occupants had emigrated to enrich other lands, and to enjoy that material and social position which had been denied them in land of their birth; Lord Listowel's property adjoined Mr. Blacker Douglass's property; in townlands of Kilconly and Beale Hill there were a great number of labourers, who had been evicted under middlemen and farmers, and had died of hunger in 1847, 1848, 1850; after that the landlord had evicted the middleman, and had held land in own possession for a number of years; he gave some employment for a time, but he took good care to leave many labourers landless; he would not even permit them one perch; some had a plot with a few hundred cabbages, but when his steward was having fences erected he had the surface of the plots taken to manure the quicks and furze seed on the fences; not one perch given to labourers, although landlord had 400 acres of untenanted land; about twenty-five labourers in the lands or farm of Scottish Provident Institution and adjoining it; and these men had only mud-wall thatched houses, with about eighty perches of land; they paid about £3 at one time, and had been paying £2 10*s.* for last twenty years; within last forty years they held as caretakers and weekly tenants, and paid said rents, at the rate of 8*s.* a week, without board, and another member of the family supplied them with food; these were only a few examples of what labourers had to undergo, and which proved the thrift and industry they had to exercise to maintain their families; often they were semi-destitute; no wonder their families fled from the country when opportunity offered; hence its depopulation, etc.; many others had to sustain life by gathering seaweeds, etc., 42663.

Claims of Cottiers with Less than Three-quarters of an Acre of Land.

There were some thousands of cottiers who were possessed of less than ¾ of an acre of land; they were exempt from present and past legislation, and exercised no tenant right, as they were debarred from entering the courts; this required immediate redress; even when sales took place, this class must remain as sub-tenants, if Acts of 1903 and 1881 were not amended; they should be permitted to enter courts and get fair rent fixed, 42663.—They should also be permitted to purchase if they desired; they must rely entirely on the recommendations of this Commission for redress; Lord Listowel's property was being purchased by the tenants, but sale was not yet completed; one man held a small house and a place for a manure pit; when engineer came round he claimed the site of a fallen room, so as to rebuild it if he so desired; but tenant farmer objected, and said that wall of existing portion must be boundary, and locked the gate to prevent him bringing in turf; house and site of room was a freehold, and Lord Listowel would not permit one perch of land to be attached to the house; there was a family of seven in this house, and all had emigrated except the one, who was now being tyrannised over; whether Estates Commissioners would defend his rights remained to be seen, 42664.

Kilehenny should be Dealt with as Congested—Evictions, Semi-destitution, etc.

Electoral Division of Kilehenny required to be scheduled as congested, because there were thirty-six families, or seventy persons in receipt of out-door relief, at annual cost of £240; there were about 205 holdings of £5 valuation and under; about 250 families had been evicted in 1847, 1848, 1850, for which there was no legal order; many died of starvation, others went to the union, and others emigrated; result of this clearance was the substitution of the bullock and large grazing tract, which debarred the division from being scheduled as congested in 1891; there was over 1,500 acres for the bullock, while there was nothing for the people but semi-starvation and the emigrant ship; there were seventeen future tenants, the victims of exorbitant rents, which in many cases were three times the valuation, and sometimes five times; about forty of the houses insanitary and uninhabitable; people received about £1,000 per annum from America, which in many cases prevented

DORAN, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

real destitution, 42664.—Witness obtained his information from the old people in the district, 42665-8.—The aforesaid lands were most conveniently situated for relieving congestion which existed; the landlord at time of former evictions was Major William Fairfield, 42669.

Knitting Industry.

Hosiery and knitting industry was carried out under supervision of nuns of St. Joseph's Convent, and gave employment to about eight; it had been abandoned for want of accommodation, as there was an advance to forty pupils in school attendance; application had been made to Agricultural Department to aid in reviving the industry, but enterprise required local capital, and industry fell through, which was great loss to the district; this was in 1905 and 1906; if Congested Districts Board took an active part it could still be revived, 42679.

Parish Committee Grants.

Necessity for reform in the rules of Congested Districts Board as regards Parish Committees; an artisan, no matter how impoverished he was, was not permitted to avail of the grant, nor were sub-tenants to farmers; for two years they excluded all cottiers holding less than one acre of land, 42670-1, 42673.—Some of the tradesmen were in very bad condition, and some were well-to-do, but, no matter how impoverished they were, they could not be assisted, 42673.—Parish Committee should have discretion to give relief, 42673.—Sub-tenants had security in their holdings; as long as they paid their rent to farmers they had security; people with more than ¾ of an acre of land could apply for fair rent; if supervisor's estimate did not exceed £2 10*s.* applications were not entertained; they were entertained in 1906-7, 42674.—Committee had made suggestions to Board, but they would not entertain such cases; if estimate were 30*s.*, that would be on a dwellinghouse, people would only get one-fourth, if it was repairing an out-house; landholders whose valuation was under £7 were eligible for individual grants; a grant not exceeding £3 for the erection of an out-office, and not exceeding £5 for a dwellinghouse; on Port Royal Estate a tenant might receive a grant towards an out-house not exceeding £4, and for a dwellinghouse a sum of £10; difference of £1 in one case and £5 in the other, 42675.—Ballybunion Parish Committee obtained a grant of £75 a year for three years; people were so impoverished that they could only avail of about £6, and about £65 was returned; in second and third years the amounts returned to Board were £26 1*s.* 3*d.* and £10 8*s.*, that is to say that in three years £101 9*s.* 3*d.* was not returned to Board; if people had not received £10 from landlord to commence, even this would not have been availed of; Board would not permit the returned money to be expended in road-making and drainage in the district, where it was required, notwithstanding fact that over £200,000 towards reclaiming and developing the district would be required; people thought when they sent it back that it would be returned to them again, but were refused; one-third of the estimate in repairing dwellinghouses was allowed, and one-fourth in repairing out-offices and fences, draining, etc.; work had to be completed before they even got the one-fourth; people so poor that they very often could not undertake the work; people whose valuation was up to £10 should be permitted to avail of Board's grants; those whose valuation was £5 and under should obtain free grant of half the estimate, and artisans should be included; the Board would not allow draining or fencing until the houses were done up; some people had withdrawn because they were not in a position to carry out the work; and money would not be permitted to be availed of for draining and fencing until houses were done; 42676-7.—There were some scheduled districts that did not think it worth while to avail of Board's offer, 42677.

Land Purchase.

Best means of relieving congestion and stopping emigration was to purchase all untenanted and all other lands in the market for sale, by compulsion or otherwise, at a fair price, and sub-dividing it into economic holdings; Estates Commission should have right of pre-emption respecting private lands under their control and being offered for sale, and workers in general and uneconomic holdings, and landless working classes had first claim on these lands, 42677-8.—There should be financial aid in starting home industries; roads and other public works should be carried out under direct labour; there should also be compulsory sale of land at a fair price, which would abolish great expenses of Land Commission and other things; land speculators and capitalists should be strictly prohibited from purchasing any land save real waste, reclaimable land, Government did not undertake to do so; it was well known that a capitalist had many other ways for investment to maintain livelihood, and as men formed the real wealth of nation, remedy must be found for obtaining that wealth; emigration of proportion of the occupiers must take place, so as to enable remaining one to prosper; plenty of land was available for that purpose, 42680.

Representation of Kerry on Board.

Important that a representative of Kerry should be member of Congested Districts Board, 42680.

Emigration.

The lot of many of the working class in Ireland was intolerable; their only safety being flight to other lands, and Ireland would be ruined if they continued to go to make wealth for America, 42680.

Restrictions on Use of Bull Sent by Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural Board sent a bull to congested district of Gullane, and the first year he was limited to forty cows; after three years he was limited to forty cows besides the cattle of the man in charge; some took cows this year about 1st June, but they were refused, 42680-1.—Character of Ireland had been run down to certain degree; it was considered that police committed many of the outrages, as in case of Sergeant Sheridan, where it was proved, 42682.—A tar-monger was where people did not wish to take away life and threatened the offending people, 42683.—People wanted to keep their holdings; Irish people as a rule did not want to take life; they had died of hunger even rather than do so, 42684.

AHERNE, Mr. PATRICK J.

Glensharrold Electoral Division of Newcastle West Rural District.

Glensharrold Electoral Division comprised townlands of Glensharrold, Knockanagun, Carrickerry, Knockfinish, and Boranizue, and was a unit of Newcastle West Rural District, with area of about nine square miles, and population of about 1,000; poor-law valuation was about £936, and number of householders 145, majority of whom belonged to toiling class, and had to eke out scanty subsistence as best they could under very unfavourable conditions; little or no employment and scarcely any industry in district, the principal one being peat industry, which was now on the wane, most of the mine being cut away; farmers were only in middling circumstances, and gave very little employment, so land was left unreclaimed and undrained, great many of their farms being cut-away bog or moor; principal crops raised were potatoes, turnips, cabbages, and oats; potato crops not good in recent years, even last year's crop was partial failure; in district adjoining there were vast tracts of waste land which, if reclaimed and broken up into small allotments and distributed among poorer classes, with State aid, would become productive and afford beneficial return to community at large; toilers would then be enabled, by economy and industry, to live in comparative comfort at home instead of dreaming of an El Dorado across the sea; young people went to America having no prospect of a living at home; emigration had sapped the bone and sinew of manhood of Glensharrold during past twenty-five years; there were about 3,000 acres of waste land

AHERNE, Mr. PATRICK J.—*continued.*

in Rooska division, and a large colony of poor people almost destitute; congestion was also rampant there chiefly from same causes as in Glensharrold Division; unless Congested Districts Board took up the matter and acquired this land it would remain in its primeval wildness, and people would derive no material benefit therefrom, 42685.

Tree-planting.

Some of the mountain chains extending from Carrickerry to confines of North Kerry would be admirably suited for planting trees, 42685.

Limestone Quarries.

There were splendid limestone quarries within three or four miles of Glensharrold, and if railway were constructed to connect Ardagh with Listowel, passing through immediate mountain districts, limestone could be brought to where it was badly needed, and famous sand of Ballybunion could also be properly utilised, which, owing to the distance and lack of convenience, had not been resorted to for reclamation or tillage purposes by Glensharrold people, 42685.

Means of Livelihood.

Direct labour had been in operation in district during winter, but only a few labourers were employed; some of the poor lived by selling turf in Newcastle and Ratheale, while others lived on earnings of children in domestic service in East Limerick and remittances from friends and children in exile, which helped to pay rent of the little cut-away patches of bog; finest material in all Ireland for manufacture of peat moss was to be had in the district; it abounded with many resources, but means of development were not at disposal of working population, 42685.

Land Purchase.

Knockanagun and Carrickerry properties had been purchased under Ashbourne Act at eighteen years' purchase; there were eleven labourers' cottages in electoral division, and five under new scheme; good number of projected applicants who could not at present be supplied with houses; tenants of James O'G. Delmege were negotiating purchase agreements with agent; there were about fifty-six tenants, farmers and lot-holders; the lot-holders occupied three or four-acre plots, and lived by cutting and selling turf; if estate were purchased and sale of turf stopped they would starve, having no industry to rely on; produce of their little holdings would not maintain themselves and families; if whole electoral division was scheduled it would tend to improve land and people generally; farmers lived by dairying and stock-raising on a small scale; agriculture was partially abandoned, 42685.—Newcastle West had eight or nine electoral divisions with valuation under 30*s.* per head; poorest seemed to be Mount Collins, having valuation of only 17*s.* per head, 42687.—In witness's district it was only £1 5*s.* 7*d.*, and the outlying districts were the same, 42687.

Emigration.

Emigration had wrought a great change in the district; thousands of acres were lying partially idle, and would remain so until something was done by the Government to put it into cultivation, 42687.

Poverty of District.

Vice-President of Department of Agriculture had visited district in the days of the Plan of Campaign, and had described the people as a colony of squatters; only people going among them could tell how badly off they were, 42687.

SCOLLARD, Mr. CHARLES.

Burden of Taxation in Glensharrold Electoral Division.

Witness wished to bear out what Mr. Aherne had said about Glensharrold Electoral Division; the country was beyond any other country, mostly wilderness all round; people taxed much more than they were able to pay; witness represented labourers of the locality of Carrickerry; he was a small farmer, and had thirty or forty acres of peaty soil of his own, and it was very hard to pay rates at present time; he did not know why rates went up so much this year; if another year came like this people would have to leave rates, land, and Government to themselves, and would have to emigrate, 42688-90.—Witness farmed for dairy purpose, 42691.

Necessity for a Light Railway passing through Athea.

If a light railway were made to Listowel, passing through Athea, it would do a great deal for the country round; Athea was becoming an important little town; between £300 and £400 of butter was bought there weekly; City of Limerick would hardly represent so much, 42692.

PIERSE, Mr. GARRETT.

General Conditions of Life in Gullane.

Division of Gullane was situated at estuary of the Shannon near seaside resort of Ballybunion, and was about fourteen miles distant from Listowel, the nearest market town; people were sober, honest, and industrious, but land consisted of reclaimed wild bog and barren mountain slopes, with a retensive sub-soil, and aspect towards the north, and was very much exposed to ocean gales; no trees or shelter of any kind prospered, and, consequently, cattle had to be housed and hand-fed from 25th October to 13th May; not much tillage; it did not pay in this exposed country; witness had seen potato stalks blighted twice a year by storms; chief industry was butter-making, but lately it had been sale of milk at creameries and rearing of calves; great fall in price of agricultural produce had affected people of this district very much, as they had no industry to fall back on; great many small farmers who had only one or two acres which were of such poor quality that they were very poor; outdoor relief alone in the division was 2*s.* 4½*d.* in the £, and people received yearly between £300 and £400 from America and elsewhere; yet they were deeply in debt to local shopkeepers; witness was a shopkeeper, and he had given value of about £800 in credit, 42693.—Witness trusted these tenants, poor as they were, because they could be trusted if they got help in any way to make a living, 42694.—Tenants' leases fell out about years 1875 and 1876, and landlord (Wilson Gunn) actually doubled rent on some of the tenants; even witness's own holding, which had been let for £15, was now £43, and, after going twice before Land Court, was still £19 10*s.*, poor law valuation being £16 15*s.*; far easier for tenants to pay big rents in the seventies than it was to pay reduced rents now; price of food more than doubled on account of the changes, and county cess had increased from 3*s.* 6*d.* in the £ to 8*s.* 3*d.*; then there was a fall of 35 per cent. in price of butter, and, worst of all, it was hard to get sufficient labour, as most of the young people were going to America; when bad land was out of cultivation for a few years it soon went back to its original state—growing rushes and heath, 42693.

Land Purchase.

Present landlord (Mr. R. Huggard) became owner of most of the property in this division about five years ago, and, it was openly stated, for a very small sum; Mr. Huggard was only a middleman, Trinity College being head landlord; when Land Purchase Act of 1903 was passed tenants approached agent with regard to a sale of the property, and his reply was that nothing could be done until report of Trinity College Commission was issued; after report was issued tenants had another interview with agent, who offered to sell at reduction of 6*s.* 6*d.* on first term rents and 4*s.* 6*d.* on second term rent, which was unanimously refused, as it was considered entirely inadequate; agent then asked to sell to Congested Districts Board, but he refused, 42693.

PIERSE, Mr. GARRETT—*continued.*

Compulsory Powers for Congested Districts Board proposed.

If Government did not give compulsory powers of purchase to Congested Districts Board, or some such popular body, landlord of this district would have power of compelling tenants to purchase at his own terms, because he was turning them into caretakers under Eviction-made easy Act of 1896; last April landlord had had sixteen of those tenants summoned before petty sessions court to turn them out of their homes, but he did not appear this time; better for tenants of this district that Land Purchase Act of 1903 was never passed if Government did not give necessary powers to Congested Districts Board to purchase these poor, congested estates and resell to tenants at a reasonable price; also to make improvements and roads which were very much required in the district and to purchase 500 acres of untenanted land which was owned by the Scottish Company on next estate, and to aid cottage industries, 42693.

GRIFFIN, Mr. PATRICK.

Townland of Glenagrogary should be Scheduled as Congested.

Townland of Glenagrogary in Electoral Division of Kilfergus, should be scheduled as congested; there were two other properties, one to the east and one to the west, of about equal dimensions, rents, and valuations; in Glenagrogary there were thirty-three holdings, and the actual value was £99, or £3 per holding per tenant; second term rents amounted to £165, 42694.—Congested Districts Board should take up the business of scheduling, 42695.

Negotiations for Purchase.

People had tried to negotiate with landlord for a purchase, and landlord had challenged them to sell, and given them the liberal offer of 3*s.* 6*d.* in the £ abatement on their rents; people offered to buy at 18½ years' purchase on second term rents, and 16¼ years on first term rents; there were twenty-one holdings out of the thirty-three under £3 valuation, and some of them were down to 5*s.* and 10*s.*; only seven holdings over £5; people believed that without assistance of Board or some other Board they could never buy on reasonable terms from landlord; rents had been raised time after time to double what they had been, and better portions of land taken from some of the tenants and put into lots, which brought on congestion; witness's sole object was that the Board should buy on reasonable terms, 42695.

MULVILLE, Mr. MICHAEL W.

Condition of Listowel Urban District.

Listowel Urban District was in very bad position; witness would like to see it under protection of Congested Districts Board; area was 1,773 acres, and number of houses about 500; no houses had been built for poorer classes by any public body; result was they were crowded into dirty little cabins with mud walls and thatched roofs, only one or two rooms; Town Commissioners had borrowed some years ago about £7,000; things had gone against them, and they now had to pay a percentage of £300 odd to the Board of Works, and they were very hard pressed, 42696.—Loan was for waterworks, which turned out a partial failure, and about £4,000 or £5,000 was lost; their rates were about the second highest in Ireland, about 11*s.* in the £; Council had to pay this rate for thirty-five years more; about sixty-eight mud-walled cabins in the town, and they were quite congested; the men could not get work.

Chief Industry.

Chief industry was agriculture, which meant a little tillage and a great deal of pasture; there were untenanted lands about the town that could be used for purposes of creating economic holdings, 42697.—Railway to Listowel *via* Newtown and Ballylongford would be a very good thing for tourist traffic, 42698.

BAKER, Mr. THOMAS.

Neglect of Kerry by Congested Districts Board Alleged.

Congested Districts Board had not given necessary proportion to County Kerry; they had been established for relieving congested areas in 1891; population in these areas at that time was 547,710, and was reduced to 498,000; after ten years of Board's work in congested portion of Kerry during same period population declined from 89,698 to 80,297; when Board was established it was generally thought that its special object was to relieve congestion, etc., but each of the seven congested counties had on an average 6,000 less of population than in 1891; people very pleased to have Board, but something was radically wrong when population was decreasing instead of increasing, 42736-7.—Kerry possessed one-sixth of the population of all the congested areas in Ireland, therefore if the necessary precautions had been taken by those who were in authority it would be entitled to one-sixth of entire expenditure of the Board; ten headings of expenditure, such as purchase of estates, improvement of estates, etc., and they had expended up to the present, in eleven years, one and a quarter millions sterling, 42701.—Which included purchase money of estates, and was, therefore, money which would be repaid to Board when tenants bought estates, 42721.—People in Kerry felt they had been slighted in a very large measure; under purchase of estates, improvement of estates, and industrial schemes, people had received nothing, 42702.—There had been estates purchased in County Kerry since March 1902, 42703-4.—Kerry one of the counties that was in the shade as far as landlord business was concerned, with exception of a few who at once took the opportunity to sell; people were of opinion that whole attention of Board was directed towards Connaught, and not towards giving equal treatment among the different congested areas; proper authorities did not take pains to ask as to whether justice was being done to congested areas, 42708.

Land Act of 1903.

Until Land Act of 1903 no landlord had been found reasonable enough to deal with Board or to comply with wishes of the people in a general way; Land Act of 1903 was based on a very large principle of the British Cabinet asking landlords and tenant occupiers of Ireland to come to the conclusion of amicably settling matters between them; it meant affording landlord a means of coming by every penny that his estate was worth, and affording tenant occupier as much room as was possible for making the best bargain for himself; all reasonable, humane landlords in Ireland at once availed of the idea; landlords not only given this opportunity at the time, but also given £12,000,000 of a grant to induce them to sell to occupiers of Ireland, and, to witness's mind, from that time the Cabinet wished the landlords to get out, 42705.

Piers and Slips; Criticism of Action of Congested Districts Board.

For every slip and pier they wanted the people had first to appeal to Congested Districts Board, who acknowledged receipts of communication, etc., and then considered what subscriptions or contributions they would extend towards the work, if any; there were half a dozen slips most necessary to encourage fishing industry west of Dingle, and a dozen bridges were required; witness got resolution passed at last meeting of Kerry County Council for a most necessary work outside Ballymore, for the different islands, the different parts of Ventry, for the coastguards at Ventry Harbour, and for the fishermen in Ballymore, as well as Dingle fishermen; witness had not an accurate knowledge of figures, he was in America at the time; he had pointed out the utility of this work for the fishermen, and Congested Districts Board had offered to pay half the cost if local authorities were willing to carry out the work at an expense of £150; about fifteen or sixteen years ago Mr. Green and Mr. Keating, of Congested Districts Board and Fishery

BAKER, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

Board, came down to Kerry to inspect; it was the time Canon O'Sullivan was there; he had taken up the necessity of getting a deep water pier built; Congested Districts Board pleased with the idea, and offered £22,000 for that slip, but owing to difficulty of obtaining an approach, and indifference on part of people, it lapsed, 42708.

Amount Paid by Barony of Corkaguiny in Respect of Railway and Harbour Charges.

No good in finding fault with Congested Districts Board in the past, but witness would like to draw the attention of the Commission to amount paid by the Barony of Corkaguiny in respect of railway and harbour charges; total amount paid to Commissioners of Public Works in respect of Fenit Pier alone was £19,450 0*s.* 7*d.*, less amount received under Local Government Act of 1898 £1,450 16*s.* 3*d.*, leaving total of £17,999 4*s.* 4*d.*; total amount paid to Great Western Railway in respect of Farranfore and Killorglin Railways, £6,539 19*s.* 9*d.*, less under same Act £644 12*s.* 5*d.*, leaving balance paid by barony of £5,895 7*s.* 4*d.*; total paid for Tralee and Dingle Committee of Management, £55,795 17*s.* 7*d.*, less reduction of £11,222 17*s.* 10*d.*, leaving total of £44,572 1*s.* 9*d.*; total net amount paid to date by Corkaguiny Barony in respect of railway and harbour charges, £68,467 11*s.* 5*d.*; it was a special year for Dingle Railway; for past sixteen years rates had averaged over 2*s.* in the £, but this year they had been brought down to 4*d.* in the £, 42709.

Total Special Charges on Land and Buildings in Corkaguiny.

Total special charges levied in Barony of Corkaguiny on land was 5·43*s.*, on buildings the general rates were 7*s.* 6*d.*, and total rate 7*s.* 10·33*d.*, which would come up to nearly 13*s.* in the £, including lands and buildings, since 1903 to present time, 42709.

Dingle Railway.

About fifteen years ago Dingle Railway was brought on as a burden, now looked upon as a benefit; the people knew nothing of railway work; experts had pointed out the utility of having the line, and whole thing was taken for granted; people thought that whatever they were told was right; they saddled themselves with a very heavy burden under the Railway Scheme; the contract was then given, and the passing of the line was in the hands of Board of Works, with result that they passed curves which should be five-chain curves as three-chain curves, 42710.

Price of Land and Distance from Market.

Long distance from a market in remote districts; this was not considered by landlord when selling; Lord Cork sold to his tenants in Cork at 21½ years' purchase; he wanted 23·31 from his tenants, though it took a tenant farmer two days and a night away from home, and cost £2, to take his horse and sell it at Castleisland fair, within his own county, 42715A.

Absence of Industries.

In the absence of industries and factories people would have to pay for clothing and everything else down from the market in County Cork; they would have to pay for their meal, flour, and bacon, their horse, cow, and sheep; even eggs and butter would have to pay for themselves again until they reached the Cork market, 42715.

Parish Committees.

There was no Parish Committee in Kerry at present; there had been one, 42716-7.—People did not seem to think it was worth taking up, 42718.—Houses and villages in the townlands of witness's district were built in clusters years ago, possibly on account of the heavy storms existing at that time; yards now divided by stones placed on edge, and when the

BAKER, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

people were offered a paltry little item by Congested Districts Board to remove, or to build out-offices or dwelling-houses, it could not be done unless they went out on their own lands and built there; they were held responsible by Board, under Parish Committee system to remove the manure heap at least fifteen yards away from the house; all more or less in favour of this, as the district was visited every season with fever, which was an expense to the rates, 42719.—Parish Committee scheme had been pretty well taken up of late, 42738.—But County Kerry had not received its proportionate assistance from Board in the past, 42741.—Parish Committees were giving out grants to encourage housing of the people; a man builds a house with his own horses, his own men, and his own money; immediately the building is erected the supervisor comes, and puts at least £50 on the house; there was a coastguard station at Ballydavid, with several buildings and at least two acres of best land; this townland, buildings and land for some of them is about £3 10*s.*, and £50 is put on the unfortunate fisherman, who brings his little means from the high seas, though he is not afforded a safe landing at night from Congested Districts Board, 42715A.

Land Purchase.

The sum for purchase of estates was £438,000, and £158,464 was the amount for improvements, which was added to preceding figure, 42722-3.—When estates were sold to tenants Board would be recouped the price paid, and, to some extent, price paid for improvements, 42724.—Since 1902 Board had bought £140,000 of land in Kerry; they desired to buy much more, but public authority ought not to put up price by paying too much for land, 42725.—Board should be cautious not to pay too much for land, 42726.—They would not have bought land unless at a reasonable price, 42727.—Ventry project was a good one; not the Board's fault that it did not mature, 42728-9.

Complaint as to Operations of the Board.

Board's letters did not come up to the mark placed before them by authorities of the county, 43732.—They should have allowed the money when called upon; county authorities and local authorities were already to saddle themselves with further responsibility in order to carry out necessary work; up to time of appointment of Sir T. Esmonde County Kerry might just as well have been cut away from Great Britain and Ireland, 42733.—Up to 1902 Board had expended more on Kerry than any other county for sea works, 42735.

Fishing Industry.

Fishing industry in Ireland most essential, and Board should make greater arrangements for developing it; safe landing places most necessary; owing to rents in Kerry being gauged broadly on Griffith's valuation it would be well to have a revaluation if possible; climate had greatly changed, and land worth £2 at that time was now not worth more than 25*s.*, 42741.

O'DONNELL, Mr. THOMAS.

Congestion.

One-sixth of the congested districts in Ireland was in Kerry, and for a long time the county had been neglected; generally speaking the county was mountainous; there was extreme congestion, and there was practically no untenanted land to be divided, 42742.

Land Purchase in Kerry.

Something could be done by purchase of estates, improvement of the land and improvement of the

O'DONNELL, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

home, 42743.—The Board had not purchased many estates in Kerry; they were always willing to do everything in their power, but landlords would not sell, 42770.—Ventry Estate was large and fairly congested; two or three alternative proposals for purchase had been made; one was to give such a price as, with the bonus, would amount to landlord's average net income, taken over any period he liked—ten or fifteen years; offer was also made to allow price to be fixed by Congested Districts Board, because it was impossible for individual tenants to purchase holdings so scattered, or holdings where five or six men were joint tenants on a valuation of £5, as in the Cooms district, 42772-3.—Witness would do everything in his power to prevent estate being sold, except through Congested Districts Board; the old village community existed in parts of the district; houses were to be found clustered together; they were a hot-bed of disease, and it would be a scandal to allow estates to be sold in that condition, 42774-5.—Board had bought one estate at Killorglin, and were at work on another estate at Glenbeigh; their work was excellent; in the worst part of Connaught it was scarcely possible to equal condition of people in Cromane, on the Ventry Estate; their houses were a disgrace to civilisation; in Cromane Upper there were ninety-five holdings, population of 472, and valuation of £69, or 2*s.* 10*d.* per head; in Killorglin Electoral Division there was a population of 1,697, and valuation of £691, or 8*s.* 1*d.* per head, 42776.—In Donegal, Connaught and Kerry there was not a townland to equal the condition of Cromane, 42778.—Board had bought the Rea Estate just outside Killorglin; they had done all they could, which was very little, as they were circumstanced, 42777.—The Wynne Estate, in Glenbeigh, had also been purchased by the Board, 42778.—Mahony Estate at Dooks was to be offered to the Board; it was near Cromane, and was in almost as bad a condition, 42789.—It was in rundale, and the tenants all owed arrears; the following prices for estates purchased showed the reductions made:—On the Denny Estate, purchased under the Ashbourne Act, one man's rent was £48, annuity £12; another, rent £50, annuity £14; reduction was generally from 70 to 75 per cent.; in other cases the rent was £21, annuity £7, and rent £14, annuity £3 10*s.*; the old rents were extremely high, and the present annuities were quite high enough, 42790-2.—The following were typical of replies from landlords:—One letter from Trinity College, signed by Dr. Traill, said that the agent had full directions as to terms of sale, that the number of years' purchase did not concern the tenants, as they had no money wherewith to purchase; that all they were concerned with was the reduction in the present rents when they were changed into instalments to the State, a present being made to them of the fee-simple of their farms; that all offers must be within the zones prescribed by Act of 1903; that terms of purchase under former Acts were irrelevant, as no such terms were ever offered to tenants under those Acts as were offered under Mr. Wyndham's Act; the above was a specimen of the treatment tenants had met with, the difficulty being worse in congested than in richer districts; Trinity College took about £10,000 out of Kerry; it was direct landlord of a considerable portion, and also head landlord, with middle landlords intervening in other places; one case in which there were seven; witness could not say what proportion of the gross rents Trinity College took, 42793-800.—In Lord Ventry's case, his reply simply put the tenants aside, 42801.

Fair Rents, Arrears.

Rents on the Ventry Estate had not been lowered through operation of the Land Act of 1881; in remote districts tenants did not so readily go into court as in districts where they appreciated the value of Acts, and for a number of years Lord Ventry did not collect his rents harshly; while Captain De Moleyns was agent no threats as to arrears were used, and in many cases a gale's rent was accepted for a year's rent, with the result that many were still without any abatements under Act of 1881; at the present time 350 tenants had served notice to have fair rents fixed, because there was a different agent, and the year's rent would now be collected within the year, 42778.—It was doubtful if anybody knew

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under what system the rents had previously been collected; they would take anything they got; receipts such as the following were common—"Received, October 12th, 1904, from representatives of Cornelius Brian and sons, out of holding at Loghart, the sum of £5 10*s.*, being half year's rent due to Lord Ventry, up to and ending the 1st November, 1899; cash £4 13*s.* 6*d.*, temporary allowance 16*s.*"; the representative of tenant was aged 65; he had applied to have his own name put in, but the agent would not do it; witness did not know why; there was another receipt where six men had a holding of £5 10*s.* valuation; they got a joint receipt, 42779-81.—The following instance was an average one of rent compared with valuation:—John Tretton, poor law valuation £4 5*s.*, rent £8 5*s.*, and the rent before 1872 was £1 8*s.*; it was not a judicial rent, 42782-3.—Great majority of the Ventry tenants did not go into court; hundreds had become future tenants through operation of Act of 1887; arrears should not keep a man out of court; but the agent asked for arrears whenever a man was going into court; the tenant could not pay them, and, therefore, did not go into court, 42784.—The law allowed a tenant to have a fair rent fixed irrespective of what he owed as arrears, but if he wished to do so the landlord could sue for arrears; if the case was fought out there might perhaps be a stay of proceedings, 42785-6.—There were various ways in which a man's being in arrears would prevent him going into court; without any actual threat there was a hazy belief about that if a man went into court his arrears would be enforced, 42788.—Witness could give other instances where the valuation was about half the rent in the Castlegregory district, 42788.—A temporary reduction of about 3*s.* in the £ was always given, though witness knew of cases where it had been withdrawn; in Castlegregory district there was a case of four men being joint tenants of a holding; value of holdings in this district could be ascertained by number of milch cows they would carry; in case referred to, for eleven milch cows there was a rent of £65—£6 a cow—an impossible rent; in Cloghane also the rent was twice the valuation, 42789.

Fishing Industry.

Fishing industry, if properly developed, would be a great advantage to the county; Dingle Bay was excellent, so were Cahirciveen and Dingle Harbours, and there were excellent fishermen all along the coast; the district included one-seventh of all the fishermen in Ireland, and one-seventh of the value of the fish; amount of fish caught by Irish boats and landed in Ireland was not half a million for the year, 42743-6.—In Scotland the value was about £2,500,000, but there boats and landing places were considerably better than those in Ireland; Congested Districts Board might give better facilities, either by loans or free grants, to men who were ready to take boats and work them; men in the Cromane district had got some boats, and were doing well; in Dingle the fishermen had got on exceedingly well; they were careful and hard-working, but the same might be said of all the men round the coast; if they were to get on it was by devising some means whereby they could get boats, nets, training where necessary, and facilities for sending fish to market, 42746.

Question of an Inland Market for Fish.

The Dingle fishermen desired to find a market inland for their fish; the Congested Districts Board said they were not able to provide it; possibly the reason for sending the fish away was that prices were higher than inland, 42747.—Witness doubted the fact of there being no inland markets; he saw tons of fish going from Ireland to England by the Rosslare route, almost every week; some of it went to Queenstown and Bantry, and witness believed that an industry could be developed in home markets, 42748-9.—There might be some central organisation in a county like Kerry which would ensure a constant supply to dealers in Cork, Dublin, etc.; if that could be done there would be a considerable trade to inland towns, 42750-1.—Kerry institutions bargained for Irish fish in their contracts; witness could not say as to the asylum, Dr. Mangan, the Chairman, would see to that, 42752-3.—The best of everything was exported;

witness desired to enlarge the market in Ireland; there were young men ready and willing to work, and every encouragement and facility should be given them, 42755-8.

BOATS.

Larger boats were needed; the Scotchmen and the Manxmen took the fish from their doors; witness had no objection to their coming, but he would rather that the Kerrymen could take their own fish, 42759.—It was a question of money; say a boat cost £300, and it was possible to get £100 as a free grant and £200 as a loan, at a low rate of interest, many fishermen would avail of that scheme, 42760.—One hundred years ago Kerry was the scene of a big herring fishery, and the traditions were not lost, 42761.—It would be an advantage if the Board were to station a resident fishing superintendent on the Kerry coast, and it might also be possible to establish a boat-building industry in some part of Kerry, 42762.

DECLINE IN FISHING.

Value of fish caught at present in Kerry seas was £60,000; if fishing were developed that figure would multiply by ten; the men could follow the fish if they had boats, 42763.—Decline in fishing was caused partly by fish ceasing to come, and partly by decrease in population; no county where population had decreased so much as in Kerry; in fifty years Donegal had sent away 201,000, Mayo, 164,000, and Kerry 211,000; a great many of the fishermen had gone, 42764.—Witness did not know whether population would have gone if fishing had continued to pay; until recently the Kerry boats were canoes, and did not go far from shore, 42765.

POOR RATES IN DINGLE.

Rates in Dingle varied from 9*s.* 11*d.* to 11*s.* 4*d.* for the town; there was a population of 2,000, and there was neither light nor water, nor sewage, 42765-7.—It took in a small part of the rural district, but it was not that that made the rate so high; the pauper statistics were even worse; all over the county an immense amount was paid for poor relief; it was the worst of the congested areas, 42768-9.

HOUSING QUESTION—NEEDS OF SMALL OCCUPIERS.

Although many labourers' cottages had been built, there were still in Kerry 3,874 houses of the fourth, or worst, class; in Dingle Union there were twelve houses of one room, with seven in the room; in Kenmare Union there were ten such houses with seven in the room; in Tralee Union there were twenty-nine with eight, and twenty-three with nine in the room; in Killarney Union there were forty-eight with eight in the room; these houses should all be swept away, 42801.—Witness did not know, but thought that land was probably attached to the houses; there were hundreds of small farmers who paid rates who could not be relieved under the Labourers Acts, and it was a serious question for them if their houses could not be improved; it would be very useful if loans could be made at rates similar to those which apply in the cases of labourers' cottages, 42802.—Sanitary authority could declare the houses uninhabitable, but they would not do so as long as the people had nowhere else to go, 42803-5.—If facilities were given for building houses cheaply then one person should be appointed for County Kerry who should have special knowledge of the necessary proceedings; he should be an engineer, and his services should be available in the matter of plans and drawings; such a person could afterwards insist that the people should keep their places well, which could not be done at present, when they had such places to keep, 42805.—In the districts spoken of the small occupier did most of the labour, and there was not much of a distinct labouring class, therefore it would be fair to give the same advantages to these men as to labourers; less money would be required; none should be wasted on too much inspection and red tape, 42806-10.—The Belgians had built 100,000 houses for their people at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest; labourers' cottage schemes were carried out at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. interest, with 10*s.* sinking fund, which was charged as a rate on the district; the rate might be 1*s.* 3*d.* in the £ under the new Act, 42811-4.—Only men who had less than a quarter of an acre of land could get an allotment or improvement of houses; terms of Board of Works loans were impossible for small occupiers, 42815-6—Also, under the Labourers Acts, 36 per cent. was remitted, and balance of expenditure was divided between occupier and local authority, 42818-9.—In Dingle Union, with a valuation of £23,000, 100 cottages could be built for a penny in the £, under the recent Act, 42820.—Not necessarily the same finance as in the Labourers Acts, but something similar should be applied to the small occupier; money should be lent at same rate of interest, 42821.—

PARISH COMMITTEES.

The Parish Committee would not be sufficient by itself, 42824.—Parish Committees had done good work; Killorglin had had one for three or four years; had had grants of £60 and £80, and was now getting £250; witness had tried to induce western district to take up Parish Committee, but had not been so successful as he would like; tenants with arrears would not make improvements, because they might be turned out, but peasant proprietors, with a feeling of security, would take up Parish Committee schemes, 42824-5.

MINERALS.

There was an old lead quarry near Castlemaine; a sample of rock had been assayed, and gave 90 per cent. of lead as result; quartz containing gold had also been found at the mouth of the River Laune; coal and iron mines were worked in Glencar about 150 years ago, 42827.

LIME.

There was a great deal of limestone in Kerry, but not much in Dingle; when estates were purchased undeveloped limestone quarries should be secured and retained for benefit of the public; some large general scheme for getting lime in various parts of the country was one of the best things that could be done for the people, 42825-6.—Lime was essential for agricultural purposes; it was difficult to get it in some parts of Kerry; the land was perishing for want of it, 42828-9.—A scheme to supply lime to farmers at the cheapest possible price would be useful; the Board should make no profit, in fact should be prepared for a loss for two years; after that, when the people saw the advantage of it, the loss might be lessened, 42830-2.—Witness could undertake that farmers would buy a certain quantity at a fixed price for three years, if the lime were supplied under its value, 42833.—Price of lime at privately-owned quarries was 1*s.* 6*d.* a barrel; but the barrel was larger than other barrels, 42834.

MOUNTAIN GRAZING.

On some of the mountains there was very good grazing right to the top; in the Reeks the grazing was not good; it was communal grazing; some parts of the mountain were valueless for grazing purposes, 42835-9.

RE-AFFORESTATION.

Re-afforesting was a large question in Kerry; if the mountains were private property there might be some difficulty; witness did not think that there would be any difficulty as to the grazing; the western breezes might affect the growth of the trees; no one in the neighbourhood was sufficiently expert to give an opinion, 42841-2.

INDUSTRIES.

Congested Districts Board had not started or developed any industries, and it seemed necessary, seeing that there was no land for division; they should be associated with existing ones, and with the land, butter, bacon, eggs; in 1750 the town of Dingle exported linen to value of £60,000; there were hundreds of looms at work then, and the population was nearly three times what it is now; there were only a few of the old looms remaining; to revive the industry would be difficult, considering the lapse of time; the looms had disappeared owing to the introduction of shop stuff, but the linen industry had been killed by the Navigation Act and other laws since 1750; the laws

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had been there long enough to destroy the industry; It was a fallacy that Irishmen were not capable of development, and of becoming industrial experts; some of the finest brains and muscles were to be found in remote glens; but the brains were going away, and were to be found all over America; the head of Armour's in Chicago was a Kerry man; in the old days flax was grown for all home purposes; witness was a farmer's son, and, as a child, had seen flax sown, worked, etc., and had done the work himself; there were traces of cultivation all over the mountains, where no one would think of cultivating now; not only flax, but cultivation of various kinds; if there were no industries it would be found that it was owing to the treatment Ireland had received; if England would but give bounties to make good the removal of brains and money; it would not be difficult to get a start even now, if Ireland had control of her own revenues, 42842-54.

Scheduling Non-scheduled Divisions.

There was a strong desire among the non-scheduled divisions to be scheduled as congested; there were two or three in witness's barony; District Council had passed a resolution, and had asked witness to present it, 42854.

O'FLAHERTY, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Reclamation of Waste Land.

One quarter of land in Dingle Rural District was approaching primitive state; by proper outlay on drainage, sub-soiling, and fencing it could be reclaimed and converted into homesteads; if only these improvements were carried into effect Dingle Rural District would be able to maintain double present population.

Population, Area, Valuation.

Population in Kerry in 1841 was 293,880, now reduced to 165,000, 42855.—Dingle Rural District comprised twenty electoral divisions, gross area of 126,459 statute acres, population of 18,274, and valuation of £23,811, average area 6·9 acres, and valuation £1·3 to each unit of population; four of the electoral divisions non-congested; only two susceptible of improvement; town of Dingle in 1821 had population of 4,538; now reduced to 1,786, 42864.

Fishing Industry.

Fleet of twelve boats in Castlegregory district in 1841; now not one boat there; people mostly lived by fishing then; they were not confined to very narrow strip of land; it was the most important fishing station of its day, and if it were encouraged the country would not be congested at all, 42854.—A district whose inhabitants depended to a great extent on fishing necessarily required facilities in the way of new piers, repairs to existing ones, suitable boats, and fishing gear to enable industry to be carried out with profit to those engaged in it, which in the absence of capital becomes an impossibility; State grants or loans at a low rate of interest become indispensable, 42858.

Afforestation.

As regarded plantations, the district was in all but an absolute state of nudity; trunks of trees and remains of forests to be found beneath, and sometimes projecting above, the surface of bogs and on the coast line; owing to proximity of the Corkaguiny peninsula to the Atlantic, the exposure often caused injury to agricultural produce, if not total destruction, and, as a consequence, impoverishment of those engaged in it; thousands of acres of glens and mountains, at present of no practical value, could, by afforestation, be converted into sources of profit and also a powerful and universal sanitary agency, 42855.—Part of the land was now in pasturage; beyond line of pasturage there could be plantations which would afford necessary shelter; fuel was getting very scarce; trees would afford fuel; the people could not afford to buy coal, and would have to go thirty or forty miles away if there were no trees, 42857.—Bogs were running short, 42858.

O'FLAHERTY, Mr. TIMOTHY—*continued.*

Floods.

Extensive localities within the peninsula rendered valueless by flooding from tides and rivers; one-third of Castlegregory townland submerged during spring tides; witness in his young days saw excellent crops of hay, potatoes, turnips, and mangolds produced where now only seagull or snipe found a home; tenantry were able to temporarily ward off destructive agencies whilst they had cheap labour at their command, but, owing to high rate of wages arising from scarcity of day labourers, as result of emigration, temporary embankments had to be abandoned, etc., with consequence of periodical submerging of a productive tract of country; similar condition prevailed in other localities throughout barony, 42858.

Matters needing Improvement.

Tillage had of late years so alarmingly declined from scarcity of manual labour that localities were all matted over with moss and stunted grass.—Progress of the district was obstructed by law declaring illegal the making of roads to turbary or bogs, and to graveyards, as well as roads that came under designation of *cul-de-sac*; law should be either radically altered or obliterated from Statute Book.—Bridges in many localities within Dingle Rural District had become absolutely indispensable, 42858.

Parish Committees.

Increase in grants and an extension of operations of these useful bodies became indispensable *desiderata*; funds allocated by Congested Districts Board in aid of improving dwellings of the poor as well as of the occupation of land could not be devoted to more worthy purposes; alteration for the better in condition and appearance of lowly homes in Castlegregory dispensary district, where grant had been availed of; productive of incalculable amount of good if grant in question had been extended to holdings of higher valuation than those to which it was at present restricted; village of Kilshanny was more like an African village than anything else; grant in Castlegregory district was £175 a year from Congested Districts Board, and the tillage was now wholly renovated, 42858.

Limestone.

There was mountain limestone at Magheries which had never been turned to any use; if there were limekilns there it would afford enough lime for whole district; there was a good road leading to the place, and nothing was more necessary to improve marshy and boggy land than lime; if it were availed of it would not only be a source of profit to those on whose land it existed, but to farmers of the district who could make use of it, 42858.—Road had been made to enable people to get the lime, 42859.—Want of energy and lack of fuel prevented people from getting it, 42861.—Congested Districts Board had arranged to set up limekilns and get lime burned; it would benefit the whole country, 42862.—No men with capital in the locality, 42863.—Extensive trade had been carried on in 1821 with Spain, Portugal, and France in linen, cattle, hides, butter, fish, and eggs; Dingle imported wines, brandy, and tobacco, and exported linen to value of £60,000 in 1750; now linen industry was scarcely a matter of history even, 42864.

Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board had done more good than all other Boards; witness would be very sorry to see powers limited in any way; he would rather see them extended; several improvements required; Congested Districts Board had been very liberal; they could have done more, but they could not be expected to do everything all at once, 42864.—There should be a member for Kerry elected on Congested Districts Board, 42865-6.—Could be nominated by the County Council; very practical people in Kerry, 42868.

O'FLAHERTY, Mr. TIMOTHY—*continued.*

Improvement of Dingle Pier.

Pier in Dingle needed improvement badly; harbour shallow and getting silted, and required dredging very much; addition to pier would be of great value; too narrow, also rather short; double the business could be done if it were improved, 42869, 42873.—Harbour Board had charge of pier; they levied dues, 42870-1.—Dues in Dingle not heavy; the place was small, and unless they got aid they would not be able to make improvement themselves; no money left, 42872.

Water Supply.

In an impoverished place like Dingle they could not afford to spend extra rates; if Congested Districts Board came to their aid with the charge that would be made for waterworks, which were absolutely necessary; not a drop of fresh water near town at Magheries; Congested Districts Board had been asked some time ago to send an expert to discover water, because there was a spring of fresh water oozing up on the beach; this water was covered at high tides; it was about a quarter of a mile from the village; population of which was about 230, and population of the Magheries about 600; desirable to discover source of spring water, 42873-4.

M'CARTHY, Mr. CHARLES J.

Experience of Witness.

Witness was County Instructor for Kerry, and had been asked to give evidence on behalf of the Committee of Agriculture on the working of the agricultural scheme in the county; witness was appointed on October 1st, and spent first fortnight examining into the wants of each locality; his headquarters were in Tralee; he was a County Cork man, and was appointed by Committee of Agriculture, subject to approval of Department of Agriculture; witness had had twelve years' experience working on his father's farm in Mid-Cork, then three years at the Royal College of Science in Dublin, 42877-80, 43053.—Witness was the first agricultural instructor for Kerry, 42882, 42886-7.

Agricultural Instruction.—Lectures, Demonstration and Experiment Plots.

Committee of Agriculture consisted of the whole County Council and some co-opted members, seventeen leading agriculturists who were not Councillors; the scheme of instruction in agriculture included appointment of an instructor, whose duty it was, during the winter months, to deliver a series of lectures at night upon agricultural topics; during the daytime demonstrations were given on settling drains, better methods of cultivation, fixing of plots, etc.; also plots were laid down, samples of seed taken and tested, and some of the lectures based on them, 42877.—Some people thought the lectures were of no use, and that too much time was spent on them; the lectures only lasted four months, and during the time demonstration and experiment plots were laid down, where seeds and manures could be tested the following year; a demonstration, properly carried out, had more effect than a great deal of talk, 42880.—There had been no agricultural classes at Dingle as yet; they were usually established a year or two after the instructor had come into a county, and the pioneer work was done, 42881.—It did not matter how bad the land was for a demonstration plot if it were of uniform quality, 42883.—There had been a variety of experiments with potatoes in the Magheries district, because there they depended almost exclusively on potatoes; there was a plot to test the relative qualities of seven different varieties in order to select the best for that district, 42884.—Work on experiments and demonstrations had been going on since 1st March 1907, 42885.—There were twenty experiment plots and ninety-four demonstration plots throughout the county, fifty-six of them in congested districts, 42888.—The difference between a demonstration and an experiment plot was that in an experiment plot the ground must be accurately surveyed, the seeds or manures analysed, and the produce weighed and an exact account of it tabulated at the end of the year; it entailed a considerable amount of work, and witness could not have more than twenty experiment plots in the county because season was so short; the demonstration plot was manured according to instructor's methods, and was usually established near a chapel or some public place, where people could see it as they passed by; experiment plot had to be selected in places where there was an intelligent farmer who would help, 42889.—Experiment plot was for information of instructor, Department, and the country; demonstration plot was an example of what could be done by adopting some of the manurial systems lectured about, 42890-1.—Witness had tried working demonstration plot through a small holder, but had not been in the district long enough to obtain results; as regards its being more effective than when worked by the instructor, plot was worked by witness and farmer together; it was always on the farmer's place, 42904-7.—The average attendance at witness's lectures for the whole county was 102; Dingle average attendance, 184·65; Kenmare, 110·33.—Lecture lasted forty minutes, and then there was a discussion of an hour and a half's duration, questions were asked during discussions, and the discussions were, perhaps, more valuable than the lectures; as a rule each lecture resulted in establishing either a demonstration or experiment plot, 42908-10.—Fifteen lectures were delivered in Dingle Rural District; no lectures were delivered in towns or big villages, 42911.—Dingle Rural District included practically the whole peninsula; there were five centres for lectures (held in National Schools); Ventry, Anascaul, Castlegregory, Cloghane, and Lispole; three lectures were delivered at each centre, the same men came to each of the three lectures, and would come again in some places; there were six rural districts in the whole county; instructor had to spend three weeks on the lecturing tour in each district, 42912-7.

Work of Witness's Assistants.

Area under instructor was the whole of Kerry, and since 9th May he was also responsible for the congested districts of West Cork; witness had five assistants, and a sixth coming, 42892-3.—It would be desirable if someone were appointed in each peninsula specially for agricultural work; at present there was such a person in each rural district; the five assistants specially worked the congested districts; they did not lecture; they supplied good seeds, manures, lime, grass seed mixtures, etc., at less than half price, 42918-22.—The assistants were supplied this year, for the first time, by the Department, and all expenses were paid by the Department, 42959.—Witness would like to have assistants located in a centre in each peninsula to work all round that centre, one in Dingle, another in Cahirciveen, and another at Kenmare to work the Kenmare peninsula, 43038.—At present they were so arranged that their headquarters were in the places mentioned; the arrangement was similar to that in Mayo and in the poorer parts of Donegal; the instructors were not exactly itinerant instructors, they were provided by the Department, and this was the first year in which there had been a certain number of instructors resident in definite headquarters, 43039-46.—The assistants were at present devoting special attention to spraying, 42962-4.—They also gave general instruction in methods of cultivation, 42964.

Imported Seeds.

There was a great want of good seeds in the western part of the county; about three-fourths of the demonstration plots were under seeds alone, so as to show the people the good effect of imported seeds as against home-grown seeds, 42893.—The people knew it, but did not know how to get the seeds, and could not afford it, 42894-5.—The advantage of the demonstration was that people could buy imported seeds one year, save the seed from that for the following year, and change about once in two years; that was not a common practice; generally the seed was taken from the old potatoes year after year, 42896-8.—One of the assistants had sent to a seedsman at a distance for good, reliable mixtures of seeds, and he got them far cheaper than they could be procured locally; up to that time the people did not know they could get seeds at that price or where they could get them, 42900-2.—A demonstration plot was needed, because in some of the western parts of the county people had given up sowing grass seed altogether owing to the badness of the seed; in Waterville district there were places going back to their original condition, 42903.

Scheme for supplying Agricultural Commodities at less than half price, Lime, &c.

There was a scheme in operation for supplying good seeds, manures, lime, grass seed mixtures, and other agricultural commodities at less than half price; the scheme was much availed of by the Kerry people, 42922.—Demonstration plots were laid down with these seeds side by side with what was bought locally, 2,307 plots altogether, 948 under potatoes, 671 under oats, 167 under turnips and mangels, 48 under clover, 207 under fertilisers, and 256 under lime, 42923.—These advantages for the congested districts were introduced this year for the first time, 42937.—Witness thought the scheme was formulated owing to the failure of the potato crop, and the Department had a feeling that it was time to do something for the congested districts, 42490.—The people understood that they were getting the seeds and other things below cost price, 42951.—If they had been supplied in a wholesale way there would be danger of grumbling when the price was raised, but the quantities given to each farmer were very small, with the special view of teaching the good effects of good seeds, 42952-3.—The expense was borne by the central body, and was not upon the county directly at all, 42961.—Three-fourths of the county was mouldy and peaty, and lime was very important; Department had put 133 tons of lime at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* for each half ton over districts of Cahirciveen and Waterville, 42923.—It was all sold and more was asked for, but funds for the scheme became exhausted; it was sold at one-third the actual cost, 2*s.* 6*d.* for each half ton, 42925-30.—The low price was arranged to show the people how necessary lime was, and also to give them some help, owing to the failure of the potato crop, 42931.—The people understood the importance of lime, but they could not get it; twenty of the demonstration plots showed the effect of basig slag as a substitute for lime; it was dearer weight for weight, but it went much furher, 42932-5.—It was under consideration at present whether the lime scheme should be continued; witness thought it should be extended for another year, 42936.—It would be an excellent thing if, after a couple of years the scheme could result in an organisation among the people themselves in the poorer districts, which would enable them to have the lime at cost price, 42955.—It might be worth a small loss per man, 42956-8.

Discretion of County Committee in Framing of Scheme.

The County Committee had a certain discretion in the framing of their scheme; they could reject one part, and accept or amend the other part; they could not exceed the amount of money fixed, but it could be amended in other ways; the Department could accept or reject the amendment; their decision was final, 42944-9.

Spraying.

Spraying was the most urgent matter at the time witness gave evidence; his assistants were engaged in procuring spraying machines at reduced rates, supervising the spraying, mending old machines, giving demonstrations as to how to make the mixture, and how to apply it; 4,737 pounds of blue stone and 5,593 pounds of washing soda had been supplied to Cahirciveen; ninety new spraying machines had been supplied, and 700 or 800 farmers had benefited, 42962.—Special attention had been devoted to spraying since 9th May last; it was necessary to begin a little before the spraying season so as to be in time, 42963-4.—The local people generally obtained the spraying mixture in the local shops; witness would not go so far as to say it was not much good, but most of it was inferior, and all prepared mixtures were doubtful; the best plan was to buy the blue stone and the washing soda, get a guarantee of their purity, and make up the mixture according to the Department's instructions; the Department had distributed about 1,000 leaflets and litmus-paper, and full instructions how to test with the litmus-paper, 42965-7.—There was a method of getting a guaranteed mixture, but farmers would not ask for it; local shopkeepers had the mixture; it was not stamped; but if they gave a guarantee of 98 per cent. they were liable to be prosecuted if it were not up to the standard, 42968-70.—The prepared mixture was usually sold in little bags, and might be sold with the guarantee that there was no injurious substance in it; if washing soda were adulterated with sodium sulphate or glaubers salts it was injurious to the plant, 42973.—It was more profitable for the people to get the materials and make them up themselves; there had recently been a great change of opinion as to the value of pure material unprepared; it could be mixed very exactly, and the faintest trace of impurity could be tested with the litmus-paper; in the mixture, even if the materials were pure, there might be some chemical action set up between the washing soda and the blue stone if mixed for some time, which would ultimately have a bad effect, 42974-9.—In the mixture it was not possible to tell whether the blue stone or the washing soda was pure, therefore it was better to buy the materials apart, so that each could be tested separately, 42980-1.—The materials were obtained from the shops; they would probably be purer if sold through the Parish Committee or the creameries, 42982-4.—The price of the best spraying machine was 30*s.*; they had been procured for people whose valuation did not exceed £8 at 24*s.*; that was in a congested district, but if there was a deserving case the valuation was not adhered to too strictly; three or four farmers were asked to combine, and then it only cost 5*s.* or 6*s.* for each farmer, 42986-7.—The arrangement had been made this year for the first time, and had been made widely known, 42988-9.—Eighty new machines had been procured in that way, and thirty old ones had been repaired; also blue stone and washing soda had been procured for people who found it hard to obtain them in remote districts; there had not been much difficulty in supplying materials at cost price in remote districts, 42991-2.—Five hundred lots of the machines cost 27*s.* 6*d.* each; they were sold at a loss, 42993.—The demand for machines had been unprecedented this year, 42994.—Four samples of spraying material had been taken in the county, but witness did not yet know the result; it would hardly be made public, 43010-1.

Bulls.

There were 56 premium bulls in the county under three different schemes; there were 26 bulls under the County Scheme, under which the premiums were paid jointly by the Department and by the county; £450 was available for premiums; £15 premium was paid each year under the County Scheme; under the second scheme there were 15 bulls, and the premiums were paid wholly by the Department; it was a kind of grant-in-aid; the special wants of the county, and the capacity of the county to pay high rates being taken into consideration; this scheme was specially for districts where it was hard to obtain bulls; the point was taken into consideration in the first place; in congested districts bulls were given on special terms; Kerry bulls were bought for £22, and sold to farmers for £10, payable in three instalments—first year £3, second year £3, and third year £4; fifteen bulls were placed under those conditions, and there were more applicants than could be supplied; no premium was given, but the owner of the bull could charge what he liked for the service; usually about 2*s.*; in all the schemes the bulls had to be kept at the holders' own expense; under the premium schemes the bull was bought, and the holder got a premium of £15 each year on condition that the bull served thirty cows at 1*s.* per head, other than those held by the owner; the farmer attended a sale at which the inspectors had previously ticketed all bulls which were eligible for premiums; if a man bought one of those bulls and a premium bull were needed in his district, he was granted a premium; the reason

M'CARTHY, Mr. CHARLES J.—*continued.*

of the ticketing of the bulls before purchase was that farmers would not be willing to buy without being certain of getting a premium, 42994-43009.—The Department now admitted Kerry bulls; there were 14 out of the total of 56; 16 Aberdeen-Angus, 2 red polled, and 24 shorthorns; general rule was to get shorthorns in the valleys where the land was good, Aberdeen Angus where the hills and the valleys met, and on the hillsides the Kerries; the Kerries were pure-bred; the Department had not refused to give premiums to Kerries during witness's time, 43019-22. —More bulls were needed, 43036-7.—In recent years there was an increase of about a dozen, 43017.

Boars.

There were in all the county twenty-five premium boars, and of these seventeen premiums were paid jointly by Department and county, and eight premiums were paid directly out of Department funds; in congested districts boars were given on easy terms; if a suitable man applied, and paid £2 down, he was given a boar; at the end of a year he was eligible for a premium of £5, in lieu of the £5 he got back £2 paid at first as an instalment, and at the end of the season in the following year he got a premium of £3; the idea of paying the £2 was that the man would have an interest in keeping the boar, 4012-3.—The white York did best as a rule in Kerry, 43014.—There was an increase of six or eight in the number of premium boars, 43018.

Stallions.

There were two half-bred hunter stallions in the congested districts; they were owned by the Department; one was stationed at Cahirciveen and another at Kenmare; nominated mares were served free; farmers whose valuation did not exceed £10 were charged 5*s.*, and farmers whose valuation lay between £10 and £30 paid 10*s.*; there was also a Welsh cob in Brosna district, 43022.—There should be more stallions, but half-bred hunter stallions were very hard to obtain, 43023.—The cart horses, as a rule, were of the old Irish type; there were no stallions for that exact type at present; a good serviceable animal could be bred from half-bred hunter stallions with that class of mare; there were 154 nominations for mares; an inspection was held each spring; the best mares were called out of each group, and two or three were placed on the reserve list; £3 was allowed as the value of each nomination, but some farmers took agricultural stallions in preference to thoroughbreds, and the value of that premium was only £2; and then a few of those in the reserve list got nominations, 43024-7.—There was a healthy competition for the nominations; ten stallion Spanish asses in the congested districts of the county; they were the property of the Department, and, as a rule, the holders got 2*s.* a week to help them, 43028-9.—The schemes were working very well, but it would be a good thing if there were more funds available to extend existing schemes and embrace all the county; particular attention should be paid to the three western peninsulas; it was there that the people wanted a little help in supplying good seeds and manures; also cattle scheme should be extended, 43030, 43034-6.

Interest taken by Agricultural Committee in the Work.

The Agricultural Committee took a warm interest in the work; several members had offered witness every facility to help in work of demonstration and experiment; members both of County Committee and of Rural District Council all took an interest; as a rule there was more interest in the schemes in the congested districts, 43031-3.

Question of Local Administration.

The Agricultural Committee met in the Courthouse, Tralee; it was difficult for representatives of congested areas to attend regularly; but, as a rule, they made a point of attending all quarterly meetings, 43048-9.—Witness would not approve of a local administration in each peninsula; it was necessary to work from same central body and consolidate the scheme for the whole county, 43048-52.

O'LEARY, Very Rev. Canon.

Dingle.

Dingle district was all congested, except a portion called Mivard; not long ago Mivard had applied to be included in congested districts, but time had lapsed for extending congested area, and memorial was sent to Royal Commission, 43055.

Size of Holdings.

Holdings about Dingle were very small; a farmer with eight cows would consider himself pretty strong; average number of cows about six; no way of improving holdings by enlarging them; very little untenanted land; one little place out at the Glens taken from tenants by Lord Ventry some years ago and improved; they got compensation, and now when the place was being arranged they wanted to get it back in same proportion as they held it before; very little untenanted land to be divided, 43055.

Drainage.

Drainage very necessary, large tracts at Ventry and other glens requiring drainage; Congested Districts Board's Inspector had said that it would immensely improve that part of the country if there was some means of drainage; no bogs, and even where there was a bit of bog the people were not able to save it; they had to go seven or eight miles for fuel, 43055.

Scarcity of Fuel.

There was a question of getting coal, but to many poor farmers if they had to buy coal their farms would be no good at all, 43056.

Necessity for Bridge.

Bridge had been applied for; there was a place near Ventry where river came on to the road; people from all the western part had to bring their gravel and sand, and all the place is worn away, horses up to their hips sometimes going through it; funerals also went through it; custom of the people for generations to go a certain way, and they would not divert from it; Board were willing to give half the cost of a bridge if Rural District Council gave the other half; Rural District Council difficulty was that rates were so high and they did not see their way clear to increase them, 43056.—They, however, undertook to bring all the materials and give the labour which would represent nearly half the cost; the great industry was fishing and the great want was dredging, 43057.

Dredging Operations.

Some dredging operations carried on last year which cost £1,200 and Congested Districts Board contributed £500; much more to be done in order that boats could go in and out with perfect safety; application had been made again this year, with the usual reply that they had to postpone consideration of it on account of want of funds, 43058.

Extension of the Quay.

Boats could not come into present quay except at practically high water; if quay were extended 160 feet there would not be so much delay; £5,000 would be required, but it would be an immense permanent improvement to fishing industry in the whole country, 43058-9.

Fishing Industry.

Great mackerel and trawling centre; trawling every day except during close season; there were 23 trawlers, 9 nobbies, and 3 or more buildings; 40 boats running, 43059.

Revival of Parish Committee Proposed.

There had been a Parish Committee; witness had set about starting another last year, but people thought advantage was not sufficient to induce them to adopt it; if a man intended to build a house it would be a great matter for him to get £5 or £10; but to give a man £5 or £10 would induce him to undertake an expenditure of £50, £60, or £100 which he had not made up his mind to expend already, 43060.—Splendid things for Board to offer this money as an inducement, but it was not sufficient inducement, 43061.—50 per cent. would be better, 43062.—

O'LEARY, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

Witness had undertaken to revive the Parish Committee, and he would do so later on; people were beginning to change their minds after seeing the result in Castle Gregory, 43063.

Land Purchase.

Question as to whether there had been a proposal to buy through Congested Districts Board; arrangement made that Lord Cork should settle on amount to be paid at reduction of 5*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, but tenants wanted to purchase through Congested Districts Board; agent did not see any objection to it if it did not diminish in any way the amount Lord Cork was to receive, but afterwards came to conclusion that they would not on any account sell through Congested Districts Board; direct sale would be the alternative, 43064.—Witness negotiated the sale of the Douglas property when in Newtownsandes, and also had something to do with the negotiations of the Sandes property and Fitzgerald property; he also negotiated for the Blacker-Douglas' property; except in one little townland, where valuation was very high, they got such a reduction that after purchase their instalments would not be very much more than £1 a cow, no one paying more than £1 10*s.*; if they had same reduction with regard to Lord Ventry's property it would not be sufficient; 5*s.* in the pound on Lord Cork's property—better than 10*s.* in the pound on Lord Ventry's property; it would not be sufficient with regard to purchase he made at Newtownsandes in North Kerry; very few paying more than £1 a cow after purchase; considered quite enough; if they only got 5*s.* in the pound they would have to pay over £2 a cow, 43065.—One acre of land in Meath would feed a cow it would take 5 or 6 acres in district under discussion; 3 acres would feed a cow on ordinary fair land, that is supplying hay and everything, 43066.

MURPHY, Mr. JOHN.

Neglect of Kerry by Congested Districts Board.

Kerry, and especially East Kerry, had been much neglected by Congested Districts Board, the county ought to be directly represented on Board, 43068, 43071.—Necessity for representation was well illustrated by what had happened in connection with two farms at Crigue and Arderoume, farms had been bought by tenant purchasers under 1896 Act, 43125, 43127.—At too high a price, purchasers met with misfortunes in both cases, and, being unable to pay their first year's instalments, were evicted by Land Commission, 43091-3, 43114, 43128-31.—Owner who had sold property bought in farms, 43094-5.—And had them in his own hands for years, 43096.—During which time he made offers to tenant purchasers, 43097-100.—It was the landlord who took proceedings, he did not get all his purchase money under the 1896 Act, 43131.—Congested Districts Board then purchased the farms from owner after negotiation, 43101-2.—Which they would never have done if they had had full understanding of the local circumstances, 43068.—And if Kerry had a representative, 43079-80, 43084, 43120-1.—Farms were purchased before witness knew of it, 43106.—Witness had never seen a representative of the Board, he met Dr. O'Donnell and Father O'Hara in reference to the matter, and had been received with every kindness and consideration, but they were too remote from the district to have a clear understanding of the case, 43068.—And they received witness only as a private person, 43069.—There had been local consultation before purchase, 43085-6, 43107.—But not with the right people, 43107, 43118-9.—People in Dublin were wonderfully ignorant of local matters in Kerry, Mr. Doran was himself a Kerryman, and ought to know all about Kerry conditions, 43123.—Farms had remained useless on hands of Board for many years, and would so remain for many more, 43068, 43087.—Board purchased farms for purpose of migration, 43072, 43081.—But no tenant would go in face of claim of evicted tenants, 43072-5.—At present grazing was let to many people, 43089.—If Kerry had a representative, or was directly in touch with Board, a satisfactory settlement could easily be effected, 43075, 43090.—Farms were about 100 acres in extent, 43076-7.—Witness was not speaking from point of view of relieving congestion, 43078.—There had been a complaint against Board in which witness joined for not buying land in Kerry, 43082.—Land was difficult to find, but difficulty had been exaggerated, 43083.—There was a strong feeling that evicted tenants had a right to their farms before all comers, 43110-2.—Tenant purchasers should clearly understand that they could never hope to be treated as evicted tenants, but there were very special circumstances in these cases, 43113-4.—Congested Districts Board's offer of compensation to tenants proved that they had acted unreasonably and improperly to tenants, 43114-7.—Judicial rents had been fixed once, 43123-4.—Tenants had been in possession for generations, 43126.—Settlement could easily be arranged if an adequate and proper offer were made that could be discussed with the bishop of the diocese and parish priest; witness would be prepared to meet Mr. Doran and discuss matter with him, 43133-8.—Board might have done much more in the matter of roads in Kerry, 43160.

Kenmare Estate.

In regard to sale of Earl of Kenmare's estate, prices had been agreed on with tenants, but parts of the estate, such as Coolies and Coombe, being congested districts, it was desirable that sale should be made through Congested Districts Board instead of direct to tenants, but though sale had been proposed for a year, Board had taken no steps to use their power to improve condition of people, 43138-52, 43154-6.—It was not a fair cry that land-buying operations of Board had been seriously impeded since sitting of present Commission, 43153.

Estates needing Improvement should be Sold through Congested Districts Board.

Where an estate was in need of improvement in a congested area it would be an advantage for the tenants that sale should take place through the Board, 43157.—It was ten times more difficult to effect improvements after sale to tenants, 43159-60.

Local Authorities and Price of Land.

Purchase price of land was so important to ratepayers that County Council or some public body in every locality ought to have some power to influence price; generally speaking, tenants and many other people only considered extent of reduction, and never arrived at a result from the economic point of view at all, 43160.

Definition of Congestion needed Amendment.

Present area of congestion most unsuitable; population was no test at all, especially in County Kerry, wherever there were poor tenants in Kerry or similar counties, Board should have power to relieve them without regard to population, 43160.

Tenants' Improvements in Kerry.

Tenants had reclaimed land altogether themselves, in some cases arrears had prevented them from getting their rents fixed, in others Land Commission had put increased rent on tenants' own improvements, 43160.—In one case the County Court Valuer had put on a higher rent than landlord's own valuer, 43160.

Moving Bog Disaster—Danger of Recurrence.

In regard to the disaster at Coombe some years ago, known as the "Moving Bog," there was a danger of its recurrence, and no preventive measures had been taken, though there was an outlet which would be a sufficient safeguard if it were cleared, 43160-2.—The same disaster had changed the course of some rivers and destroyed reclaimed land of many poor occupiers,

MURPHY, Mr. JOHN—*continued*

very little expenditure would set the river courses right again, 43161.

Compulsory Powers in many Directions needed for Congested Districts Board.

Board ought to have compulsory powers in many directions, a large farm adjoining district of bog disaster had gone to private person, 43162.—And near Killarney a few farmers had been enlarging their holdings to the detriment of the community, Board should have compulsory powers in such cases, 43162.—Portions of some demesnes, such as Lord Kenmare's, could easily be secured for relief of congestion, 43162.—Board ought to have compulsory powers in reference to opening of limestone quarries; at Conla, near Killarney, people had neither turbary nor limestone quarries, and land was too bad to produce anything without artificial aid, while adjoining district there was a property with splendid opportunities of opening quarries, 43162.—There ought to be powers to compel railway to bring lime at cheap rate, profits would be increased, not diminished, but Irish railways seemed to be always acting against the ideas of the people, 43162-3a.—One particular railway referred to ratepayers had to pay the guarantee, but they had no representative on the Board, 43164-5.—In case of the Dingle and Tralee Railway, County Council had nomination of Committee of Management, and thereby practical control, 43166-8.—Board might do something to improve breeds of cattle and other stock, and they ought to have power to provide up-to-date machinery to be leased or rented to small tenants, 43169.—A woollen industry might with advantage be started in Killarney, and a public department ought to take the initiative, 43169.—Fishermen much handicapped by existing laws and regulations, change could easily be effected if any public board were to make investigation, 43169.

Lack of Harmony between Department and Board.

Department of Agriculture did not work in harmony with Board, Department expended a great deal of money for which there was nothing like a proper or reasonable return, 43169.—If technical instruction in cookery, &c. was given, primary education system should be utilised to carry out scheme, the schools would be made more comfortable, and funds provided for their improvements in every way, 43169-70.

O'SHEA, Mr. JAMES.

Turbary and Limestone for Coolies.

There was no turbary for division of Coolies, and on adjoining properties bogs were practically worn out, there was no limestone either except in Lord Kenmare's demesne, but there was an immense amount on Muckross property, and it would be a great advantage if Board had compulsory powers to obtain a portion of this demesne, 43176.

Road Needed.

A road was needed, a part had already been made by Board of Works, and it could be completed and put in repair at small cost, 43177, 43187.—District Council in Killarney had spent so much money on roads that ratepayers were getting restive, 43190.—But public rate would keep road in repair once it was made, 43192.

Trees should be Planted to give Shelter on Grazing Land.

There was a great extent of rough grazing held in common, it was very bleak and open, and it would be a great boon for Congested Districts Board to plant part of it with trees, 43177, 43183.—Plantation would give both fuel and shelter, 43182.

Re-striping and Enlargement of Holdings Needed.

The agricultural portions needed re-striping, 43177, 43179-82.—Only land available for enlargement of holdings was on Muckross side, 43178, 43186.—That should be broken up and a few tenants transferred to it, 43184, 43186.—Their holdings being used to enlarge the others, 43187.—People had not sprayed much up to the present, but they meant to do it, 43188.

LUCEY, Mr. JEREMIAH.

Road needed across into Rathmore.

Road needed across into Rathmore in the Clydagh district, 43193, 43203.—Population about 400 and valuation £632, there was no lime or limestone in the district, and without it nothing could be done to the land, if road were made people would only have to go nine miles instead of twenty-four round to Rathmore, 43194-5, 43203.—Number of small holdings very large, £46 only received from Congested Districts Board for making new road, 43196, 43198-9.—Nothing from Parish Committee, 43197.—People had applied for grant before, but Board gave no heed, 43200.—Locality would be willing to contribute something to road, 43201.—Length of road would be about 600 perches, and local authority would contribute a pound a perch, 43202.—District Council would give £200; about three years ago they purchased, and had applied to the Congested Districts Board, but they gave no heed; although this was a congested district, ratepayers in this part of Kerry did not know that Congested Districts Board existed, 43203.

TRENCH, Mr. GEORGE F.

Estates Sold by Mr. Trench.

Witness had sold or agreed to sell, with exception of one small property, eleven properties in Kerry and Limerick, covering 50,000 or 60,000 acres, with rental of £26,000, and 1,237 tenants (not counting about 500 tenants of middlemen), besides several other estates sold directly under earlier Acts, 43207-8.—Most of thse properties were outside scheduled areas; some were inside, and had been sold to Congested Districts Board, 43212.

Direct Sale not advisable where Property was in need of improvement.

Where a property was in great need of improvement direct sale was not a good method; some intervening body should improve it; there was no power at present to improve it when tenants had become tenant-purchasers, 43209-12.

Property of Trinity College in Ireland.

Report of Viceregal Commission on properties in Ireland of Trinity College had been shelved in a most unbusinesslike way; very desirable that present Commission should take it up, 43216-7, 43295.—Report recommended compulsion and power to fix prices, and gave anyone who sold his net income, 43297.—Trinity College as head landlords took about 80 per cent. of gross rent of their property, 43214.—As rent had been twice reduced in Land Courts there was now very little to spare, 43214.—Trinity College was not affected, but the middlemen and sub-middlemen suffered, being squeezed both ways, and they were getting out of it as fast as they could, 43215-6.—Mr. Blacker Douglass was a perpetuity tenant, with two and sometimes three middlemen under him; witness had one case where there were five interests, one over the other, 43216.—Trinity College did nothing for improvement of estates; Act of 1881 practically relieved them of all responsibility, leaving it entirely on their perpetuity tenants, 43219.—Except on portions held directly by College, on which they did do something, 43220.—The College had held these rents for ages, 43221.—Lands were granted to the College under Queen Elizabeth, 43228.—Five or six interests existed on Trinity College estates; tenants could not purchase as occupiers, because sub-middleman feared to be unable to redeem his head rent, and so on, 43295, 43303.—The College had a great deal of property all over the countrry, a considerable portion in the scheduled area, 43298-301.—Scheduled area did not include worst parts; there should be power to get non-scheduled congested areas included, 43301-3.—The middlemen first came in, because when the grants were made Trinity College could only let to Protestants; there were very few Protestants, so that the College had to let large areas to them, and they could let to anybody, 43304-9.—Tenant in perpetuity was not a landlord; he paid to the College a rent about two-thirds the actual value, 43310.—There were 557 agricultural tenants besides 110 village tenants in Ballylongford, 106 under £5 rent; area was 19,061 acres; there were twelve perpetuity tenants paying £2,755 a year; in parts of the College property College was direct landlord; only two townlands were congested, Ballynoneen and Dooncaha; Mr. Blacker Douglass was direct landlord of occupiers of greater part of property, 43303.—Many occupiers were practically insolvent, and wanted to get large sums from Mr. Douglass to buy them out, 43312.—1903 Act provided £5,000 a year as a first provision for the College to make up any deficiency in the event of sale, and that money was available, 43313-4.—Loss of the College was not likely to exceed £5,000 a year, 43315. During the Famine many of the tenants broke down, and the holdings were taken up by the middleman, 43311, 43317-9.—Witness did not know whether any compensation was given for tenant-right, 43320.—The State must carry on the work of the improving landlords, 43320-4.

Blacker-Douglass Property.

Mr. Blacker-Douglass was a tenant in perpetuity, 43311.—The late Mr. Blacker-Douglass had spent large sums on improvements, road-making, reclamation, cultivation, etc., and built mill and corn store, hospital and petty sessions house, 43311.—The present Mr. Douglass had agreed to pay the College 27 years' purchase for terminable and 25 years' purchase for perpetuity leases, and witness had agreed to sell all the lands to the occupiers, 43311.

Dual Ownership.

Triple and quadruple ownerships the worst form of Irish land tenures that ever existed; was in existence before 1881, 43222-4.—Dual ownership existed in Ulster long before it came South; the Act of 1881 legalised it in the South where it already existed, 43225-7.—Dual ownership existed wherever a property was owned by landlord and improved by tenant, 43227.—Where landlords had themselves done improvements they ought to be fairly treated, but the Act made no distinction, 43227, 43282-3.

Reclamation of Flooded Land.

County Council should have power to introduce schemes for improvement of large areas of flooded land, bringing them before Board of Works or Department, and getting a decision as to what body should execute schemes; the ousting of the landlords made it necessary for some body to take up their work, 43229, 43233.—Mr. Doran had explained that on a certain river £10,000 had been lost for want of proper engineering, 43230.—Old schemes, no doubt, were sanctioned and approved by somebody; Drainage Board and Board of Works made the mistake in this case, 43255-9.—When witness asked Board of Works what works were being done in Kerry they sent a list of small things, not mentioning this great work in North Kerry. 43240.—There were also slob-lands, some at Ardfert, where hundreds of acres could be reclaimed and used for enlargement, alluvial deposits being admirably suited for agriculture, 43240.

Price of Untenanted Land and Question of Compulsion.

In regard to purchase of land in landlord's hands, it was entirely a matter of price, and it ought to be frankly recognised that landlord had two interests to sell, 43240, 43285.—In this way compulsion could be long postponed, 43240.—Everything should be done to avoid compulsion, 43243.—Trinity College Commission recommended compulsion, but only in certain cases where there seemed to be absolutely no other way out of the tangle, 43243, 43303.—Witness did not want to reject power of compulsion altogether where it could be clearly shown that land could not be obtained on a voluntary basis, *e.g.*, in case of stubborn and unreasonable landlords, State ought to have power to apply compulsion, 43244-6.—Price should be settled by Government arbitrator, as in case of labourers' lots, 43240-2.—Witness had offered to Estates Commissioners part of a landlord's home farm to be planted with tenants at their discretion; it was good land on which large sums had been expended in improvements, well situated, with very little congestion near it; it had paid £567 a year up to 1881; grazing rent was £370 and upwards, and if rent had been twice fixed in Land Court it would be £364; for this the landlord should get £10,400, plus 3½ years' purchase for tenant-right, or a total of £11,672, 43246, 43266-8.—Witness believed £364 was the fair rent, 43282.—"Occupation right," not "tenant-right," was correct expression, 43247-8.—Dual interest consisted of the land and the improvements on the land, and when the dual interest was in one man he ought to be paid for it, 43249-56, 43258-60, 43265-6.—Question of tenancy was independent of improvements, 43261-4.—In case quoted poor law valuation on buildings which cost £5,000 was £24 10*s.*, 43246, 43257.—Land Commission offered £6,600, 43266.—£11,672 was about 30½ years' purchase, which was the figure Mr. Finucane gave on the valuation, which ignored the buildings, 43267-72, 43276, 43279-80.—30 years' purchase of the valuation would be £6,690 or £7,400 with the bonus, 43277-8.—If the farm were divided up it would be difficult to get value for the plot on which were the buildings, 43273-5.—Farm had been offered to Department for an educational farm, and witness hoped that might be a way out of the controversy, 43279.—Mr. Finucane took no account of landlords' improvements; improving landlords were rare, and should be fairly dealt with, 43282-3.—There were men in the neighbourhood ready to pay more than enough to cover capital demanded and to pay fines as well for farm when cut up, though witness did not propose to take any fines, 43283.

Method by which Price of Untenanted Land could be Fixed.

Mr. Finucane proposed to give 21 years' purchase of valuation for tenanted, 26 years for untenanted land; the five years' difference was quite arbitrary; a farm valued at £20 would bring in 17 years' purchase, one valued at £200 only four or five; there were numerous instances on the Blacker-Douglass and Lindsay Talbot-Crosbie estates, 43283.—It seemed to be a rule that the larger the farm the smaller the tenant's interest, 43284-5.—Only way to ascertain a fair price for untenanted land was to take net income for a series of years and capitalise it at four per cent. in case of owner in fee, at 3½ per cent. for settled estates, 43287-93.—There need be no loss on resale, 43294.—If Government wanted to deal with congestion as a matter of philanthropy they must be prepared to lose money, 43295.

Co-operation as a means of Improving Condition of Congested Districts.

Co-operation was the proper medium for improving the lot of occupiers in congested districts; enlargement alone would not do much good, 43325.—Societies should be formed, and should have power to introduce co-operative methods to hire or purchase land for common grazing, to introduce better breeds of animals, to instruct members in agriculture, and to borrow from Board of Works for improvements of a congested district; society should also establish a rural bank and a dairy, and undertake marketing of produce, 43325.

Rural Banks.

Rural bank was the remedy for indebtedness to shopkeepers, and shopkeepers would gain by having no bad debts, 43325.—Bank at Abbeydorney had been most successful; it had lent out £840 to sixty borrowers since October, 1896, and had no loss, 43326.—It had a great educational effect; farmers met once a fortnight to discuss matters of common business interest, and thus acquired some knowledge of business habits, and learned to work in common, 43327-8.—Capital for banks was borrowed from joint stock banks at 4 per cent., rural bank charging six per cent.; every member of the bank was also a member of the creamery, and repayments were made by stopping the amount out of the monthly cheque that went to each man for his milk, 43331-4.—No bonus had been paid as yet, but witness hoped it would come, 43333.—Every shareholder got five per cent. on his capital, and highest possible price for his milk, 43336.

GROWTH OF CO-OPERATION.

Altogether nearly 1,000 societies had been founded in Ireland, with 84,665 members; £338,500 capital mostly subscribed by farmers themselves, and a turnover of £2,165,000, 43328.—In Kerry there was no creamery in 1894; now there were ten, 43328.

LOANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS—PROPOSAL THAT SOCIETY SHOULD PLEDGE ITS CREDIT TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO GET SMALL LOANS FROM BOARD OF WORKS.

An occupier wishing to borrow money for improvements could not borrow less than £100 from Board of Works, but the Society would guarantee a smaller loan, 43343-5.—Rural bank had never gone into the improvement of land; there was no reason why they should not; a large increase of capital would be needed, but that could be borrowed from joint stock bank, 43346-9.—Witness proposed to interpose credit of the Society on behalf of individual borrower, and so enable him to borrow small sums from Board of Works, on which interest would include a sinking fund, 43350-6, 43364-5.—Board of Works lent at 6½ per cent. for twenty-two years and 5 per cent. for 35 years, the sinking fund being covered in both cases, 43357-62.—It ought to be possible to get money much cheaper for improvement; it was absurd that a man should be able to buy his land at 3¼ per cent., and have to pay double if he wanted to improve it, 43362-3.—In case of defaulters Board of Works would take action against Society, and the Society must have power as a friendly society to sue defaulter, 43366.-9. —Anything over £100 should be borrowed at lower interest, 43370.—Scheme would have to be submitted to Board of Works, 43371.—Small borrowers would be punctual in repayment, 43372-3.

OBJECTIONS TO CREAMERIES UNFOUNDED.

Objections to creameries were unfounded; there was no need for calves to deteriorate owing to use of separated milk, and if the women of the farm had a little more leisure for recreation, etc., it was a very good thing, 43328-9.—If children suffered it was from want of humanity on part of parents; there was every facility for keeping back enough milk for the children, 43330-1.—Witness did not think that the decrease of tillage was due to creameries; it was more likely to be due to rise in wages, 43337-8.

WAGES.

Ordinary wages now were £20 a year with food and lodging, or 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week if labourer lived out, but that was rare, 43339-41.—Witness had known nothing under 8*s.* since he was quite young, 43342-3.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO IMPROVEMENTS.

A great deal of work of a local character should be given to County Councils, and the Department of Agriculture should have an improvements branch; initiation must not be left to individual farmers; as to cost, there would be as funds to draw on the County Council's funds, the Co-operative Society State Loan Fund, and the State through the Board of Works; the Department should decide on which fund work should fall; Board of Works should continue to do the engineering, but must be co-ordinated, so as to work sympathetically with other bodies; capable and experienced inspectors would be needed for maintenance, etc.; no body of men would be more suitable as inspectors than present and former estate agents of improving landlords, 43373.—Tenants should pay for improvements; it was the only sound financial system, and if the tenant did not pay he would not care to maintain, 43375.—In Estates managed on the English system, that is, where landlord did substantial repairs, the Heneage Clause inserted in Act of 1881 to protect such improvers, failed entirely, 43376-82.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S WORK AT VALENCIA ISLAND.

At Valencia Island in a congested district an agricultural society was doing good work, getting best material to put into the land, and marketing the produce, 43374-5.

THREE OPERATIONS NEEDED FOR RELIEF OF CONGESTION.

There should be three operations for relief of congestion instead of one—viz., enlargement of holdings, organisation of agriculture, and starting of industries and development of fisheries, 43375.

ARDFERT ABBEY HOME FARM.

On Ardfert Abbey Home Farm there were forty hands in regular work; wages bill was £1,650 a year; labourers had grass parks for their cows, and garden plots attached to house; average wages were 12*s.* a week; a shorthorn herd used to be maintained, and an auction of young bulls took place every year; this had greatly improved class of stock kept by farmers; herd was dispersed on death of late owner, but at that time Department began to make provision for shorthorn bulls; in other respects system of farming still served for education purposes, all wheat being sold to farmers as seed, etc.; landlord spent about £45,000 on improvements, 43383.—Land Acts had put a stop to improvements by landlords by depriving them of all return for their outlay; rents on improved farms were much more heavily cut down than on unimproved farms, 43382-4.

HOUSES FOR ARTISANS—FURTHER PROVISION NEEDED.

There was a gap in laws as to provision for rural industries; labourers could get houses built at 3¼ per cent.; artisans' houses could only be built by Board of Work's loans at 6½ per cent.; artisans did not come under Labourers Acts, because they worked by the job, 43384-5.

TAKING OVER OF VILLAGE BY THE LAND COMMISSION.

Land Commission was making every possible objection to taking over villages on ground that they were not good security; but Commissioners need not lose if they only paid for ground rent and gardens, leaving landlord to charge rent or interest for buildings; some legislation would be required, but the village should be treated as a vital component part of an estate, and developed by co-operative societies, cheap houses, places and means of recreation, and by libraries and lectures, 43385.

INDEBTEDNESS TO SHOPKEEPERS.

Farmers were terribly in debt to shopkeepers; witness had sometimes been able to arrange a composition; all the debtors in list presented by witness were purchasers, but in all cases purchase diminished, not increased obligation to landlord, 43385-93.—Indebtedness was very general; Estates Commissioners when selling land to a tenant should require a statement as to debt, and assist in bringing about a composition, 43394.—It could not pay shopkeepers to go on giving credit; sometimes it was due to carelessness, but sometimes it was due to the desire to have a hold on farmer, and secure his produce, 43395-7.—Any farmer who bought on credit had to pay a higher price, so that original price included interest, 43398. —Co-operative societies had rather avoided the idea of going into trade, 43399.—If a co-operative store were started it would have to begin by advancing money to get members clear out of the shops, 43400. —The store would have a fair chance of success, 43401.—There were no co-operative stores in the country at present, 43402.—Cost of living had gone up universally, and there had not been an increase of prosperity to justify the higher standard of living, 43405-8.—The standard was too low before, but the increased cost was met by running up debts at the shops, 43409.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD QUICKER AND BETTER THAN ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

In regard to machinery for sale of land Congested Districts Board was more expeditious and satisfactory than Estates Commissioners; it was absurd every-

TRENCH, MR. GEORGE F.—*continued.*

thing should be stopped for three months in the summer while officials kept holidays; there was no such break in the work of any other Department; witness did not blame the Commissioners; it was the system that was bad; out of fifty millions of money required for work actually done only seventeen millions had been paid out, and there was a great amount of work in the office not examined yet, 43409-10, 43415-6.—Congested part of Ireland should be handed over bodily either to Congested Districts Board or to a Connaught and Munster Sale Commission, sitting alternately in Cork and Galway, and the Estates Commission should be doubled from top to bottom, the *fiat* of any two Commissioners to be sufficient to authorise each transaction, 43410.—Sales through Estates Commissioners were necessarily slower than through Board, since every holding had to be mapped out, checked by surveyor, and inspected, whereas with the Board the maps were merely sectional, there was no checking of boundaries, and the estate was only inspected as a whole, the Board dealing afterwards with the individual tenant, 43417-20.—Payment had been made in seven months after a sale to the Board, whereas the Talbot-Crosbie Estate was not yet paid for after three years in Estates Commissioners' Office; on the Collis Sandes Estate the agreement was signed in June, 1904, and the funds not allocated till July, 1906, and in the case of Mr. L. Talbot-Crosbie's Estate when the question of adding arrears was raised Judge Meredith took five months to consider his judgment, 43420-2.

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MORIARTY, MR. DAVID.

INDUSTRIES IN KERRY.

Question of grass lands and emigration did not apply in Kerry, but there were other grievances; industries in Kerry and over a great part of Ireland were dead; Ireland was practically in the position of a new country so far as industries were concerned, and a great many authorities and advocates of the theory of *laissez faire*, such as John Stuart Mill had acknowledged that in a new country protection was justifiable; so that even a Liberal Government would be justified in holding out a helping hand to revive these industries, 43426.—Ireland had a claim that no new country would have, its industries had been legislated away; what the English Government ought to do in the future depended a great deal on what they had done in the past, 43427.—Witness would like to see Irish industries started and put in a self-supporting condition, 43428, 43442.—No sensible man would be in favour of Government help keeping on an industry year by year unless there was general protection in the country; in Ireland as long as Free Trade principles remained it would be absurd; industries such as woollen industry, and cabinet-making would be self-supporting once they were started and people had been taught how to use proper apparatus, 43428.—Industries were flourishing before the terrific imposts were put on, 43429-30.—Extremely difficult to establish a new industry in any district; reason akin to that of a Sheffield manufacturer who on being asked why he did not start bicycle-making in Sheffield replied, "They began in Coventry and Birmingham, they have the trade atmosphere there, and skilled hands, and there is no use trying in Sheffield now," 43430.—A population who had practically to learn a trade could not expect to get same remuneration as skilled people, 43431.—Remuneration in Ireland should be lower than in corresponding trades in England, and cheaper labour ought to give Ireland a great pull in some of those poorer districts; cheaper labour would be quite unskilled and it would take generations before that labour would reach same scale of perfection as English

MORIARTY, MR. DAVID—*continued.*

labour, therefore it would not be so cheap as it looked; a carpenter in America was paid higher wages than in England, because American carpenter did his work quicker than an English one; a bricklayer in America would lay 4,500 bricks in a day, and in Ireland 400, 43432.—If he did not do them he would have to go; Government help would still have to be obtained to supplement want of skill and training, 43433.—Witness called protection and subsidies the same, 43434, 43437.—Plainer industries such as hand looms would derive benefit from cheap labour, they did not require any high degree of skill; cheap labour would give an advantage, and financial help from Government need not be very large and would only be wanted for a certain time, 43435.—People would not ask for a tariff, 43436.—Subsidy was a very different thing from a tariff, if there was protection it would shut out any articles from other countries and give people in Ireland an opportunity to make such articles though of inferior quality to begin with, 43439-40.—Under witness's system of giving subsidy to trade undertakings of this kind, there would be nothing in the sense of protection, and they would compete freely with articles from England and Scotland, 43441.—Witness's idea was to revive old industries, such as the linen industry, at Dingle, raw material of linens and woollens was got from Belgium and manufactured in Scotland and north of Queensland as Scotch and Irish, 43443.—It would be hopeless to attempt to revive in congested districts without Government help, 43444-5.—But an industry that flourished before would flourish now, taking altered circumstances into consideration; woollen industry was specially suited to congested districts and had never quite died out in Kerry it would assist agriculture by providing employment for persons who must otherwise emigrate, 43446-7.—Work of Congested Districts Board showed the people had skill and commercial aptitude but industries could only be revived by financial help and strong stimulus, 43448-51.—Instructors were numerous but the stimulus and example provided by the existence of industries themselves was the only form of instruction worth anything in congested district or elsewhere, 43452-3.—Instruction, so far as regarded the poorer people in congested districts had produced nothing but expenditure, 43454-5, 43462.—Success of Foxford industry was due to inspection, financial help and skilled division, 43456-8.—The Iveragh industry in Caherciveen would have succeeded with the same advantages, 43459.—Fair success could be obtained with direction by an ordinary person of good business habits and fair commercial aptitude, 43460.—Congested districts could be greatly improved by the starting of model farms here and there, which need not be expensive, 43460.—Witness could see no value in Department's experiments, agricultural work had not been more successful in non-congested than in congested districts, though in the former people might be supposed to have more money and intelligence, 43461-4.—Whether improvement would result from district instructors remaining in congested districts would depend on the way they worked, the teaching must be practical, 43465.—Model farms would be of great use for purpose of testing theory, 43466.

SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING FOR BOYS WOULD BE USEFUL.

A system of agricultural training for boys in central National schools would be useful, but the model farms would be needed as well, the old people wanted education as well as the young, 43467.—When the Board began spraying they could scarcely get people to do it; now every farmer in the district could do the litmus paper test, 43467-76.—Spraying was very successful when done twice and when care was taken to do it again if rain washed it off, 43477.

INDEBTEDNESS TO SHOPKEEPERS.

In regard to Mr. Trench's evidence as to indebtedness to shopkeepers witness thought instances given were exceptional, it was only a few large merchants in Tralee who could give certain amount of credit, and farmers of the district were prudent and thrifty on the whole, 43477-9.

FLEMING, Mr. MICHAEL.

Necessity for Lime.

Great necessity for lime in Kilcummin district, also drainage; district was entirely composed of small occupiers, and was very congested, 43481, 43499, 43502.—It was all reclaimed land, and had gone back very much in quality within last thirty years; reclaimed land went back very much when not attended to properly, 43481, 43493, 43494.—Only one limestone quarry in the district, it was not working at present, it had been closed since March, 43482-3, 43487.—Witness did not know the reason Lord Kenmare did not employ the men, 43484.—Plenty of demand for lime in winter, and for sixteen miles round there was no other limestone quarry, 43485.—Quarry belonged to Lord Kenmare, and he would not allow any man to interfere, 43486.—He charged 2*s.* a barrel for lime, 43487.—No difficulty as to fuel, plenty of turbary all round, thousands of acres of bog, 43488.—Quarrying always stopped in harvest time, also in March when crops were down, 43489.—Perhaps quarry would open again in the winter, but the real time for it to be open was March, April and May, 43490.

Want of Bulls and Stallions.

Good bulls were wanted in the district, there were none, also good stallions, the ones they had being of the worst class, 43490.—There was a farmer in the district who could buy a bull, but he would keep it to himself and he would not lend bull unless to a few people, 43491.—Fair way would be to give price of bull to a man or two and let them give security for price, 43492.—Department's premiums would do very well, no high class cattle wanted, from £15 to £18 was sufficient, 43493.—People were so poor that it would be a great benefit if they had a stallion, 43506.—Witness had two mares himself, 43507-8.—His neighbours all had horses, 43509.—People got stallions for 7*s.* 6*d.*, and instead of going to a good horse they would have good foals, 43510.

Land Purchase.

District now under sale by Lord Kenmare, people not getting any advantage beyond districts all round where there was good natural land, 43494.—They would only fall in with the rest of the district in the purchase; good thing if money were advanced to people at low interest; many were short of cattle, and great many wanted to improve their farms, 43495-6.—Place had been originally called "the rushy mountain," 43496.—It should not be compared with places with naturally good land, it was only third or fourth class land, 43497-8.—No advantage derived from Congested Districts Board over districts that were not congested, there were a few roads, 43500.—There was no Parish Committee, 43501.

Migration.

People on uneconomic holdings would migrate if they could get land outside Kerry; there was no labour and people had gone to Limerick, or Waterford, or even to America, employers were not able to pay, 43503-4.—They would go to the next county, or the county beyond it, where they go now to America or Australia, 43505.—Only one farm in the vicinity for enlargement of holdings, and the family were not living in the division, there was another farm of 400 or 500 acres of bog and mixed land, 43506.

THE MacGILLICUDDY OF THE REEKS.

Effect of having no Transit Facilities on Supply of Lime.

Lime was the great need of these districts, where bog preponderated, 43511, 43514.—Lime implied dry land, drainage, and means of communication; in many places in Kerry it had fallen into disuse because distances were too great, and railway rates too high though the carriage of lime and sea-sand was primary reason for building railways in Dingle, Cahirciveen, and Kenmare peninsulas under guarantee for which

MacGILLICUDDY OF THE REEKS, The—*con.*

people were heavily taxed, 43511, 43517-8.—Delivery was very difficult, witness, if he had quarries of his own, would get motor cars, but that would entail much expenditure in strengthening bridges, 43520.—Some delivery might be done by boat, but it was rather dangerous work, 43524.—Nearest points at which lime could be got for western ends of the three peninsulas were Castlemaine, Kenmare, and Killorglin, the peninsulas were all congested, and their total area was nearly half the county; there was a very fine quarry near the boundary with Cork with an immensity of fuel close to it; difficulties arose when quarry owners neither worked quarries themselves nor permitted other people to do so; whatever agency bought estates should take quarries into their own hands and work them on modern methods, as at Llandulas in Wales with rock drill and Hoffman kilns, if that were done the forty-two gallon barrel could be given at 9*d.*, 43511-2.—Local men might combine to work a quarry and supply the neighbourhood but they would need the right to work it, and the machinery, 43511.—Farmers would be willing to pay a reasonable price for it, 43517.—Anyone would give 1*s.* a barrel, but it was imperative that they should rescue farmers from the power of mortgage, 43517.

Sea-Sand used in place of Lime.

Sea-sand was used instead of lime; it was inferior to lime but had many good qualities, 43517-8.—Lime or sand was necessary for clay as well as bog, 43521-2.—It would be useless to look for limestone deeper down than the outcrop, 43523-4.—It was absurd to compare England and Ireland in regard to the need for Government help because for 300 years Irish wealth in shape of rents had been going across the water, 43513.

Difficulties in regard to Sale of Kenmare Estate.

Difficulties in regard to sale of Kenmare Estate were due, not to Lord Kenmare, but to a hardly justifiable rise in rents twenty-five years ago, and then the management, by a receiver, Maurice Leonard, whose practices were described by a county court judge as thoroughly unjustifiable, 43515-6.—Witness in his endeavour to sell to tenants had been tripped up again and again by mortgages; men who wanted to work for their country should be released from the power of mortgagees, 43517.

Tourist Development Scheme.

County beyond Killarney ought to be opened up for middle class tourists as Switzerland and Northern Italy had been by the peasant proprietors building simple, clean, small boarding-houses, where people could be put up for, say, 30*s.* a week; the proprietor would get a market for his goods on the spot, saving middleman's profit and costs of transport, 43525-6, 43528-9, 43531.—Charges in existing hotels were prohibitive except to very few, 43529-30.—One or two people, Mr. John Gissane of the Black Valley, Mr. David Doran, at Caragh Lake, etc., were already taking tourists, it was beginning slowly, 43527, 43531.

Roads Needed.

Road would have to be improved and extended to make it easy to drive from Killarney to Waterville; the road had been passed unanimously at road sessions in 1885, and was thrown out by Lord Kenmare's agent on a technical mistake, 43531.—There were two bits of road needed, Derrycunnihy to Garrymeen and Black Valley to Glencar, another road from Caragh Lake was nearly built but required to be finished, 43531.

Co-operation as applied to Fisheries.

Fisheries, coast and inland, were of foremost importance, and people were robbed in every direction by the middleman; Mr. Burdett-Coutts had broken down owing to Billingsgate ring, 43534.—Co-operation was the natural system in Ireland, English Joint

MacGILLICUDDY OF THE REEKS, The—*con.*

Stock concerns took their framework and organisation from the old Irish tribal system; witness determined to apply co-operation, and he and a friend embodied their views in a little pamphlet which was the framework of all Sir H. Plunkett's work; if Congested Districts Board wanted to be of as much use as possible they must encourage co-operation; witness had gone through the bankruptcy court in order to keep his people out of it and men who had done that had some right to be heard with respect, 43535.

Extent and Situation of Witness's Estate.

Witness's estate was 17,000 acres in extent, about 1,000 acres close to Killarney, 800 round the Reeks, 5,000 or 6,000 round Caragh Lake; it was all confiscated in time of Charles I., and Charles II. regranted all that was not passed in patent to Cromwellian settlers, 43536-7.

Tendency to overload a Successful Man with Work.

One mischievous thing in Ireland was the tendency whenever a man was successful, a land agent for instance, for everyone to go to him till he was so overburdened with work that he could do nothing at all, 43537.

Document put in by The Magillicuddy of the Reeks.

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O'RIORDAN, Very Rev. Canon.

Congestion in Ireland.

Position of Congested Districts Board was anomalous, congestion being local, whilst the country as a whole was lacking in population; the western seaboard was over-populated, the population being greater in the poor counties of Mayo and Donegal than in rich lands of Meath and Kildare, 43539-40.—Few places were so thickly populated in proportion to valuation as Cahirciveen, 43540.—The cause was that people were driven from the counties round Dublin and the central counties to the fastnesses of the west, 43539.—Even though the surplus population be now removed congestion would recur within twenty or thirty years by natural increase, 43539, 43541, 43543.

Amalgamation of Holdings and Migration only Remedies for Congestion.

The only permanent remedy lay in the amalgamation of holdings to a minimum limit of £10 or £15 valuation, 43542-4, 42548-9, 43556, 43559.—And transplantation of at least one-third of people to rich counties of the Pale from which their forefathers were driven, 43539-40, 43544, 43552, 43560-62, 43567.—Amalgamation of holdings could only take place by removal of holders; there was no spare land in Kerry, 43549-50, 43555-6.—People would go to Meath or Kildare rather than to New York, if sent in groups to the same neighbourhood, not otherwise, 43545, 43549, 43551-2.—Young sons and daughters of present occupiers would go first, 43546-7, 43553, 43563.—The old, the actual holders, would follow if they heard the young were comfortable, 43546, 43554, 43569.—Old men would go to mind the cows, 43557, 43569.—Some holdings would be amalgamated by consent, 43564.—If a young man, who was to succeed his father, were moved to a better holding in Kildare or Meath, both could be easily made to sign an agreement to part with the holding in Kerry, 43552-3, 43570-71.—Additional holdings, five or six for every six or eight holders migrated, would be created thus in Ireland, but not in that district, 43565-8.—In case of holding occupied by old couple whose son did the work, the old should be obliged to go with the son if he were given a holding elsewhere, 43572.—Young and old alike should migrate, 43574.—Witness did not wish to disturb the young men of Kildare, but the grazier who lived in Dublin and had hundreds of acres on which only cattle and a herd to mind them should be looked to, 43573, 43575.—Young men of Kildare, some of whom also emigrated, would not have equal claim to those coming from Kerry, where congestion was so great, as they would bring their old people, 43575, 43577.—There were 1,023 holdings in Cahirciveen Union of £5 valuation and under, and 1,220 under £10, 43562.—There were hardly any labourers, all being small farmers, 43563.—To eke out a living on a holding of £5 valuation would be equal to penal servitude to many, 43570.—English who had caused the mischief should undo it and pay the cost, 43550, 43573, 43578.—There had been a Parliament in Ireland, but it was one of English settlers, 43579-80.—Witness was conscious that his scheme might seem bold and visionary, but the root of the evil must be attacked; if this were impracticable he would suggest not remedies for congestion, but the improvement of holdings and of the condition of the people, 43559-60, 43578, 43580.

Land Purchase.

First and foremost Congested Districts Board should purchase land from the two or three large landlords of the district, preferably by free purchase, but if necessary by compulsion, becoming the landlord for about ten years, developing land, showing people how to do so, and then passing it on to the tenant; there were the huge estates of Trinity College and Lord Lansdowne, with whom the poor could not negotiate direct, both should be made to sell and the Board should intervene; where they did so they were real fathers to the people, 43580-4.—Only one estate, the Burns-Hartopp, had been bought in the district, 43580.—Trinity College the head landlord; not a bad one, but the land should be given to the people on fair terms, 43581-3.

Arterial Drainage.

If the estates were purchased by the Board, before selling to the tenants it should, before all, undertake arterial drainage which could not be done by farmers of £5 to £10 valuation, and should be the duty of a public authority; in that parish and the neighbouring one they were swamped with water; there were thousands of acres of bog, through which the Board should make canals and great arterial drains into them; the small holder would drain into these, 43583, 43585-9, 43591.—The great drains should be four or five feet below and ten feet above, and should be kept in repair by Government, as the dykes in Holland, 43586.—The large landlords—Trinity College and Lord Lansdown—did nothing since the Land Act came into force but take the rent; many smaller landlords followed their example, and the tenants in their place would be as exacting, 43584.—In present condition of land people lived from hand to mouth; they would improve inside of their houses where landlord could not see, but outside they did nothing lest they should be thought prosperous, this being thought dangerous in the past, 43587.

Lime.

Lime was scarce, but it was useless to mention it before drainage; facilities for obtaining it should be granted, 43588, 43591.—Supply of lime was not so far away—Killorglin or Kenmare; there should be a siding at Kells, at Mountain Stage and Glenbeigh, so that wagons could be put up for the use of tenants, instead of drawing lime up nine or ten miles from Cahirciveen, 43588-9.—The line was part of the main system of Great Southern line; there was a guarantee for a smaller portion built a short time ago from Farranfore to Killorglin, but much more might be done, 43589-90.—Best lime for agricultural use was that of Killorglin, 43595.—Present price, at Cahirciveen, of lime for any purpose was 2*s.* 6*d.* a barrel, which was same as an ordinary bag; this was not an economic price; formerly the price was 3*s.*, 43588, 43592, 43594.—At the kiln it was selling at 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 4*d.* a barrel, 43597.—But in large quantities it would be obtainable at a reduced price, 43597, 43608.—It should be landed at station and sold for 1*s.* at most, its intrinsic value, 43588, 43596.—Board should help by subsidy paid direct to kiln-owner to extent of a quarter of price, and give it to people at 1*s.* a barrel, a sum the people could afford

O'RIORDAN, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

to give, 43593, 43598-9, 43609-10.—Cost of carriage would be unappreciable; it cost £6 or £7 to bring a wagon of lime from Killorglin, a rate of a penny a barrel, 43600.—The difference in price from present cost was owing to middleman's profit, 43601-2.—Best lime for building purposes, such as that used for church came from Kenmare, and bought in great quantities by witness almost at cost price, came to about £6 10*s.* or £6 15*s.* a wagon of six or seven tons, or about 2*s.* a barrel; much cheaper than the other rate, this being for best building lime and from Kenmare, 43595, 43602-6.—Co-operative purchase by farmers associating to get a large quantity by train from Killorglin was a capital idea, but they were not so advanced; here lay the advantage of education, 43607.—Supposing a public body gave a temporary subsidy of 3*d.* or 4*d.* a barrel, such co-operation should be found amongst them in two or three years, dispensing with further subsidy, especially if the Board were the landlord, 43610-3.—The people should be taught the use of lime, which they never had and knew nothing about; they had but a little sand, 43613.

PARISH COMMITTEE GRANT AND WORK.

Grant for Cahirciveen was a miserable dole, £118 was the sum, but owing to red tape they were only able to obtain £40 that year; it should be made at least £200 to encourage work, 43613-4.—Many little houses were hardly fit to live in, 43614.—Respecting present work of Committee, removal of manure from near houses was being insisted on, new pits were being made, houses improved and roofed, 43615.

FISHERIES.

More should be done by Board for local fisheries; much good had been done in Donegal and Mayo, but since 1892 Kerry had received only £25,000 out of a total expenditure of a million and a quarter; its due proportion was £200,000, 43616.—Witness admitted that a large part of the total sum was spent on purchase of estates, one being bought at Coonana in Cahirciveen parish, on which £4,400 was spent, and the pier built there on a sandy foundation was doing very well, 43617-20, 43624.

SLIPS.

Coscroum, north of Reenard, was sadly neglected; there was a colony of about 100 hardy, industrious fishermen, the most deserving on the seaboard, who should be encouraged; they needed a small pier, or better still, one with a slip at the end; when Mr. Bryce, the late Chief Secretary, came down a year previous he promised help in answer to a petition, but nothing had been done since, 43620, 43623, 43625. —An officer under the Board came a month ago, took bearings, but no more had been heard since, although the Board's grant under Marines Act was £2,500; the department responsible should carry out the work, 43620-3.—The cost would only be about £1,500, there being a rocky foundation, 43624.—Slips were greatly needed at Reenard, where the pilots were, at Vigett's Island, 43620.—A slip was needed at the mouth of Valentia Harbour, outside the lighthouse, near which an accident happened some time ago in the North Channel, several lives being lost, 43629-31.—Slips were put in wrong places; local people should be consulted by the Board's officers, 43630, 43635.—Nothing was more urgently needed than a slip at Cloonaska; that should be granted if all else were refused; the fishermen, a deserving set of men, were at present obliged to go by the dangerous channel of Bigness Island, 43625.

STEAMER TRAFFIC.

Pier accommodation was very defective and should be extended; steamer traffic should compete with railway, which now had monopoly; until a few years past a steamer plied round the coast, 43673.—Lime should come from Kenmare by boat, 43588.

INSTRUCTION IN HERRING CURING.

An instructor in herring curing was needed for Reenard, where it was desired to introduce that industry; there were herrings off the coast, but the fishermen did not know how to cure them, although they knew well how to cure mackerel, 43624-6, 43635.

O'RIORDAN, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

IMPROVEMENTS FOR FISH AND BOATS.

Witness was also instructed on behalf of Reenard to ask for a steriliser for fish, as used at Birkenhead; this would be a great boon, keeping the fish sound for days until it could be cured, 43626-9.—Steriliser should be provided by Board free of charge, 43626. —Better boats, cover boats were required, instead of the long open boats now used; sails were sometimes used, and the men went out eight or ten miles, 43631-5.

LEASES FOR HOUSES IN TOWN.

Restrictions on building were so many that there was very little inducement to build; it should be possible to obtain leases for houses and building plots in the town from Trinity College, the owner of the town and all about it; one enterprising man, whose house was burned down, very foolishly spent £1,000 on re-building without a lease; as a tenant-at-will he could be turned out, the house being built before Town Tenants Act; he had wished to build a modest place, but added another storey on advice from witness, who ignored that there was no lease; one for 99 years was required, but Trinity College would date it from 1877, 43635-44.

CATTLE.

Respecting the breed of cattle, foreign breeds should not be imported into Kerry; the native Kerry cow was a very good milker and the best for the place, the only one that would live and thrive there; the Board should also send native Irish horses, like the excellent breed in County Cork, not half racers, 43644-5.—Witness knew that class of work was now under the Department, 43646.

WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES.

Board should introduce and foster industries; the making of woollen stuffs should be encouraged, and to some extent subsidised; there was plenty of sheep and a quantity of wool, 43646, 43651-2, 43656.—The only factory in the district was in the Convent, and they had received little encouragement, but the Department was responsible for this, not the Board; the nuns and witness had bought a house and expended almost £100 on machinery and equipment, and thinking the Department might fairly pay for the latter, sent them the invoice, but met with a stern refusal; witness went to the County Council at Tralee, which works with the Department, and the Council were willing to help, but an official from the Department interfered, and from that day to the present the money for the machinery had not been obtained, 43646-8.—The factory had not been subsidised by the Board, 43655.—But industry was coming on; it was the only one of its kind in the district; they were making hosiery and lace of good quality, and employed fifty-eight girls in the factory, and twenty in their homes, 43649-50.—A small trader in the town, named O'Shea, produced home-spuns, employing farmers' wives in the country to spin wool and make thread, which was worked on old primitive looms; he employed seven or eight women, but if encouraged this would develop into a thriving industry; O'Shea should be encouraged and given some capital, 43646, 43650-2, 43655-7.—This subsidy would enable him to pay the women and to sell the woollens a little cheaper and set the industry on its feet, 43657.—These old women worked for very little, but they and the weaver should be paid, 43662.—It would be an advantage if the people had improved looms and an instructor were sent down, and if an inspector were to classify and mark the webs, and a connection were obtained with the industries in Dublin and London, 43653, 43659-61.—Witness had met Mr. Walker, an officer of the Board, once; he had done some good, and was about to obtain a position for one of the local workers under the Board, 43663-4.

BUTTER INDUSTRY.

Butter industry, which was still more important, was ruined for want of a trade mark and the want of any system of grading, 43653-5, 43662, 43664.—There was no standard or distinction as to classes of butter, the farmers' wives get no better price for the good butter than the bad; several local gentlemen

O'RIORDAN, VERY REV. CANON—*continued.*

bought all the butter on the side of the roads, so that the women scarcely came into the markets; the butter was all mixed together and was getting a bad name, 43664-69, 43673.—There were no creameries, there were only a few gallons of milk in each house, 43665.—Without encouragement there would soon be no good butter, 43668.—There should be an inspector to visit the market and other districts and put the markets on a proper footing; there should be a weighbridge, an inspector, and a market for the district; the inspector, officially appointed, should grade the butter and mark it first, second, and third, in three qualities, in Cahirciveen, Dingle and Kenmare, and let the buyer give his price according to the quality, 43664-5, 43670-3.—The inspector appointed could visit five or six towns a week and grade the butter, and the local buyers could price it then, 43673.

O'DRISCOLL, MR. ALEXANDER.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Former member of the Agricultural Council, living at Valentia Island, a landowner and farmer, engaged in the fishing industry and timber import trade, and owner of steam sawmills, nominated by County Council, 43674-8.

LAND PURCHASE.

It was of utmost importance that tenants be assisted in purchase of their holdings, 43674, 43678.—To achieve this the Board should either simultaneously buy every estate offered them in any one district, or none at all; all the estates in the congested districts required improving, and all should be dealt with alike, 43678-84.—When the Board purchased one estate in each congested district, whilst the adjoining one had no prospect of enlargement of holdings or erection of new houses, the impression was strengthened that the Board was an institution for the dispensation of patronage, and the operation of wider policy of Imperial Parliament was retarded; purchase of Dillon Estate in Mayo created immense difficulties, and purchase of Hartopp and Butler Estates in Kerry put a stop to proceeding between landlord and tenant direct, and led tenants to ask their landlords to sell to Board instead, 43678, 43687.—If no land were allowed to pass from landlord to tenant, Board should be given compulsory power providing for purchase at a reasonable price, 43685.—Witness had not considered number of inspectors or amount of capital necessary to effect this, 43686-7.—In Valentia the Board had bought a farm from a gentleman who wished to sell, ostensibly as a site for houses and allotments for fishermen, after five years nothing had been done beyond putting a caretaker in charge, though the farm was sufficiently large to give allotments, 43687-8.—In 1903, when the Land Act was passed, witness offered a small property to Board without naming price, simply on Land Conference terms, which he understood to be a reduction of 4*s.* on second term rents and 6*s.* on first term rents, and then to sell to tenants on that basis; Board took two years to consider it, and then declined, 43743-5, 43749.—No land was sold in the district, 43746.—Witness did not know what prices were paid throughout Kerry, 43747-8.

FAILURE OF SCHEMES OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Unequal treatment strengthened impression that Board, striving after popularity, also took the maximum of credit to itself on all occasions, even when actual harm had been done to the community, 43687, 43689.—Several of the Board's schemes were dismal failures, 43698, 43707, 43712, 43717, 43737.—Witness attributed failure in connection with live stock schemes to the pressure in higher offices of Board of too strong a Scottish element, basing their action on what was done in Scotland, 43710.—Respecting the difficulty of reaching the proper authority for any scheme, who should give assistance, and who spent the money, witness proceeded to give instances, 43687-98.

O'DRISCOLL, MR. ALEXANDER—*continued.*

CHANNEL IN CAHIRCIVEEN BAR PROPOSAL.

A memorial was sent to Congested Districts Board praying for the erection of a perch at end of Cahirciveen bar to mark channel for fishing and other vessels; the memorialists were referred by Board to Irish Lights Commissioners, from them to Board of Trade, and by latter to local authority, probably on the assumption that there was a Harbour Board in Cahirciveen; finally, the master of a steamer frequenting the river erected a barrel on a strong staff embedded in concrete; on a subsequent visit of a high official of the Congested Districts Board the latter took credit for what had been done, but when it was made known that the work was not due to the Board, the captain was reported to the Board of Trade for his action, 43687, 43689, 43693-4.

HARBOUR BOARD.

There was no Harbour Board, tolls would not justify constituting one, as this would entail upkeep and the salary of harbour officials, a serious matter in a poor district; the County Council made arrangements through local members and provided for a caretaker of pier for a couple of pounds a year, but this was a very different matter, 43690-3.

VALENTIA HARBOUR STATION—PIER SCHEME.

When Board was memorialised for a pier at Valentia Harbour Station to enable fish to be landed, Board said it was the duty of the railway company to build it, company said it was duty of Board of Works, the latter said it was that of District Council, and District Council that of County Council, and County Council had not funds for so large a work, 43694-5.—Co-operation between County Council and Board was no simple matter; the Board were willing to contribute £7,000, 43696.—It was previous to Marines Act; late Chief Secretary had promised that money would be available under Marines Works Act, three Lords Lieutenants, three Chief Secretaries, and Sir Antony MacDonnell all agreed on necessity for work, but nothing had been done; the work was not ordered, an engineer referred to by Canon O'Riordan had gone without doing anything, 43697-8.

PIER AT TRAGANANE.

A memorial was sent for the erection of a pier at Traganane; there were two local schemes, either of which would have been good, but the Congested Districts Board adopted one of their own, which they carried out at a cost of £2,000, and was perfectly useless; the disaster which occurred some time ago in Valentia Harbour was largely due to this mistake, 43698.—The parish priest consulted was also in favour of scheme advocated by witness, one man only favoured that of Congested Districts Board, 43703-4.—The engineer, witness did not know who he was, doubtless made what he thought the best selection after consulting local people, but advice was useless unless he consulted and acted on that of the people best qualified; fishermen knew by experience "where the shoe pinched," 43699-701.

FISHING INDUSTRY SCHEMES.

Board's schemes for development of fishing industry were a dismal failure; instead of utilising every new method found profitable, the Board furnished most primitive appliances to begin operations with, such as the "zulu" type of boat, which witness knew, and the people found an utter failure in competition with modern type, known as the "steam-drifter;" other types supplied were the "Yawl," and even the "curragh," now all discarded by other people, 43712-13A., 43717-19.—Witness was surprised to hear £3,000 mentioned as the cost of the "steam-drifter," putting it down to half that sum, but though a large sum it would equip the men to earn larger; there was no local capital to build such boats, which had been found profitable for private enterprise, and the Board should give loans to help; this would enable them to compete with others, 43714-5, 43722.—The "steam-drifter" would be used by local men for herring and mackerel fishing, not in the surrounding sea, but wherever herring could be taken; around the Scotch coast if necessary, 43720-24.—They would not know at present how to manage, as they had none but the most primitive methods, 43725.

Cold Storage for Fish.

Witness agreed with Canon O'Riordan that the Board should provide, at a reasonable rent, cold storage where fish could be kept in times of glut until it could be dealt with, 43725.—Board should exercise supervision over transhipment of fish at North Wall and Holyhead, and send some one to visit the larger markets during the season, reporting to the senders who got bad prices why the prices were reduced, 43725.

Scientific Fishery Investigations.

Locally they were not at all satisfied that the scientific investigations into the habits of fish was proceeding on proper lines to advance the interests of the fishing industry, rather than for the benefit of the scientists engaged, and they were surprised that every tittle of information gleaned was not published, 43725.—Witness did not know that the researches had been going on for some years as international investigations and that the matter had no direct reference to the Board, 43726-8.

Board's Steamer.

Board had a steamer, the *Granuaile*, which was kept toying round coast as a half-yacht, and used sometimes to bring a cargo of staves to coopers to justify her existence; she could be made some use of in conveying lime from Galway to Kerry, which would enable Board to sell lime to farmers in congested districts at a reasonable rate; this would not prevent her being generally employed on the coast; in witness's experience a steamer of the kind could do a lot of work, 43728, 43731-2, 43737.

Fish Curing.

Respecting witness's personal experience of working of Congested Districts Board, having seen in New York, in February, 1906, a lot of fish that could not be sold owing to careless handling in Ireland, and concluding that the appliances and methods of curing were not sufficiently up-to-date, witness wrote to the Board for plans of a really up-to-date fish-curing factory, proposing to build one; on the reply that a plain shed with a partitioned portion for the storage of salt was in use, witness applied to the Department of Agriculture for a loan to build a proper factory; Congested Districts Board sent two engineers in October, 1906, to examine the site, of which they approved, explaining that they had the administration of the Reproduction Loans Act in the congested district, and asked for a plan, which was prepared; the owners of a house, the garden of which adjoined witness's premises, made a fuss about his intentions and the purpose of the money, inquiring whether they could obtain any for the protection of their lawn from the encroachment of the sea; on December 8th, witness received a communication from Board declining his application; without stating reasons, and allowing him to suppose refusal due to his neighbour's objection to site being used for fish factory, 43742-3.

Mineral Resources.

Board did nothing whatever to develop mineral resources of country; when a member of the Council of Agriculture, witness had brought forward a motion, which was unanimously carried, that money should be spent in searching for and developing the mineral resources, suggesting at the same time that the diamond borer should be lent free to those willing to use it; a Mr. Ede made an important discovery of copper on the estate bought by the Board from Mr. Hartopp, but the Board would not give him a mining concession to commence operations there, owing to some legal difficulty, which they had not troubled to remedy; meantime the best labourers were leaving the country, and capital, if found, could effect nothing without labour, 43710-2.

Live Stock Schemes.

Board's live stock schemes had been in some cases positively harmful, as in case of introduction of hackney sire, etc., the introduction of Galloway bull, instead of careful selection in Kerry, where a true breed of cattle existed; the Royal Dublin Society had also closed its Kerry herd-book against outside entries, and would not take any entries now except of the offspring of stock already registered, to the exclusion often of cattle of truer type; Board should have attempted to prevent this, or opened a Kerry herd-book for small breeders of good stock, 43707-8.—For the past two years the work was handed over by Board to Department of Agriculture, but there was no difference in conduct of things, 43709-10.

Lime.

Throughout Kerry the lime question was a very important one, the Board might spend part of its endowments in giving lime at a reduced price, bringing it from Galway to Cahirciveen and Kenmare in their steamer; lime could probably be burned in district as labour was cheap, reducing cost to probably less than 1*s.* 6*d.* a barrel, and enabling Board to supply it at about 1*s.*, and give employment in unloading and burning, 43728, 43732-3, 43737.—Witness, who had not bought lime at Killorglin, but at Kenmare, and put some on his land, thought Canon O'Riordan mistaken in carriage rate for lime being a penny a barrel; witness paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a barrel at the kiln, and 6*d.* a barrel transport from Kenmare, 43728-30.—The farmers were so poor that they were perhaps not in a position to organise and provide for the supply of lime when the subsidy ceased, it would depend on the undoubted benefit to be derived from the lime to the lands, 43734-6.

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Early Potato Culture.

The action of Board in inducing several local people to carry out experiments in early potato culture under the guidance of "experts" sent for that purpose, instead of Board doing so on their own land in Valentia, had resulted in putting back prospect of early culture in district for at least ten years; in accordance with agreement with Mr. Porter, in August, 1902, witness undertook to plant 12 cwt. of early potatoe seed, to be delivered early in November with the manure; owing to some small advance in market prices they were not sent until mid-December; no information was given as to sprouting until too late; in January, 1903, the ground being ploughed and harrowed, notice to that effect was sent to Board, with request for manure promised, and instructor for planting, according to agreement; in reply, Board stated its inability to supply manure agreed upon, but promised a substitute, and not until 8th March, 1903, in response to two further appeals, did the expert come, bringing a substitute for the manure promised, and arriving in witness's absence, gave five minutes' supervision only to the workmen; the time of year being so late, the potatoes were nevertheless put down, and subsequent instructions from an inspector of Board as to loosening the ground and dressing with nitrate of soda carried out; after a frost in May had done great damage, the inspector suggested lighting fires every evening as a preventive; a letter to Board for packages, promised in agreement, for sending potatoes to market was met by request that witness should provide them, as they had none; a sample box of 16 lbs. of potatoes sent to a salesman, whose name was given by Board, selling at 1*s.* 10*d.* the 16 lbs., left witness 4*d.*, out of which the cost of the box was to be provided; this was a sample lot, witness had not reckoned what expenses would be on large transactions, 43737-42.

FITZGERALD, Mr. ROBERT.

Estates in hands of Witness's Predecessors.

Managed estates owned by his father, and his grandfather before him, in Valentia, 43774-5.—Witness had offered to give evidence with the view of showing what had been done by his father to relieve congestion, whilst Mr. Buxton, father of present Postmaster-General, before Land Act of 1870, had placed all small tenants of two townlands near Dingle into one

FITZGERALD, Mr. ROBERT—*continued*.

farm in Corobeg, 43751.—Witness's grandfather having unfortunately spent too much money in Parliament, witness's father bought back Valentia in the Incumbered Estates Court in 1853 with money left by an uncle, 43772, 43776.

Mr. Fitzgerald's Action in Relief of Congestion.

In townland of Corrobeg, a portion of Valentia, several holdings were held jointly by two or more tenants, 43751, 43756-7.—To relieve congestion, about 1866 witness's father fenced in a considerable portion of land in his possession, adjoining the mountain, about a quarter of a mile to a mile from the original holdings, built substantial houses thereon, and insisted on lots being drawn as to which of the tenants should be migrated, 43751, 43753-4.—As far as possible the holdings were striped; when an old tenant drew a lot and went to a new holding his former holding was amalgamated, or was given, to the other joint holder, 43752, 43755-7.—Tenants always objected to leave original holdings; drawing lots was because of his reluctance, 43759, 43765-6.—There was more land on the new holdings, but it was poorer, not so good as on holdings about; the houses were very good, better than former ones, 43760, 43768.—All the land relinquished was left to the other tenants, 43763-4.—The rent was apportioned; where there had been two joint tenants the man remaining paid the whole rent, but no fine, 43769-70.—Witness was satisfied that the course followed was the right one and that holdings were now better and the people in better circumstances, 43772.—From the point of view of the proprietor it was not a profitable transaction; on one holding of about seven acres £40 was spent on a house and £14 on fences; the total judicial rent being afterwards fixed at £1 10*s.*; the landlord, witness's brother, was at a loss, 43751, 43771.—Witness produced a map of Ballyhearney showing the patchwork manner in which lands were held in 1873, when the middleman's lease expired; at that time and for many years previous the rental was £266, and although a new house had been built for almost every tenant and much fencing done, present rental was only £208; the agricultural rental of Valentia Estate, excluding townland of Coromore, when purchased in 1853 was £1,064, and although between £11,000 and £14,000 had been spent by witness's father on houses, making roads, drains, fences, etc., present agricultural rents were only about £950, 43772-3.—As instance of hardships invariably attributed to landlords, one grievance against witness's father was his endeavour to compel tenants to cut weeds on their farms, another, that he exacted a nominal yearly charge to preserve his rights to sand, 43773.—Witness handed in form of certificate customarily given long before Land Act of 1870 to any tenant effecting an improvement, 43773.

Piers.

Witness called attention to fact that the sums of £1,000 and £1,300 respectively spent on piers at Valentia and Meenaghahane, the latter outside the district, which were of very little value, would have been far better spent by Board on pier at Reenard, on which every inhabitant of Valentia had to land before coming to the island, and was of the greatest importance to the fishermen; at times the number of fish-boxes heaped up almost prevented landing, 43776-80.—From local information derived from fishermen Valentia slip was in right place, 43779.

Migration.

Witness had experience of other parts of Kerry; he had not heard Canon O'Riordan's evidence as to the population, but though loth to differ from him, knowing the great reluctance of tenants to leave their original holdings, he scarcely thought that if tenants were migrated in colonies to better holdings elsewhere the old people would follow, 43781-5.—If the plan were acted upon it would be an injury to Kerry and to the cattle trade which depended largely, so cattle jobbers informed witness, on their buying cattle for large grazing farms in the centre of Ireland, 43785.

FOLEY, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Condition of District.

Holder of 50 acres at Keas, Glencar, 43786.—All estates in district were congested; mostly small holdings which could not be enlarged for want of available untenanted land; several hundred acres of waste land could be turned into productive land if properly drained and limed, and there was also great scope for improvement of dwellings, road-making, 43786.

Sale of Estates

Seventeen years ago Lord Lansdown had offered to sell Glencar portion of his estate to tenants at 16 years' purchase; he now refused to sell on any terms, 43786-91.—Negotiations were also pending for past two years between General Dennehy and his tenants, about forty in number; 24 years' purchase was demanded by landlord, although as future tenants they had never had a reduction and were debarred from going into Land Court to have fair rent fixed; estate was subsequently offered to Congested Districts Board, but landlord refused Board's terms and later offered it to tenants on 20 years' purchase; tenants refused, preferring purchase through Board; immediately after refusal proceedings were instituted, hanging gale inserted in all cases, all tenants being served with civil bills and ejectments, as was the general rule with landlords in district when tenants refused their offer; poor tenants loaded with arrears were thus often forced into bad bargains, 43791-2.

Condition of People.

Farmers in district, to a great extent, depended on remittances from America and other countries to pay their rent; if they had to depend on land for a living they could hardly pay any rent, and in many cases, especially when potato crop failed, barely support themselves and their families, 43792.

MAHONEY, Mr. T. M'D.

Pier at Cooscroom.

Wished to draw attention to need of a pier at Cooscroom; several attempts had been made by County Council to get one, and seven years ago they had asked the Congested Districts Board to contribute; the estimate of £1,400 for an ordinary pier made by County Surveyor at Board's request was referred back as too great an amount for district, and an estimate for slip asked for instead by Board was rejected as too small, Board promising to send their own engineer; since engineer's visit nothing more had been heard of Board's intentions; there were about 100 fishermen, with about forty small open boats, which there was very great difficulty in landing; it was a shelving beach, with a north or west-north wind, it was rather dangerous, and boats were often broken; large boats would be safe if the pier were made, now none would be there, 43793-5.—Cooscroom was probably suffering from fact of proposal being in competition with that for Coonananna, about four miles distant, whose pier was built at latter place, 43796-8.

Coonananna Pier.

At Coonananna a mistake was made, and a site condemned by two or three coastguard officers was chosen in preference to one on a plateau of rock suggested by local people; owing to position of pier on sandy bottom and its direction straight on the motion of the tide the original cost of about £1,400 had been greatly exceeded; repairs owing to damage from the sea having been necessary twice in fifteen years, besides ordinary repairs, 43798-801.

Procedure adopted for Grants.

As to procedure adopted at Coonananna seventeen year ago witness could not say; since then County Councils had been established, which worked with the

MAHONEY, Mr. T. M'D.—*continued.*

Congested Districts Board and the Department; plans now had to be approved both by Council and Board, as a rule, probably no other plan was submitted than that of engineer; the fact of expenditure at Coonananna remained, however, 43802, 43810-14.—At Cooscroom, to witness's personal knowledge, Congested Districts Board promised a grant at the time if plans were approved of, and when plan asked for was placed before them, disapproved of it and gave no grant, 43803-9.

Reevard Pier and Railway Company.

When the County Council agreed to the amalgamation scheme of Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Limerick Railway Companies it was stipulated that the Great Southern and Western Company should bring in a Bill to build a pier at Reevard, opposition in Cahirciveen to the amalgamation being chiefly withdrawn on that ground; the Bill was passed, but to the present day no more had been heard of it, 43828.

Steamer Traffic.

The Clyde Shipping Company then had steamers plying there, and the railway rates to Cork and Dublin from Cahirciveen being, in some instances, 25 per cent dearer, one of the best actions of the Board was its subsidy to the shipping company; the service continued two years, but owing to want of local support the steamer was now taken off, 43828-9.—Their trade had fallen off latterly owing to railway competition, 43830.

Cahirciveen Pier and Channel.

The enlargement of pier at Caherciveen was very necessary to keep the port open, as without shipping traffic the railway company would have the monopoly; the channel needed dredging and a few rocks should be removed, 43830.

Poverty of Union.

Witness believed Cahirciveen Union to be the poorest in the county; speaking from memory of the Board's reports, though Kerry contained one-eighth of the congested districts of Ireland, up to 1902 it had only received about one-fortieth of the money expended by Board, 43814-5.—The chief remedial measures needed were to do everything possible to aid the fishing industry, and on the other hand to encourage local weavers, 43820.

Convent Industries.

As regards industries, Canon O'Riordan in speaking of the most deserving convent industry had omitted to state that the nuns applied to the County Council for a grant of £80 for equipment; the resolution was passed by Council, and no less than three times it asked leave to hand over the amount to the convent; the convent expended the money on the assumption that they would obtain the grant, but the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction refused to sanction it, 43818.

Woollen Industry.

As regards local weavers, witness had attempted some time previous to start a little local industry, keeping two weavers at work for about nine years, but starting with only about £90, and unable to advertise the wares, the industry collapsed for want of capital, the weavers being paid 12*s.* a week, 43818-9.—Local weavers should be encouraged; there was an abundance of wool, there was always a market, especially in England, for home-spuns, and by combination and attention to one or two small points the industry might be made fairly remunerative; in 1901 there was, roughly speaking, about seventeen weavers who could work, if they had work, between Glenbeigh and Caherdaniel, and only about four or six were getting employment; advertising was needed, 43820, 43828.—No instruction in weaving had been given, but witness had been in correspondence with Mr. Walker, who had not given them much encouragement, 43821-2.—One of the great complaints was that the stuff

MAHONEY, Mr. T. M'D.—*continued.*

was too narrow; local weavers got into the habit of making flannel of narrow width, as, employed locally by local people they had to put up the warp as they got it from the women who worked the stuff, this sold locally in the market was generally common flannel and the warp generally only 22 inches wide, although a 38-inch wide piece could be made in the loom; to make it wider the women, in the first instance, would have to be induced to alter the warp; they would do so if convinced it would pay them, and witness admitted the agency of the Parish Committee might be used for the purpose, 43822-8.—To a certain extent it had been made wider for the last two years, 43828.—Another complaint was too much sameness of pattern and want of design; improved looms should be adopted and designs sent to the weavers; this was the case at present with stuff made under Mr. O'Shea, 43822.

Cattle.

With regard to cattle, witness agreed with Canon O'Riordan's recommendation of Kerries, but the Board should guard against inter-breeding of cattle, especially as in Glencar district cattle were rather deteriorating; inspectors should visit the district occasionally and to prevent worthless animals spoiling the breed would probably have to be given powers by an Act of Parliament to have bad stock castrated, 43815-8.

Mineral Resources.

In reference to the diamond-boring, a man present in court found surface coal on three miles of the district forty years ago; no effort had been made to find whether the vein were valuable, although it would be worth while looking into the matter, 43830-2.

KERIN, Rev. H.

Congestion.

Prior parish, containing coast line of about thirty miles, was practically one large congested area, consisting of three portions and containing divisions of Emlough, Ballinskelligs, St. Finan's, Teeraneragh, and Manan; on the seven miles of coast line of Portmagee district there were 261 holdings, 176 of which were under £5 valuation (*map produced*), 43834-6.—In Prior proper, a peninsula with coast line of about fifteen miles, there were 310 holdings under £5 and 400 fishermen, 43880, 43882-3.

Piers and Slips.

Board had done very little around coast of that part of Kerry with reference to expenditure on piers and for fishing in Portmagee district, 43836, 43888, 43891-3.—In Portmagee district, from the Ownagar River there were 220 fishermen, the only pier, a small one at Aghada, was built by Trinity College, not for fishing purposes, but for landing sand and seaweed, and was in very bad repair; the Board offered some time ago to do something further on towards Portmagee, and County Council had promised help, but the amount of work necessary when engineer came could not be carried out for promised sum, 43836-8.—A little slip added to Aghada pier would make it very useful, 43836.—In St. Finan's, the next section, the Board was building a slip, still unfinished, work had been resumed last year, the weather became bad and all the work had been swept away; up to March, 1906, £1,446 had been spent on it; when finished it would satisfy immediate demand, 43879-81.—For another little slip at Foil-aniatin, the Board was giving some little help and work would be resumed when St. Finan's slip was finished, 43881-2.—These small boat-slips were very useful, fish was plentiful, there was a large number of boats, but greater facilities for landing were required, 43889-90.—A little slip was greatly needed on coast of Prior peninsula, one built by Board of Works at Ballinskelligs, near coastguard station, was useless except at very high tide, and if a slip were built somewhere near it would be a great advantage to Ballinskelligs;

the boats were nearer the good fishing grounds about Bull rock, they could have a curing station, and it would be far easier to bring the fish in to the train at Valentia Harbour; the erection of a pier would make fishing a success where it was not so before, 43884-7.

Development of Fisheries.

Development of fisheries and sale of all congested area to the Board were greatest needs of district and would greatly improve condition of people, 43921-2.—Fishing was a great industry along the coast and its effects were felt about two miles inland, there were not many townlands in the whole parish not dabbling in fishing in some way, or living by it, 43851-2, 43929-31.—There was a market and a curing station for fish at Portmagee, where Manchester and other companies had agents on the spot who cured the fish and sent it to the American market; the fish caught was sent to catch the train at Valentia Harbour, and the fresh herrings and mackerel got on the Ballinskelligs side were carted to Cahirciveen, 43836, 43886, 43935-9.—Because of the small boats in use, witness desired to call attention to fact that not merely steam trawlers but sailing trawlers should be kept further out to sea, 43890.

Land Purchase.

The other great need for development of districts was the purchase of the whole seaboard by Congested Districts Board, witness would prefer this to direct purchase by tenants, as these could not help themselves so well, and they would get more help from Board in reference to improvements and fishing than in any other way, 43844, 43852, 43855-6, 43876-8, 43921-2, 43926.—Witness would advise a tenant to become owner of his holding no matter what rent was, 43875.—But he would strongly advise people to wait until Board could purchase and improve land rather than become annuitants with unimproved holdings, 43853-4, 43877.—There was disinclination on part of the landlords to sell their properties to the Board, witness had written to every landlord and agent in the parish to know whether they would do and had not received one sympathetic answer; they did not see their way to sell, 43838, 43838a, 43843.—In fact the landlords expected to drive a harder bargain with tenants than with the Board, 43838a.—Some negotiations were going on, an arrangement had been almost come to with Sir Morgan O'Connell to sell to tenants, but not to Board, 43843.—Sir Morgan O'Connell had considerable property, he and Trinity College were the most important landlords and there were three or four smaller ones, 43839, 43841-2.—Three townlands had been purchased, Lord Lansdowne had sold one estate to tenants under Ashbourne Act, and Mr. Charles O'Donell another to tenants direct, 43845, 43924.—Tenants were much better off on purchased Lansdowne property than before, and than those who had not purchased, and improvements had been carried out, 43846, 43924.—The reduction in rent, which, on one of the numerous holdings of £2 10*s.*, a year's rent, amounted to only 12*s.* 6*d.* yearly, meant much to poor people, 43847-50.—The land was no better tilled, the people witness now spoke of lived by fishing, they were all fishermen when they could get fish, they had both things, but depended rather on fishing than on the land they had; under these conditions the small difference in rental would not make so much difference to their condition, 43851-2.—Anxiety of people to purchase £2 10*s.* holdings through Board was because of impression that Board would help them, 43856.—Anxiety to purchase such holdings direct from landlord was caused by two chief reasons, want of realisation that they have security of tenure, and fear of arrears to obtain temporary relief from which, unfortunate poor people consented to sign terms of purchase which were excessive; the fear acted as a lever to force up prices, an instance of this being given, 43857, 43865, 43874.—Witness thoroughly agreed that there was a feeling among these farmers in Ireland that if a farm were left derelict almost, and unimproved, it would fare better when there was an inspection of the Assistant-Commissioners for estimating fair rent than on an improved farm, but did not blame them for trying

to get some reduction if the land had been overtaxed already; if, however, a man did it for twelve or thirteen years, giving up a certain productiveness of his land for a hypothetical reduction at the end of fifteen years, it was an absurd method, 43866-8.—For the better class of land Sir Francis Mowatt's explanation would hold good, that the man for the first ten or twelve years made the most of his farm and did the best he could; for the last two or three years he thought it worth while to let the farm die down so that it might be valued below its value when the time of valuation came; and at the beginning of the fifteen years the farm was probably not a bargain, 43868, 43870.—If the land in that part of the country were let go beyond three or four years it would be very hard to make anything out of it, 43869, 43872.—If the land were got the question would arise whether farms were to be greatly improved by reclamation or not, 43871-2.—The fact that a man knew the Sub-Commissioners would come and inspect the land might have a very deterrent effect, 43873.—Taking holdings towards Ballinskelligs, cutaway peat bogs without any appearance of cultivation, the land was capable of being improved provided the people got some help; people would be very slow to leave these places, and with a little help would rather improve their holdings and stay; much of the land had already been purchased and a great many improvements carried out, 43924-6, 43928.—In former times they could not improve without being overtaxed, but holders would set about improvements with better heart if they were the owners, 43858-61.—Congested Districts Board should be able to help them although expenditure of labour and money might be enormous before they could be made prosperous, 43926-7.

Kelp.

No kelp was made, they depended a great deal on seaweed for manuring, 43934.

Lime.

There were two lime-kilns in parish, about one and a half miles from Waterville, which could turn out about 600 barrels of lime, but had not been worked for forty years, they were built sixty years ago by Lord Lansdowne, who brought limestone in boats from Kenmare, close to kilns, burnt it, and sold it to tenants at 1*s.* 10*d.* a barrel and to outsiders at 2*s.* 6*d.*, 43893-5, 43899, 43909.—When kilns were working tenants were paid for working and burning, 43904.—Limestone rather than burned lime was brought presumably because more profitable, and with idea of giving employment; also fuel was very abundant at the time, 43905-8.—Working was probably discontinued because unprofitable, 43896.—Price of lime from Cahirciveen was now 3*s.* a barrel in Waterville, 43899, 43902.—At Cahirciveen it was sometimes 2*s.* 6*d.*, sometimes 3*s.*, 43901.—Lime for district came from Kenmare but might be bought at Cahirciveen from Killorglin, 43903.—There was no quarry nearer than Kenmare, where limestone was bought in rude state; witness could not tell price of burned lime at Kenmare kiln, 43895, 43908-10, 43918.—At Killorglin price was once 1*s.* 2*d.*, then 1*s.* 4*d.*, now 1*s.* 6*d.*, 43910, 43919.—It would not work well to bring shipload of lime from Killorglin or Kenmare, price of lime would go up in Killorglin if Waterville were supplied thence, and question had presumably been considered before kilns were built, 43912-14.—Every one admitted need of lime in district, quantity being needed for lime-washing of houses and it would be great boon if Board would take up and work the kilns, selling the lime to poor of congested area; at the end of two or three years the work might be self-supporting, but even at a loss to Board witness would wish experiment tried, 43893, 43895-8.—As Mr. Doran said, Board should be placed in position to risk public money on well-considered schemes, 43915-6.—People of country greatly lacked initiative, 43917.—If land were bought by Board, or similar body, before selling to tenants, institution of well-considered schemes of lime-burning would be very useful, 43920.—There was no Parish Committee, and difficulty of procuring lime was in itself an obstacle to working one, 43932-3.

Valuation of Dromod Parish.

Valuation of Dromod Parish in 1901 was £4,767 17*s*., and since then there was depreciation of £700; valuation was, however, no true criterion of value of land, since railway connection was non-existent at time of valuation, latter was often unequal, and one landlord at least had requested valuers to value lightly for rating purposes, 43941-2.

Character and Size of Holdings.

Average holding in Dromod parish would be from 30 to 36 acres, or what was known as a six-cow holding or glenska, 43942, 43976.—This size was quite sufficient for class of land in locality; average amount of tillage, but not meadow, would be about five acres, or nearer still, four acres, 43960, 44126.—There would be no rough mountainous grazing on these farms; some such farms called glenskas had 200 acres of mountain, but were valued, not by acreage, but by grass of six cows, and included bog, some bottom, and some reclaimed bog, 43977-8.

Spade Labour *v.* Ploughs.

If holdings were larger they could not be kept in rotation, and land would deteriorate owing to large amount of spade labour necessary on peaty land, 43942-4.—Some of land, such as reclaimed bog, was easy enough to work with spade labour; it was impossible to plough, as horses would sink, 43991, 43994.—If the bog top were first drained horses might plough it, but in some cases not for years, 43995-6.—Some of the land would be strong and stiff, and extremely hard to plough, 43994.—Where the plough could be used there would not be an increase in size, because in most holdings there were certainly some acres of reclaimed bog, and the man must do his part, 43992.—If the better land were ploughed and spade labour used for the same portion as before it might be rather too much tillage; it would not pay a man of that class, 43993.—Increase of size would not prevent emigration to America, 43994.—There was no untenanted land to be bought up, 43944.—People with their own sons to help them were far better off than others, 43945, 44014.—Tillage had not decreased to market extent during last fifteen years, 43943.

Labour and Emigration.

Many people were emigrating in recent years, 43943.—Enlargement of holdings would not affect this; there was plenty of work for sons on 36-acre holdings; young men got 2*s*. or 2*s*. 6*d*., but when one son came into the holding majority of others would have to emigrate, 43944, 43946.—It was not altogether a question of wages, 43961.—It would take a long time to check emigration; there seemed a craze for going, friends in America urging people to go out, 43948.—Some did very well; about one per cent. came back and bought land, 43949-51, 43963-4.—Many of them were not successful, and the majority never came back, 43949-50.—One heard of the few successes, seldom of the hundreds of failures, 43952.—Witness agreed that there must always be a surplus population seeking employment in any district, for whom it was impossible permanently to provide land, even by present redistribution; it was difficult to imagine such development of fisheries as to give work to all the young men; there was nothing, therefore, but emigration or an added demand for labour such as to counteract the price of labour in other parts; this could only be effected by price of agricultural produce raised by tillage being in some way enhanced, 43953-9.—Men, except in few instances, could not do better at home than by emigration, but girls could, 43962.

Labourers' Cottages and Occupation.

Except for work round Waterville, very little labour was employed on land, most farmers doing work themselves; no labourers' cottages were built in locality so far, but some were to be built, 44007.—Labourers were getting an acre of land, hence demand for cottages; there was great danger of establishment of number of uneconomic holdings by encouraging people who were not, and could not be, farmers, to continue in district, 44008-10.—Best remedy would be to establish industry such as peat industry, 44010.—Possibility was under discussion of giving road-making to labourers direct from County Council, instead of to contractor who employed his own sons, as was always case at present, 44010-12.—Where number of small occupiers was large they took place of labouring class; many in that country who had not holdings large enough for their families were glad of work for their sons, and if the work were given to labourers resident contractors might become unemployed, but the majority were farmers; some made a good deal of money, and all must live, 44013-4.

Girls' Domestic Service at Home and Abroad.

There was no difficulty for girls in getting £12 a year in the district; there was, on the contrary, an immense demand for domestic servants to do ordinary work, washing and milking, in Tralee, Cahirciveen, and Dromod parishes, 43948, 43965-68, 43970.—Fifteen years ago a girl of that class could be had for £6 a year, 43966.—The scarcity now was owing not so much to number of servants employed by some people and tourists, but to objection of girls to do rough work, especially milking; they preferred for less money places where there were no cows, and farmers blamed Waterville for this, 43969-70.—Training for domestic service in primary schools, though fitting them for after life and enabling them to command far better wages elsewhere, would probably increase tendency to emigrate; very few in parish wanted such trained servants, 43970-2.—Majority of girls could do as well at home; the experience of a girl formerly in witness's employ at wage of £12 a year, who had been in America some years, was that £12 in Ireland was equal to £30 a year or anything they might earn in America, 43948, 43962, 43965.—Girls could not put away much in America; with high wages they had tremendous expenses, instance being given of one with £60 a year who found it very hard to save at all; girls would do better to stay, 43973-5.

Agricultural Instruction and Experimental Plots.

Practical agricultural instruction would be of the greatest benefit; people had never heard of Congested Districts Board or Agricultural Department until last couple of years, when Board purchased an estate in next parish; the instructor sent to Tralee this year had given lectures in Waterville on three occasions, but the majority of people were not educated enough to understand lectures, and experimental plots would be far better, 43979.—Model farms would be too expensive; the Department's representatives should have compulsory powers to buy one or more experimental plots in every parish, and use as many each year as he thought fit in demonstrating best means of growing crops, 43980, 44118.—It would be better to work this through the Department's representative than by selection of the best farmer on an existing farm, and teaching him through medium of instructor to avoid jealousy as to choice, 43981-2.—However, it certainly would be a striking illustration if farmer under instruction were enabled by scientific treatment to double his receipts; others would thus see what one of their own class could do, 43983-4.—Plots should be from a quarter of an acre to an acre in size, 43985.—Experimental plot tried by Department's representative on witness's land that year, with object of showing advantage of sowing whole potatoes instead of cut ones, was unsuccessful, although preparations and planting had been carefully carried out; about half were sound, and no better than witness's own; the rest seemed to have failed and without apparent cause; the kind of potatoes was same, but not of same seed; had the experiment turned out well witness was prepared to set whole potatoes; now he doubted, 43985-90.

Potato Culture Methods.

Method of planting potatoes in big ridges was peculiar to all the poorer parts of Ireland; the chief reason was not to carry off surface water, but because there was not so much waste of ground; potatoes apparently did better in ridges than in drills; there was plenty of room for them, as much as in the drill;

there was 24 inches clear between every potato, and measured across a foot between each, and no holes between, 43997-4003.—Compulsory spraying was desirable, 44098.

Agricultural Implements.

Use of plough might be advantageous to occupiers of small farms, and it would be great advantage if ploughing and mowing machines could be hired out to farmers for the season; this would be better than using banks to enable people to buy mowing machines, and if there were a Parish Committee its agency would be a good one to have a stock of agricultural implements for hire at reasonable terms, 43990, 44005-7, 44098.

Butter Industry.

Decline of salt butter industry had been terrible loss to country; till within last twenty years every man used to keep his butter till he had two or three firkins, and sell it for a lump sum in the town, the firkin being the measure in use; now the butter was taken in small quantities, and the temptation to spend the price led to its being frittered away; a creamery started three years previous was not so successful as desirable, but they were getting more milk, and it was believed people would take it up in time, 44003-4.

Agricultural Banks.

There were two agricultural banks in the parish, one doing very well, the other not so well, owing probably to difference among the Committee, 44004.

Sale of Estates.

Two large estates had been sold in district in last five years, and negotiations were pending for others; there was but one estate sold to Congested Districts Board, Lord Lansdowne's estate in neighbouring parish having been sold direct to tenants under Ashbourne Act, 44053-4.—Hartopp and Lansdowne estates were about same value as property, and were sold practically for same price, twenty years' purchase, 44055-5a.—There was great difference in soil of two estates, a great deal of bog on one, and none, or very little, on Hartopp estate, 44054.—Board had made road at very great expense to top of mountain in order to get at some bog, 44054, 44058.—People on Burns-Hartopp estate were very short of turf; it was necessary to provide people with fuel, and turf was abundant in parish, although not on that estate, if there were means of communication, but in the opinion of one who knew locality well, road made at immense expense would never repay cost, the bog being rather inferior, 44056, 44058-60.—Witness had seen some of works carried out by Board on Burns-Hartopp estate; greater improvement than he had ever seen made by any landlord in locality; some would do a great deal of good; in some cases money had been expended foolishly for fences, the only advantage of which was to keep cattle off road, which had cost much to build; but the fences being entirely built of sods it would no doubt be of no use in a few years, owing to sheep jumping over it, and knocking down sods, and to the temptation to people short of turf to take from the fence; of the stone portion of fence some was very good, some very bad, 44056, 44061.—People on the property might be got to associate for preservation of improvements, but it was greatly to be doubted; they were unused to associate thus, 44057.

Sale of Estates through Congested Districts Board v. Direct Sales.

Witness could not agree with Father Kerin's evidence respecting letters written to induce sale of land to Congested Districts Board; Mr. Thomas O'Donnell, M.P., sent round circular asking priests to write to landlords and agents to ascertain their willingness to sell to Board; witness, who was agent for a very small property in Father Kerin's parish, and had just been negotiating with tenants as to terms, received a letter from Father Kerin, and in reply stated that the terms given tenants were the best that could be given; it therefore seemed useless to sell to the Board unless they were prepared to give same terms, 44061.—Witness very much doubted that landlords would have any objection to agreeing on price with tenants and selling through medium of Board instead of through Estates Commission, 44061-2.—Impression that a lower price would be had by selling to Board than by sale direct to tenants had arisen through just idea that no man, or Inspector, however capable, was so good a judge of land as the one bred in locality, whether landlord or tenant, provided he were an unbiassed fair-minded man; an island of 100 acres in Derrynane, some of best land in whole parish, on which cattle thrived almost incredibly, would not be valued by a stranger, who could not know this, at a shilling an acre, 44063-7.—Political views sometimes influenced personal interests; witness held none, 44067-9.—Power should be conferred on Board to buy at public auction, if they thought necessary, for the extension of holdings, any farms that might from time to time be for sale; the prices fetched at auction in that locality being very high, Board might not, however, be prepared to pay the price, 44118-9.—Estates in congested districts should have precedence of others as regards payment, 44119.—This was only fair; object of Act of 1903 having been to benefit poorer landlords in poorer districts, and enable them to sell, as they could not do so otherwise; the richer landlords had, however, taken up all the money, 44072, 44119-22.—It had never been said in Parliament that Act was for benefit of landlords, but was ultimately mentioned, witness agreed; Act was carried on policy of improving conditions of small holdings in congested districts, 44123-4.—First big landlord to sell was Duke of Leinster, 44120.

Terms of Payment.

When there was willingness in that locality to sell to tenants at 5*s.* to 6*s.* in the £ on second term rents, compulsory powers could not be necessary in district, 44069.—5*s.* to 6*s.* in the £ would represent about twenty-five years' purchase, or a little more, *i.e.*, respectively, 22½ and 21½ on second term rents, very few of which were sold before 1903 Act, 44070-2.—This Act would not have been required had it been possible to sell all land under Ashbourne Act; its object was, however, to benefit poorer landlords, 44072.—There was certainly bonus as inducement to landlords to sell, and advantage of paying off mortgages, but delay in payment, rather than the price, prevented sale; in many instances landlords were poor men who could not possibly afford to wait five or six years for their money, as would now be the case; it might mean ruin to them; if there could be a guarantee for payment in twelve months all land would be sold directly, 44073-6.—Depreciated money market made chance of getting money thus almost impossible, 44076.—Prompt payment would be advantage as allowing good re-investment, but landlords in some parts would be less affected; the poorer the district the poorer the landlord, 44077.—Landlords would scarcely be willing to follow precedent set by sale of Burns-Hartopp Estate to Board at twenty years' purchase, or 7*s.* in the £ in case of second term rents fixed by Land Court, 44078-80.—Witness would be very glad to accept twenty years' purchase and have bonus, on condition of immediate payment, but he could not answer for others, 44082.—On rents fixed by arrangement 5*s.* 6*d.* or 6*s.* would be excellent terms, as in majority of local instances where tenants had obtained two reductions their rents had been cut down one-half; thus a man paying £10 in 1880 now paid £5, and if he got 6*s.* in the £ it would greatly cut this down, even though reduction would be on smaller sum of £7 10*s.* instead of £10, 44080-1.

Middlemen Landlords.

Witness was unable to sell to his tenants, 44069.—Middlemen landlords in Kerry, such as witness, who was middleman under Mrs. Trent Stoughton, were being squeezed out of existence, having to bear brunt of all reductions and being obliged to pay head rent as though there had never been a reduction, 44082-3.—Further, witness was debarred from selling through Act of 1903, his lease not being for sixty years absolute, although fully equivalent, being forty-one years after present Knight of Kerry's life; this was a great hardship, 44069, 44083, 44092, 44095-6.—Under Act of 1903 middlemen could not sell with less than sixty years' lease, 44083, 44092, 44095-6.—A recent witness had stated he considered tenure under middlemen the worst imaginable in his district; witness himself could not see how rents of tenants had been affected, but it affected unfortunate middleman very much, 44084.—He took up all functions of landlords towards tenants, who could only purchase from him, 44094-5.—Head landlord could not negotiate sale to tenants, and middleman could only do so by first redeeming head interest; this implied head landlord's consent to middleman's purchase of head rent so as to become owner in fee, and meant payment in cash, whilst being obliged to wait for money if selling to tenants, 44084, 44087, 44090.—Witness had obtained permission of Mrs. Trent Stoughton, but necessary cash payment of £5,000 to redeem head rent would be absolutely impossible for him, 44083, 44088-9.—If it could be redeemed from purchase money plan would be feasible, 44084.—If absolutely certain of getting purchase money in twelve months there would be no difficulty in borrowing, but if payment were spread over five years, interest on £5,000 would mean ruin, 44088.—In either case the price to be given by witness would be matter of negotiation with head landlord; had the lease been of more than sixty years, the price, in case of disagreement, would be fixed by Land Court, 44090.—Witness could not obtain public money under Act of 1903 to buy; he would have to redeem lease, Act not applying in case of head rent under less than sixty years, 44091-3.—Head landlord could not be paid out of purchase money; witness had counsel's opinion, and knew his case to be correct, 44093.—Witness's negotiations with landlord were begun three years previous, necessity of cash payment ending all, 44097.—No negotiations were begun by him with tenants, head landlord having laid down fixed price, which witness was obliged to agree to, and willingly accept, for power of sale to tenant, considering possible intervention of middlemen most undesirable, 44098.—As remedial measure, witness suggested that head landlords and Government charges, such as those of Board of Works, should suffer *pro rata* with loss incurred by middleman on sale of property, 44124.

Cattle.

Good breed of cattle should be introduced; bulls sent by Board during last fifteen years, or possibly by Department in last two years, were very inferior; it was apparently supposed that none but Kerry bulls were suitable, 44111, 44117.—Witness's shorthorns did not sell very well, 44111A.—They had Galloway bulls, very good cattle, but which did not grow and sell well as two-year olds; this breed was best introduction ever made in country; two cattle dealers visiting fairs last year to purchase Galloways could not get them, supply being far below demand, 44112-4, 44118.—Polled Angus were best for locality, for, though not so good as yearlings, they turned out well afterwards, 44111, 44113.—No other breed reared in district should be kept there, or there would never be a good milking breed; a good strain should be introduced from another part; although a dairy country, so little attention was paid to breeding or anything else, that some of the milk scarcely deserved the name, 44115-6.

Basic Slag *v.* Lime.

Supply of best basic slag should be sent by steamer and sold at cost price; beneficial effects of lime were known; witness's experience was that basic slag containing 38 to 42 per cent. of phosphate of lime was far better, ton for ton, both for bog and earth, 44098, 44101, 44103.—Basic slag acted very suitably on boggy land, and was of far more benefit to it than to clay; it disintegrated the bogs, and, if introduced, would help tillage, 44099-102.—Department of Agriculture and their representative bought best basic slag in Tralee at £2 15*s.* a ton, probably because there was the impression they would purchase largely; general price was about £3, lime being £3 or a little more per ton, 44103, 44106-7.—There was no native basic slag in Ireland, but witness thought the very best quality could be obtained, 44104-5.

Sea Fisheries.

Dromod Parish was not affected as other parishes were by fisheries, there being not a single sea fisherman in it; but a slip was greatly needed to accommodate the fresh-water fishermen, who could not fish for salmon and trout in winter, and could fish in the season; there would be sea fisheries if there were a slip, 44014-9, 44022, 44024.—In reality the slip would be great convenience to sea fishermen of other parishes, men who suffered much from want of proper boats and from depredations of foreign trawlers, 44014, 44022-3.—Cahirdaniel fishermen, when carrying a large catch of mackerel from fishing ground between Scariff Island and Derrymore, about two-and-a-half miles from Waterville, and taking it to Cahirciveen, had to go all way round to Derrynane Harbour to land it, 44022, 44024, 44029, 44033.—There was very good fishing; hauls of thousands of mackerel were regular thing in spring and autumn, 44030-2.—There were no statistics of catches of salmon or mackerel, but these varied immensely; three boats at Ballinskelligs about three months previous had brought in a huge haul, but very little since, 44034.—A good centre for slip might be on a line with Protestant church, 44020.—If slip were built, Waterville fishermen would have immense advantage in being nearer their destination in returning home with their catch; only advantage of Cahirdaniel men over them was nearness to fishing grounds, 44025-8.

Steamer Traffic.

Quite apart from fishing, a pier would be of immense advantage at Waterville in enabling boats and steamers to come up, 44034-5.—Ballinskelligs Bay was not unsafe for steamers; in majority of cases they could run in easily, and without danger to vessel, in lying alongside, from strong westerly winds; bay had not a sandy bottom, 44038-40.—Growing importance of Waterville would make it well worth while for steamer to ply, 44036.—Steamer of Clyde Shipping Company running from Cork used to come to Cahirciveen and Derrynane, and back, and service paid, 44036, 44044, 44047.—It was not subsidised, 44046.—Service alluded to had been given up about three years previous owing to some difference, reason of which witness could not recall, 44036, 44041-2, 44052.—When steamer called at Derrynane it was not of least service to Waterville, 44037.—Cessation was certainly tremendous loss, as railway rates were very high, and cost almost prohibitive for goods from a distance, 44034-5, 44041, 44043, 44047.—Witness would not like to state that railway rates had gone up since steamer stopped running; but the places were affected in another way, as steamer's rates were naturally always far less than the railway company's, and might have affected the latter if continued long enough, 44048-50.—As an instance, carriage of two chimney-pots from Wales was exactly equal to cost of one of them; had there been a steamer running from Cork, cost would have been less, 44050.

Inland Fisheries.

Inland fish in immediate neighbourhood was fairly protected in spawning, although some of similar streams in spawning district were neglected; protection was as good as in most parts of the country, 44052-3.

Parish Nurses.

Every parish should have, if possible, one of Lady Dudley's nurses; besides the actual nursing, the educational influence that could be exerted by them in sanitation was very important; as an instance of the want of this, in a case of typhus some years previous the household drank the disinfectants taken to them, 44125.

DELAP, Mr. WILLIAM J.

Land available for enlarging Holding.

There was in County Kerry very little land in owner's occupation available for enlarging small holdings, or to migrate occupiers from congested districts, 44130-1, 44133, 44159.—What land there was was chiefly rough mountain, entirely unsuited for tillage, and only suitable for young cattle during summer and autumn months, 44130, 44143, 44146.—There was but a limited quantity, as nearly all mountain grazing was held as undivided easement by tenants at foot of mountain in proportion to lowland take or part suitable for tillage held separately, 44130-1.—Much of land in district was reclaimed bog, requiring to be tilled from time to time to prevent return to original condition, 44147-9.

Migration.

No holding of rateable value less than £8 to £10 would be sufficient in itself to support a small farmer and his family, 44131.—Introduction of strangers from a distance was not practicable in Kerry, but in any case would always create jealousy, and in some districts, such as eastern parts of Galway, it would lead even to physical opposition, 44131-2.—In many different counties there was land which could be readily acquired if fair price were offered by Board; but introduction of strangers during negotiations for sale of estate in County Leitrim, for example, for purpose of dividing it up among migrants from Kerry, not only uneconomic holders in Leitrim but the larger holders would feel aggrieved; the jealousy was expressing itself very strongly in grass lands with reference to cattle, 44159-63.—Migration of occupiers from congested districts to any extent would be exceedingly difficult and costly, the sentimental feeling against going to other and distant counties was very strong and inducements would have to be made very tempting, 44133-4, 44149.—From twenty-five to thirty years' experience in Kerry, witness thought Kerry men could scarcely be induced by offer of holding and greater comfort in another county to transplant themselves; if a few were induced to go their example would affect others, but it would take many years, 44136, 44140, 44142.—There was not same disinclination for emigration, almost everyone having friends in America, whither whole townlands had migrated in famine years, 44141.—It would be absolutely necessary that migrants should be taken where they could carry on the system of farming to which they were accustomed; those from congested districts in Kerry to none but pastoral districts, dairying and raising of young cattle being their chief business, and hardly any crops being raised beyond what was necessary for home consumption; if placed on land suitable for tillage it would take a couple of generations to educate them, and learn fresh system, and meanwhile their new holdings would be seriously run out by system of meadowing or con-acre, 44142-4, 44158, 44194.—Witness had not personally followed career of people already migrated by Board, except from hearsay, but farms he had seen were being worn out by system just mentioned, 44150-2.—The first years were always very difficult in such cases, and although it did not follow that meadowing and con-acre would be resorted to in after years, unless capital were provided for migrants at the outset, their only means of living was to run out the farm and thus affect themselves for years after, 44153-4.—In almost every case homesteads, out-offices and fencing would have to be provided, and in a great many cases assistance would have to be given towards stocking new holding; tenant's interest in old holding might be set against interest acquired in the new, though interest on latter would be larger, 44149, 44154.—Loan system burdened a man, but a loan of ready money in first instance, repayable in five or six years, would meet difficulty as far as stocking of land was concerned, 44155-7.—Witness could quite imagine migrants paying a little on surrendering holding towards value of improved tenant-right on larger holding, 44158.

Grass Lands and Cattle Trade.

Witness had reason to suppose that demand for more grass lands by big men would be supported; the breaking up of any land which would carry good permanent grass was, in his opinion, most undesirable; the cattle trade of the country being its most valuable asset, and the breaking up of large grass farms in grazing counties would damage trade in young cattle, on which tenants in congested districts of South mainly relied for ready money; roughly speaking, the practice in trade was as follows:—Calves bred and reared from 1½ to 2 years were sold to dealers, who passed them on to better grass lands in midland and home counties, whence they again passed on to fattening lands of stall-feeders, 44164.—In management of large farm on Butler estate (Waterville) witness bought young stores of 1½ years at local fairs at £4 to £4 15*s.* per head, or bred them himself; when about 2 years old they were sent to another farm in King's County, and when fit for fattening, after six or eight months, they were sold for £8 to £9, to be finished by men who made practice of stall-feeding or for fattening lands in Meath or Kildare, 44164-6, 44168.—If grazing lands in Queen's County, King's County, and Roscommon were divided into holdings of thirty acres each the system would be hopelessly disorganised; carrying power of 100 statute acres of medium grass land would be about 30 head of two-year-old stores, divided into three farms, the acreage necessary for tillage, meadowing, house and offices on each would reduce carrying power of land for cattle by at least 30 per cent., 44166-7.—Most of the lands to which cattle were sent to be finished in Kildare were tillage, producing the stall-feeding material; both in Meath and Kildare there was much land that would be better in tillage than in grass, 44169-70.—If the second-class land were broken up into 30-acre farms, the occupier could not feed more than six or seven head of cattle in the year, and he could not do so to same advantage as man with 40 or 50 head of cattle in the house, 44173-4.—The demand for cattle might be increased if some of the second-class and third-class land were tilled for green crops sufficient for stall-feeding, and but though first-class land were spared, this would disorganise the system, as cattle were taken direct from congested districts, 44175-8.—There were two ways of fattening; there was land that would of itself fatten cattle, and others produce fattening stuff; the latter might somewhat increase demand for cattle, but you must have second-class land intact to keep cattle fit for fattening, 44178.—It was pure nonsense, in witness's opinion, to suggest that the grazier of medium lands—the middleman— should be done away with and the small farmer fatten his own cattle; he could only keep 40 per cent. of present number, probably had not land suitable for necessary fattening crops, and to buy artificial feeding would be ruinous, 44192.—Intermixed stock and tillage and fattening by small men would cause keeping cattle for a longer time, a decided disadvantage, 44179.—A man disposed to fatten cattle in Meath or Kildare could not take them direct from congested districts, as they would not be sufficiently advanced to fatten, 44183.—An animal should be fully grown before it could be fattened, and one could not get same class of beef from animal of two as from one of two and a half or three years, 44184, 44188.—Witness had not heard that experts considered it a loss to allow full growth before fattening had began, or that veal was superseding beef; as far as his experience went back in Waterville district, they were bound to get rid of cattle after a year and a half or two years old; he had no knowledge of any systems other than present system in Ireland, so could not compare it with that of any other country, 44186-7, 44191, 44193-4.

Improvement of Domestic Animals.

Character of stock exerted great influence, 44181.—Board had adopted very best possible method for improving breed of domestic animals by introduction of thoroughly good and suitable breeds of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry; anyone acquainted with districts about Cahirciveen and about Kenmare would be struck by extraordinary difference in class of cattle raised; in former, Knights of Kerry and Butlers of Waterville had for many years kept up a very pure strain of Kerry cattle; in Kenmare district, where no one had introduced good stock, cattle was miserable; in Dingle and Ventry districts Lord Ventry and Mr. George Hickson had long maintained very good class of sheep with excellent result to sheep of district; much more might be done, and Board should have larger command of funds, 44260, 44267.—Trinity College authorities had done nothing except providing sheep in Valentia Island, 44261.

Dual Interest in Land.

It was very difficult to arrive at fair price of dual interest of land in owner's occupation, suitable for purposes of Board; occupation right of tenant was that of occupying a certain farm at certain rent, of enjoying improvements made by him or his predecessor and selling same in open market; that this interest was a very valuable commodity was clear by price tenant could obtain; landlord in selling was paid for right to receive income of estate and exercising all other appurtenant rights; both parties had commodity to sell, and if landlord was in position of both landlord and tenant he had both rights to dispose of, 44215.—The question of dual interest as a security had been most lamentably lost sight of by Estates Commissioners in fixing amount of security a holding represented; they had apparently entirely ignored existence of tenant's interest in estimating security offered which often exceeds that of landlord, 44255.—Mr. Boyd and Mr. Wrench in their evidence estimated dual interest roughly at 1⅓ more for untenanted than tenanted land; the figure was somewhat low, but Mr. Boyd's suggestion that valuation and one-third be taken as minimum value, and that it should be open to landlord to prove that his income derived from lands in his own occupation was greater, and that the price be fixed accordingly, would give fair basis for ascertaining value of dual interest, 44215.—Occupier's interest, as Mr. Boyd suggested, might be reckoned at one-third, or, as Mr. Finucane proposed, might be shown by landlord's books, giving fair occupation value of holding, 44251-2.—There was a difference between 1⅓ valuation, and second-term rents and one-third valuation, and it was worth solving, 442545.—Second-term rents in Kerry were at or a little beyond the valuation; but it varied greatly in other counties, 44253.

Sale of Land and Compulsion.

Judging from witness's experience on thirty-five or forty estates he had managed in that and other parts of Ireland, Board would be able to purchase all the land required without any compulsion, 44215-17, 44240.—Witness had never heard of a landlord absolutely refusing to sell, in no case within his experience had an owner refused a fair price, 44218. 44240-1, 44247.—Were there such a case, witness would prefer remedy of leaving men who refused alone, and buying all other land; very few would hold out. 44220-1.—No one had right to compel another to give up his land; the principle of compulsion existed it was true for purpose of light railways and small holdings, but price was considerable, 44224-6.—Witness had bought land, and found that when you wanted land particularly you paid an extra price for it, 44242-3.—Assuming that land was absolutely essential for enlargement of holdings, assuming that land could not be obtained by other means, in an extreme case, such as absolute refusal by absentee not requiring land for his income, or refusal of reasonable terms obliging purchasing authority like Board to go further afield, witness would recognise necessity for compulsion, but only as very last resource, 44219, 44221, 44227-32, 44235, 44250.—If there were such necessity it would be in Kerry, and extreme case in another county must be met in same way, 44228, 44230.—That length had not however been reached or negotiations exhausted, 44232-3, 44236.—Where landlord fixed a price, Board having to buy and sell afterwards without repayment, would be justified in refusing if price were too high, 44244.—Instead of dropping negotiations, splitting the difference, as was done at fairs, would be best, 44245-6.—Much depended on original difference between them, 44247.—Were compulsion adopted, a tribunal would have to be created for fixation of fair price, as in the case of price to be given by a tenant, 44248-9.—Only way to arrive at fair value of untenanted land would be for some independent person to make valuation as to letting value, adding occupier's interest in that, and landlord's interest in that, 44251.

Financial Legislation.

Financial part of land legislation of past years presented extraordinary anomalies; legislation first proceeded by reduction of rents and giving tenants practically fixity of tenure, to reduce owner's interest to lowest possible point; the authority then came forward as money-lender, with depreciated value as security; they fixed limit above which price might not go, and limited possible purchaser to then occupier of land; all this resulted in exactly half the working capital of country being taken out and invested elsewhere, 44255.

Loans for Improvements.

On almost every estate with which witness had been connected, money had been borrowed by landlords from Board of Works for making roads, drains, reclamations and other improvements; in no case within witness's knowledge had tenants been required to pay, either directly or indirectly, any part of these loans or interest on them, 44255-6.—When rents were fixed in Court, evidence on landlord's side as to expenditure was sometimes given, and would have tended to help re-sale of estate, so that indirectly, by fixation of rent, the tenants would pay something, unfortunately not the smallest attention was paid to this, 44257-9.—Witness had schedule showing former conditions of eighteen or twenty estates which had been in his management, and present condition as to number of tenants, yearly rent, present arrears, and average yearly receipts, 44259-60.—Trinity College estate in Waterville district alone was 1,300 acres altogether, and was held immediatealy from College by occupiers, 44262-4.—On other estates there was but one middleman in the district, 44265.—College authorities gave from time to time small grants to tenants for building houses, for helping drains, making fences and improving roads, and these were mentioned in fixing fair rent, 44266-7.

Lime.

With reference to price of lime, it was in Kenmare 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* per barrel of 33 gallons; in Killarney, for barrel of only 30 gallons, last price witness had heard was 1*s.* 2*d.*, 44194-5.—Trinity College had many tenants round there, and it had been once suggested by witness that lime might be imported from Kenmare in a ship and sold at some central station like Cahirciveen at a lower price than could now be done, but the College authorities found a difficulty in undertaking what they then considered a trading operation, 44197-8.

Kelp.

There was an abundant supply of kelp along coast of Kerry in all directions; for many years there was kelp burning, which paid well, and almost the same conditions might now obtain; witness suggested that Galway and Sligo districts be requisitioned to teach kelp-making in Kerry, 44213-4.

Re-Afforestation.

Before all available land for purpose passed out of the market re-afforesting should be undertaken seriously by Government owing to increased shortage of timber from outside sources; in planting trees near seaboard it was absolutely necessary that they should be in a position completely sheltered from direct force of Atlantic gales; the storms came laden with spray, and during winter all previous season's growth exposed to them was killed;

DELAP, Mr. WILLIAM J.—*continued.*

glens lying away from sea would grow larch and spruce very well indeed, as instanced by some plantations made by witness opposite Kilgarvan; it was very difficult lately to get young trees in the country, 44214.

Building Stone.

There were unlimited quantities of finest sorts of building stones in almost all the congested districts, and with capital available a profitable industry might be carried on by their working, 44198.—There was an immense extent of old red sandstone at Dingle, 44206.—Waterville Hotel had been built of concrete because lime was not conveniently obtainable, and building with cement was much easier, and concrete the readiest means of using cement, this accounted for its extended use in district; though expensive, a little went a long way, 44207-9.—Capital could not always be found in Ireland for any industry which had prospects of succeeding; this was owing to insecurity of property—before Act of 1881, and still further back, 44210-13.

Slate Quarry at Valentia.

For number of years slate quarry at Valentia was worked with great success; old machinery became worn out and company having no capital to buy new machinery, undertaking was killed, 44200.—Company seemed not to have been able to obtain money from bank, 44201.—Irish slates were always slighter, and Valentia slate did not split thin; it required timber or a pointed roof, and was not suitable for roofing except for a small district, 44202-5.

Suitable Boats.

Fishing industry round the coast had been very greatly aided and developed by Congested Districts Board, both by introduction of better boats and better landing facilities and system of fishing generally, 44198, 44267, 44271, 44278.—In early years of Board's work, Rev. Mr. Green brought boats, nets and men from Valentia district to neighbourhood of Clifden and Cleggan, in County Galway, to teach the people system of mackerel fishing by means of seine nets, with best results, 44213.—Nearly all fishermen in Cahirciveen district were half farmers, and would not spend the night away from home nor sleep on board, as professional fishermen did, 44267, 44276.—They would never be fishermen altogether, but part of the year they had little else but fishing to do, and in some few places they could possibly be educated to become professional fishermen, 44268-70, 44276-7.—After the famine in 1881 boats were given to the men free of all charge, and they asked to be paid for hanging the nets, and never fished the boats now, 44267.—Board had improved boats in Kerry by grants for building and acquiring them, and Mr. Green had given practical hints as to building and shape of boats, 44271-2, 44278.—Witness saw no objection to zulu boats supplied, 40273-4.—Only way to induce the men to become professional fishermen would be by inducing them to provide themselves with half-deck boats of fourteen tons' class, 44274-5.—Witness did not believe in steam-drifters; it would be necessary to remodel harbours, landing-stage and all else; steamers could not be brought alongside many of the small coasts in district, 44277.

Congested Districts Board.

In witness's opinion, Congested Districts Board had done excellent work throughout districts with which he was acquainted; numerous mistakes had been made, but they had profited by experience, and any curtailment of their powers or transfer to another Department would be a grave misfortune to the congested districts; no Government Department had done so much before for country, and it would be well that Board should be given larger command of funds for purpose of improving breeds of domestic animals and developing fishing and other industries, 44267, 44278.

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SLOAN, Mr. R. O.

Pier or Slip Accommodation needed at Waterville.

Congested Districts Board had recognised need for pier or slip at Waterville, and offered a grant, provided that County Council voted a certain amount; people of district were too poor to contribute, and the whole thing fell through, 44282-3.—Board ought to give a grant unconditionally, and engineering difficulties ought not to prevent it; Board should have sufficient money to carry out duties imposed on them, 44283.—It took six or eight men, who might have to get wet to the waist, to get a boat afloat at Waterville, and to beach it safely was even more difficult, 44284.—People themselves could not make a pier, a day's work would be washed away by the tide, 44286-9.—Fishermen were anxious to fish if they could get facilities, and were sober, honest, and industrious, 44289, 44292.—Witness was not opposed to a local contribution which people could afford to pay, 44291-2.

Inland Fisheries.

Total amount given by Board for improvement of inland fisheries was £10 towards a small hatchery; Conservators had to rely entirely on revenue derived from sale of licences, and if that fell off fisheries would suffer for lack of protection, 44292-3, 44297.—Fisheries were open to anyone who had a licence (£1 for a rod, £3 for seine nets, £10 for weirs), which could be taken out elsewhere, just as licences taken out locally could be used elsewhere, 44294-303, 44315-7.—The two hotels had purchased rights of two rivers from Sir Morgan O'Connell and Lord Lansdowne; the landlords had the rights of the Caneragh; the hotels had to contribute largely to cost of water bailiffs, and were, to a certain extent, in position of landlords; but the rights were leased yearly—not bought out, 44318-25.—Lord Lansdowne contributed £3 last year, being rent he got from the fishing; Sir M. O'Connell gave use of a lodge for police in winter time, 44326-9.—Right of fishing in the lake had been free from time immemorial, 44329-31.—Burns-Hartopp tenants would not be allowed to form an association for fishing the lake; with indiscriminate fishing, in two years there would be no fish, 44332-8.

Claim of Inland Fisheries on the Board.

Inland fisheries of a congested district were as much entitled to Board's fostering care as maritime fisheries, 44304, 44343.—Amount derived from inland fisheries was considerable, 44343.—Small farmers of district were interested in fisheries, because visitors employed them as boatmen, and enabled them to sell eggs and fowls to a small extent, 44305-9.—About thirty men were engaged solely in inland fisheries, 44310.—About forty water bailiffs were employed in winter; fifteen or twenty in summer, and paid from £4 down, 44311-3.—Inland fishermen were honest, sober, and industrious, 44314.—Witness did not ask for an exorbitant grant, nor that it should be made over an extended period; he asked £60 or £70 yearly for five or six years, 44314.—Board of Conservators was elected every three years by licensed fishermen, 44341-2.

O'CONNELL, Mr. A. G.

Piers and Slips Wrongly Erected or Erected in Unsuitable Places.

As regards marine works, witness complained that works of little merit had been done, while works of greater merit had been left undone, 44345.—No slip should be made in any place where the open sea had full force, because no slip could stand the strength of the Atlantic Ocean; a slip had been built by the Congested Districts Board at Butt Cove, in St. Finan's Bay, and almost £1,400 was spent upon it; there was no shelter from the fury of the sea, and the slip was too upright; there was terrible labour in pulling up a boat; it took two or three crews; the lower part of the pier had been taken away, and a timber structure

O'CONNELL, Mr. A. G.—*continued.*

was put up in its place; it was all swept away by the first storm, 44346-51.—A slip might be made by going to low water and excavating to about a foot; then make a slip twenty feet wide, and going up above high water; the sea would have no effect upon such a slip; a concrete fence should be built across the top of the slip, with a base of about three feet; it should be 6 feet high, and in the centre a gateway to pull the boats through for safety; the slip could be made in the same place where it was at present, 44353-4.—North of Valentia there was a slip that was of no use; it was built on the wrong side, and was so upright it was half standing; £1,200 was spent on it, and a small strand was always in use instead of pulling up the boats on the large slip, 44356-8.

Pier Extension at Portmagee.

There was a good pier in a land-locked harbour at Portmagee; extension of the pier was desired, in order that steamers might come alongside at any time of the tide; a memorial had been sent to Congested Districts Board when it started, and they approved of the work; it was surveyed by the Board of Works Engineer, and by Mr. Keating; the cost was estimated at £1,250; no local donation was forthcoming, and Trinity College would not contribute; the pier did not belong to Trinity College, though it was on their property; but it was for the use of their tenants, 44358-61.—Witness persuaded the County Council to subscribe £200, but the Congested Districts Board engineer destroyed the whole thing by estimating the cost of the work at £3,000, 44362.—The County Council was at present considering a contribution of £600; there did not seem to be a chance of getting anything from Trinity College, 44363-6.

Portmagee Water Supply.

Portmagee was entirely a fishing village, and there were sometimes 200 men going out fishing, besides numerous boats from other places coming ashore for water; the water-supply was short, and the water was unwholesome; Congested Districts Board had contributed £250, and Trinity College gave £100; the total cost was nearly £700, and the necessary money had been raised on the security of Portmagee Electoral Division, the valuation of which was only £700, and the extra rate put on in consequence of the water-works was 10*d.* in the £; the people were wretchedly poor, and it was thought that, as the supply was so much for fishermen from all directions, the Congested Districts Board might give an extra donation, 44366 7.—Provision of a water-supply was a necessity of fishing development, and in that way the matter could be brought within purview of Congested Districts Board, 44368-71.—The guardians were the statutory water body, but they would not levy the charge on the rates, 44372-3.—No charge was made for the water supplied to the fishing boats; that would necessitate appointment of a man with a salary which would monopolise a great part of the revenues derived from the boats, 44374-5.—The moiety of the expenditure levied on the electoral division had been paid to the contractor, and it was desired there should be some remission to the ratepayers, 44376-7.

Negotiations for Sale of Portmagee Property.

Negotiations were at present going on with Trinity College for the sale of the Portmagee property; they had refused to sell to the Congested Districts Board under any circumstances, but they would sell direct, provided that Cahirciveen joined in the sale; no terms had been mentioned, 44384-5.

Pier Needed at Ballinskelligs.

At Ballinskelligs Bay there were 60 boats, and no landing-place of any kind; there was a sheltered cove at Ballinskelligs Castle, where there were about fifteen feet of water at low tide, and a timber structure would do, 44384-5.—A pier would be needed; witness contemplated decked and half-decked vessels, and the yawls had no place to land their fish, 44386-8.

O'CONNELL, Mr. A. G.—*continued.*

Necessity for a Motor Service for Transit of Fish.

A motor service was necessary; a tremendous quantity of fish was killed in the bay; three or four boats would take 20,000 fish on some days, 44388-90.—Autumn was the principal time; the fish were carted to Cahirciveen, and were so shaken in the common carts that they were seriously injured; a motor would not do more injury than the cart, and it would go quicker; there were about 200 barrels of mackerel at Portmagee in the season, and 1,575 barrels of cured fish were sent from Ballinskelligs to the American market, 44392-4.

O'SULLIVAN, Mr. JAMES.

Pier at Reneen.

Witness appeared in support of a new pier beyond a place called Reneen Point, in Ballinskelligs Bay; there were seventy fishermen in Reneen, and there were three seine boats, each manned by eighteen men; there were also fifteen or sixteen small boats fishing lobsters; they had no way of landing at all; when the boats came in people went out to bring in the fish from the waves; landing at night they could not go out again; it took five or six men to pull up a boat, 44396-7.—If a pier were built at Ballinskelligs Castle it would serve Reneen, but it would be rather far away, 44398.—A pier could not be placed in front of every little collection of houses, but it would be well if there was a good pier somewhere between Reneen and Waterville, 44399-400.—It was nine miles from Reneen to Ballinskelligs, 44401.—Mr. Green said Reneen was the most suitable place round the coast for the pier; there was any amount of fish in the bay, but they could not get them; witness had often seen the men go out; they got all wet getting into their boats, 44402.—The people were very poor, but they would certainly give some little local contribution if they were asked, 44403.—Representations had been made to an inspector of the Congested Districts Board, but no steps had been taken, 44404.—The people would be only too glad to contribute the labour; no estimate had been made of the cost, 44405-6.

Bridge Needed at Toreens.

There was a river crossing a road about eight miles from where the Commission was sitting, and there was no bridge; the district on the other side was called Toreens, and there were six families there who were obliged to cross the river on a plank, and could not cross at all except when the water was very shallow, 44406.—Witness thought the place was on the Burns-Hartopp Estate, but was not sure, 44407-8.—There were other families in the village beyond Toreens; the road should be extended to the village, 44408.—The matter had been placed before the Board's inspector, but they did not seem to move, 44410-1.—There was a road to the site proposed for the Reneen pier, 44413.

HAREN, Mr. P.

Pier Needed at Ballinskelligs.

A pier was much needed at Ballinskelligs, and there had been some idea of closing the Sound, the late landlord had made efforts in the direction of closing the Sound, and witness had taken soundings, but the cost was too great; Mr. Green had visited the place; there was deep water at the telegraph station, and one side of the reef of rocks was a natural pier already; engineers had been sent down on different occasions, and witness had taken soundings; but when the matter went before the Board nothing more was heard of it; thirty or forty memorials had been sent to the Lord Lieutenant and the House of Commons; there were about fifty boats in Ballinskelligs, and boats came from all parts of the United Kingdom; they all complained that if there were a pier there would be facilities for fishing; witness would sooner press for the making of the pier than for the closing of the Sound: another necessity was a large curing-house, 44414.

SULLIVAN, Mr DENIS.

Congestion in Neighbourhood of Kenmare.

Parishes of Kenmare, Bonawn, and Tuosist, and large part of Kilgarvan were scheduled, excepting only electoral division of Cappagh; land was reclaimed from bogs, etc., and was of very poor quality; it required tilling and manuring every six or eight years; 271 holdings in district were under £4, 1,109 over; average valuation was £6 13*s.*; majority of farmers were in debt to shopkeepers; if no remittances were received from America they could not subsist and pay taxes and rent; Congested Districts Board had done very little; there was no Parish Committee in Kenmare, as Board had only offered £35, which was inadequate; landlord was Marquis of Lansdowne. There was very little untenanted land; Lord Lansdowne held about 100 acres, which he let for grazing on eleven months' system; that might be acquired by Estates Commissioners for enlargement of holdings; entire district should be scheduled, and larger grants made to Parish Committees; turbary was exhausted in some places, and people had to go far into mountains for it; grants should be made for roads to such places, 44415.—Indebtedness of farmers to shopkeepers was due to depression of the times, 44416-7.—Parish Committee had not been started, because of inadequacy of grant of £35; secretary and clerk of works would be required, and they would have to be paid; that would leave only £25 to spend, which, though better than nothing, was wholly inadequate; Board might increase grant afterwards if scheme proved a success, 44436-42, 44544-55.—The demesne land, which was let as grazing land, and therefore was not, strictly speaking, demesne land, should be taken for labourers' allotments; only about 100 acres of Lord Lansdowne's land were available, 44494-503.

Land Purchase.

Lord Lansdowne had been approached on two occasions since passing of Act of 1903 regarding sale of estate to tenants; first time he said that he did not intend to sell Glenerough Estate; in 1905 he refused to meet deputation of tenants to discuss terms of sale; later, in reply to Ven. Archdeacon O'Leary, he submitted terms, viz., twenty years' purchase of first term rents and twenty-three years' purchase of second term rents, sporting rights to be vested in landlord, and excluding from sale about seventy holdings; tenants offered seventeen years' purchase of first term rents, twenty years purchase of second term rents, sporting rights to be vested in tenants, and included holdings to be excluded; or, as an alternative, purchase through Estates Commissioners; Lord Lansdowne refused to accept either, 44415.—Farms in district which Estates Commissioners had refused to sanction sale of in 1890, as they considered security insufficient for advance, were now being sold at six to ten years' purchase higher than prices offered under previous Acts; there was no warrant for this, as prices of produce had decreased, while labour had become dearer owing to emigration; enhanced price was due to operation of zone system, and abolition of inspection for security; also lever of relief from arrears; this was serious for both tenant and ratepayers; remedy was compulsory purchase at fair price, abolition of zones, and inspection for security; all sales to be made through Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, 44415.—Tenants wanted sporting rights to use for themselves, and to prevent gamekeepers coming on their lands at any time they liked, 44443-5.—Game would continue to exist, as it would be to interests of people to preserve it, as it was an asset of value, 44446-8.—Committee of tenants for protecting game and leasing to somebody would probably be best way of preserving game, 44449.—Mr. Doran lived on property where game had been left to tenants, and there was still as much game as ever; what tenants objected to was constant interference of bailiffs, etc., 44450-2.—In former times, before passing of Act of 1881, there had been much miscarriage of justice, as gamekeepers brought people before magistrates for no reason at all, and magistrates set aside evidence of all witnesses except gamekeepers or water-bailiffs; people got very little justice, 44453-73.—Landlords asked high prices for land, and tenants were willing to pay them, as fact of getting rid of arrears was a present relief, 44474-7.—Only remedy was compulsory purchase at a fair price; fair prices being those current under Ashbourne Act—fourteen or fifteen to seventeen years' purchase, 44478-9.—In former days tenants' organisation was stronger than now, and were able to make better terms than at present on that account, 44484-6.—Land was different from ordinary commodities, and could not be bought and sold on same principles, as occupiers in Ireland had interest equal to the landlords', 44487-92.—Only remedy for high purchase prices was compulsory purchase by either Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, 44493.—Lord Lansdowne had refused to sell a large number of holdings on his estate; these were let to tenants; tenants had refused to purchase at his prices, but had said that others might, 44509-11.—The estate purchased in 1890, at fifteen years' purchase, was on first term rents; that would be equal to seventeen or eighteen years' purchase of second term rents, 44512-8. —Land on Lord Lansdowne's property was very poor, and reclamation was going on still; rents were put up as soon as land was reclaimed, and there was no redress after 1881 for rent charged on reclamations, 44527-35.—As witness had said, farms which in 1890 Estates Commissioners had refused to advance fourteen years' purchase on had sold under Act of 1903 for twenty years' purchase; this was proof that land was selling much higher under Act of 1903, 44536-43. —Regarding sporting rights, best thing would be for committee of tenant farmers to look after game; they did not so much want game for themselves as to have complete control of farms after purchasing them, 44567.—Ownership of everything on the land should pass to tenants, 44570.—It was great hardship that gamekeepers should have right to go over land, 44573. —Association of tenants might lease land to sportsman for advantage to themselves; or right of shooting might be subject to having to pay bird money to tenants; but landlord should not have right to send bailiffs, etc., on the land whenever he pleased, 44574-7.—Gladstone's Act of 1881 had emancipated the tenants, 44586.—Petty Sessions Bench had improved recently, and had now more members in whom the people had confidence, 44587-8.—Witness did not know of any case where land was held by one proprietor and shooting rights upon it by another, though landlords had tried to make such agreements, 44594-5. —Accounts given in papers of sales did not state whether sporting rights were retained, 44596-99.—Warren Estate in Kerry had been sold under such circumstances, but witness had never heard of it under Ashbourne Acts, 44600-4.—Game rights should not even be reserved for vendor's life-time, 44615.—Witness had purchased farm in 1890 at fifteen to seventeen years' purchase; his rent then was £20, his present instalment was £12, which he considered a fair price in that district, 44605-11.—If Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board fixed price witness would be satisfied with it, whatever price they fixed, 44612-4.

Cattle and Sheep-breeding.

Breed of cattle and sheep should be improved, especially cattle which were of very inferior quality and had to be kept until they were three or four years old; in times of depression they were almost unsaleable, 44415.—Nothing had been done by Congested Districts Board to improve breed of cattle or sheep in Kenmare Parish, 44428.—Now Agriculture Department had control of work, and county councils had remedy in their own hands, as Department worked through them, 44430-5.—Conditions in this part of Kerry were different from those in other parts, and cattle had here to be kept for three or four years if anything was to be made by them, 44504-8, 44519-22. —Beasts were not fattened in Kerry, but bought by graziers, who kept them about a year before selling them, 44523-6.—In poorer parts of Kerry people had no regular system of sale of cattle at a certain age; all depended on the demand; sometimes they had to be kept on mountains and fattened before they left district, 44589-93.

Agricultural Prices

Indebtedness of farmers to shopkeepers was due to depression of times, and fall in prices of agricultural produce, 44416-9.—Witness argued that price of butter was lower, though Agricultural Department's lists showed general increase; this increase, he said, was only in price of best butter, 44420-3.—Price of cattle was very uncertain, though price of beef did not vary much; cattle sometimes sold well, but at other times demand was very slack; depression in cattle trade told heavily against farmers in Kerry, as their cattle were of such very poor quality, 44424-6.

Agricultural Schemes.

People were not satisfied with agricultural and live stock schemes, as farmers were not getting the class of help they wanted, 44556-8.—Some more useful system might be devised, 44559.—Horse was stationed in Kerry when schemes were under Congested Districts Board, 44560.—Also a bull, 44561.—Bee-keeping would be a good industry to spread throughout the country, 44565.

O'SULLIVAN, Mr. TIMOTHY J.

Congestion.

Parish of Kenmare was portion of Barony of Glenarought, property of Marquis of Lansdowne; number of holdings would be 300 to 400, and average valuation about £6; as soil was unproductive reclaimed mountain soil, to be of any use it has to be manured and tilled every six or eight years; potato was principal crop on which people subsisted; bread and tea was used; meat only at festival times, and then it would be an old cow; very little corn was sent to market, though a good deal was purchased for seed and feeding purposes; manual labour had to be employed in cultivating all crops, as plough and harrow could seldom be used; people had to carry manure on their backs; about three-fourths of the holdings were uneconomic; liabilities could not be met were it not for remittances from children in America and elsewhere; most of the young men and women emigrated; fishing used to assist, but it had greatly declined; there were about a dozen hand-loom weavers in the parish, who made flannels and tweeds; Congested Districts Board ought to assist them and obtain markets for their goods, as now they had to sell to speculators; there was no means of enlarging holdings, as landlord was planting lands that came into his possession; he claimed right of pre-emption when tenant was selling interest; there were three evicted tenants, who ought to get land equivalent in value out of farms in landlord's hands; principal means of improving condition of people would be compulsory purchase, abolishing zones, and giving Estates Commissioners power to fix number of years' purchase, 44617.—If this were done annuities would be lower than rent, and people would have more energy to till farms properly, 44660.—Reductions in rent were very little on Lansdowne Estate for last twenty years, 44661.—Money should be advanced at low rate of interest for improvement of uneconomic farms, 44722.—There was no land available for migration, 44725.—People would probably be willing to migrate to Kildare, Meath, Roscommon, or King's County, 44725-6.—If one in three were migrated, that would do much to relieve congestion, 44730.—A man could probably manage forty or fifty acres of land, for out of that there would only be nine or ten acres of arable land, 44731.—There was no available labour in the county, 44733-4.—People would not like to migrate to the North of Ireland, 44736.—Witness was not in favour of planting arable land of a tenant when it came into landlord's possession, but it would be a great benefit to the mountain sides of the country, 44737-8.—Co-operative tillage might be adopted to increase production of farm; it was already adopted to some extent, 44741-2.—If farm were enough for one man he would not have time to help his neighbour, but horses and ploughs could be lent if land were fit for ploughing, 44743-5.—People should be given employment on reproductive works on their farms, such as draining, fencing, reclamation, etc., 44617, 44688.

Land Purchase.

Landlord had at first refused to sell estate, but recently he offered abatement of 5*s.* and 7*s.* in the pound on first and second term rents respectively, but wanted to reserve sporting rights, charge high interest, and exclude large number of tenants from purchase; tenants had offered to purchase at 7*s.* and 9*s.*, or, as an alternative, to purchase through Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board; this landlord had refused to consider; arrears were not allowed to accumulate; before Act of 1881 tenants were evicted for very trifling causes, 44617.—When landlord claimed right of pre-emption holding was not put up for auction; he offered a certain price, and it was settled privately, 44657-9.—The 5*s.* and 7*s.* abatement offered by Lord Lansdowne was not a substantial reduction, 44662-4.—He should not receive more than his net income, which would not come to more than 60 or 70 per cent. of rental, after deducting expenses of collection, 44665.—Land Conference, before Act of 1903, had decided that 10 per cent. was fair amount to allow for cost of collection, but with large estate like Lord Lansdowne's there had to be much greater allowance; books would be only reliable guide, but they could not be got at, 44666-72.—If income were proved, fair price to buy at would be sum of money which would give that income, 44673.—Tenants would be satisfied with such arrangement, or they would agree to leave decision to Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, 44674.—It would not be fair to take away a man's property and leave him worse off than before, 44677.—As things were now, people were afraid that if they improved their farms Land Commission would not give them proper reduction, 44686.—Rate of interest which landlord had wanted to charge was 3¾ per cent., which was too high, 44687.

Cattle and Sheep-breeding.

Good bulls and rams should be introduced for improvement of cattle and sheep; cattle raised were of such inferior quality that they could seldom be sold to advantage; witness had himself purchased two and three year olds at £3 during last year; if Canadian stores were introduced it would kill cattle industry, 44617.—Prices of good bulls were prohibitive to small farmers, 44678.—Agricultural Department was responsible, not Congested Districts Board; they had not provided Polled Angus bulls nor Scotch rams, but if they did, on reasonable terms, it would be a great benefit, 44679-80.—Work should not be transferred to Congested Districts Board; principle of its being in hands of Agricultural Department was best, to be worked through local bodies such as County Council, 44682-4.—Though a representative of latter body had great difficulty in improving matters under existing law, 44685.

Roads.

New roads through districts where they were badly needed would be of great utility, and would give needful employment to small farmers and their sons; in absence of roads people had to draw loads on their backs, sometimes over a mile, 44617, 44688.

Crops.

Potato this year was a good crop; there was scarcely any sign of blight, owing to cold weather; warm, foggy weather would have brought blight, 44618-23.—Corn bought in market was all American flour and Indian corn, 44624.—Excessive damp of climate in South of Ireland prevented its being grown successfully, 44625.—Foreign wheat could be bought much cheaper than home-grown wheat, 44627.

Fishing.

Fishing had declined greatly in recent years, probably owing to trawling, 44629.—Law was that trawlers should not come within three miles of the shore; but they often broke it, 44631-4.—Trawlers came from France and Isle of Man, 44635.—Trawling allowed by Irish fishery bye-law had injurious effect on fish, as it frightened them away, 44637-8.—Fishermen had not means to get boats and cure fish, to trawl themselves, 44640.

O'SULLIVAN, Mr. TIMOTHY J.—*continued.*

Industries.

Congested Districts Board might provide wool for hand-loom weaving, and inspector might find customers in England and Scotland, as that would give people 20 or 30 per cent. more for their goods than present arrangement, 44641-4.—It would also be great advantage if weavers were sent from Scotland to give instruction to home weavers so that goods might be improved, 44645-7.—Looms were very primitive, and could be improved; hand-shuttle was used, 44648-9, 44692.—There were fourteen or fifteen hand-loom weavers, 44650, 44697.—Shopkeepers who bought goods were speculators, 44653-4.—It would be a good thing to provide improved looms on loan system if inspector was sent down to give instruction, 44698-99. —Congested Districts Board instructor had not been in the districts, 44700.

Evictions.

Before Act of 1881 people were evicted for very trifling reasons; witness knew one man who had been evicted by agent for having dirty turnips, 44701-2.—It would have been better to give prize for well-kept turnips, 44705.

Agricultural Schemes.

Poorer districts would be in much greater need of assistance under agricultural schemes than better-off districts, 44707-10.—Rich districts were able to avail themselves of advantages of Department because they were able to get bulls and pay for them, 44711.—Help should be given to poorer districts so that they could avail themselves of it, 44713.

Parish Committee.

Parish Committee was doing very well for short time it had been in existence; dwelling-houses had been much improved in cleanliness and sanitary decency, 44714-5.

Manure.

There was no lime nearer than Kenmare, a distance of fourteen or fifteen miles by road, 44716-8.—No scheme had been formulated to provide lime on a large scale; coral sand was used as a substitute, but it was difficult to obtain, as labour was so scarce; the young people all emigrated to America, and only able-bodied men could dredge it, 44719-21.

M'CLURE, Mr. ROBERT.

Congestion.

In Kerry very little land was available for redistribution or migration; congested districts produce large numbers of store cattle, which were sold in large grazing districts; this practice had been going on from time immemorial, as shown by quotation from "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture," published in 1837, which proved that same process was going on then as now; if this system were suddenly stopped, the congested districts, instead of improving, would become suddenly worse; if grazing ranches were purchased and distributed, they should be planted with migrants from *within* the district; witness did not think that migrants would become purchasers of store cattle if planted on grazing land, as they would have to make their income by sale of their own store cattle; congestion was chiefly caused by sub-division of land, and unless that were stopped all attempts at relief would be useless; reference, again, to "Quarterly Journal of Agriculture" for 1837 showed that this evil was as great then as now; growth of population in congested districts was rapid; all could not be provided for on the land; as the country could not be enlarged, there must be emigration, it was a safety valve; Mahony Estate was only estate in Kenmare Union which was not classed as congested; owner had fought against sub-division for half a century, and between 1851 and 1881 had spent £20,000 on improvements, such as roads, farm-houses, drainage, plantation, farm fences, bridges; there was not an evicted farm on estate; Congested Districts Board had done good work, but some better arrangements should be made if heavy operations contemplated were to be carried out; rents were fairly well paid by smaller tenants, who were honest and industrious, though they sometimes lacked perseverance, 44747.—*Personnel* of Congested Districts Board should not in any way be interfered with, but there ought to be some additional authority to control it, with assistance and advice, 44803-5.

Migration.

Witness did not think migration could be extensively carried out with the consent of the people, and expenditure would be very high, as houses, offices, etc., would have to be provided, and that would cost at least £200 for each migrant; if large scheme were adopted plans should be very carefully considered; Mr. Commissioner Finucane's scheme seemed best plan and accompanied with less expense and risk; work could not be accomplished within next quarter of a century, 44747.—Witness did not know that 300 migrants had already been moved by Congested Districts Board at a cost of £70 per migrant, and, on the whole, men had succeeded in new holdings, 44750-4.—If whole could be done at that price cost was not prohibitive, 44755.—If migration scheme were adopted, people must be carefully selected, with view to future success, 44756.—Mr. Commissioner Finucane's policy was one that had been already adopted, 44757.—There had been no trial of it in Kerry, 44758.—If grass land was acquired all local claimants should first be satisfied, and then, if there were any surplus, migrants could be brought from a distance, 44760-6.

Drainage.

Low lands could be greatly improved by drainage, which would give large increase in area of each small holding; for this purpose small holders should be able to obtain small loans, not less than £10, from Board of Works, at reasonable interest for short periods; at present small loans were not allowed, 44747.—If such improvements were carried out, someone ought to be appointed to see that they were maintained, 44791-2.—There was more stimulus to owners to keep things in order than to tenants, but even they often forget, 44793-6.—If good system of arterial drainage were carried out and maintained by Government, small holders would look after their own drains, 44798-802.—If agricultural instructor were appointed in connection with schools he might also look after drains, 44847.

Loans from Board of Works.

Small loans from Board of Works should be granted for improvements, drainage, etc.; present arrangements were prohibitive, 44747, 44767, 44815.—There was no doubt that the loans would be repaid, 44816.—The present £100 limit was beyond reach of small holder, but if he could borrow £10 at a reasonable rate he could conduct his improvements, and if it was good policy for State to encourage purchase, it was good policy for them to encourage improvements, 44817-9.

Agricultural Instruction.

Agricultural instruction should be improved; if instructor selected holdings occupied by intelligent men and instructed them in best system to adopt and rewarded them for success, that would be a good object lesson to neighbours and more effectual than casual lectures; national education should be so improved as to afford practical knowledge of agriculture being imparted to scholars, 44747.—Reason for failure of agricultural instruction in schools, so far, had been that teacher was expected to give instruction, whereas there ought to be proper instructor, 44778-81.—This was only true way to improve Irish agricultural conditions, 44820-2.

M'CLURE, Mr. ROBERT—*continued.*

Suggested Improvements.

Fishing would be a great help to congests, but they were not availing themselves of it, through lack of knowledge and resources, 44747.—Congested Districts Board should encourage planting trees; many strong mountain slopes produce excellent timber, which give good return in time, 44747.

Mixed Holdings.

Re-arrangement of mixed holdings presented great difficulties; if it was to be carried out, absolute power to plan and carry out a scheme should be given; afterwards supervision and compulsory power to maintain improvements must be continuous, 44747, 44782-3.—Good time for re-arrangement was when estate was passing from landlord to tenant, 44784.—It was much more difficult to re-stripe afterwards, 44785.—Congested Districts Board would be good agency for this, as they had already successfully striped Dillon Estate and Clare Island, 44785-8.—Estates where there were a great many holdings in rundale should only be sold through medium of improving authority, not direct from landlord to tenant, 44789-90.

Compulsion.

Witness thought that compulsion would be unnecessary, and, if adopted, would prove mischievous; if fair, full value was offered for land there would not be any difficulty in getting it, 44747, 44806.—If adopted it would create distrust and damage capitalist's ideas of safety of investments in Ireland, 44806-8.—It had not done this in England, but it was different from Ireland, 44809.—If a cranky man had to be dealt with, who would not come to terms at all, compulsion ought to be applied to him, provided he got fair price for his land, 44810-13.—Arbitration would probably be a satisfactory substitute for compulsion, 44850.—Judge of High Court might act as arbitrator and settle price, 44854, 44859.—Judge might deal with several cases at same time to save costs, etc., 44861-2.—Lawyers should be kept out of it altogether, 44864-7.

Land Purchase.

Witness had, before passing of Act of 1903 sold land valued at £600 by dividing it into several lots suitable for small farmers, fixing rent on each lot and inviting tenders to purchase lots, purchasers to pay cash down in lump sum; there had been many applications from adjoining tenants; witness thought if compulsion had to be adopted seven to ten years should be added to price of second term rent for land in owner's hands; poor law valuation was not fair guide in Kerry; high prices had been paid for tenants' interests on Lord Ventry's Estate; Estates Commissioners sold land to congests at reduction as low as 15 per cent., or 3*s*. in the pound; owners were selling to congests at 35 per cent. on first term and 25 per cent. on second term rents; migrated congests limit their own fences, and largely contributed to building of their houses, 44747.—In 1904 witness had wanted to sell an estate to the Congested Districts Board, and had made all preliminary arrangements, such as filling forms, etc., but after many months' delay only answer he got was that it would not suit them, though no inspection had been made, 44823-4.—There was no unoccupied land on estate, and witness had concluded that that was reason for their not buying; in another case tenant had applied directly to Board to buy estate; Board had applied to witness to know whether owner would sell, and, when reply was made in affirmative, estate had been surveyed at cost of £30 to owner, but Board had finally replied that they would buy no more estates pending decision of Commission, 44825.—Board was anxious to buy land in Kerry, but witness did not know why they had refused to buy first estate offered; possibly price was too high or they wanted untenanted land, 44828-35.—When witness sold 600 acres he first split them up and then fixed fair rent, which was from five to ten per cent. increase on rents they were used to paying; in some cases tenants bought; in some outsiders; they had been put up to public competition, 44836-40.—In sale of 600 acres land had not been put up to auction, but witness had fixed price, and if one man did not want it at that price he offered it to another, 44844-6.—In some cases tenants give tremendous prices for land adjoining their holdings; witness knew of one case where forty years' purchase had been given for a very poor piece of land; such transactions were very foolish, and it was a good thing that Act of 1881 provided for right of pre-emption for landlords, 44841-3.

Compensation for Disturbance.

If landlords in Ireland were given sum of money for land which, when invested in good 3½ per cent. security, brought in net income, transfer to such good security would be, in itself, compensation for disturbance, 44314.

Emigration.

Emigration was safety valve for country; if surplus population were transferred to ranches population would still grow, and sub-division would again take place, thus bringing on again state which was being remedied now; if sub-division were prevented, surplus population would still have to emigrate, as they could not marry and settle down in the country, 44855-8.

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HARRINGTON, Rev. T.

Congestion.

Best land in parish of Glengariff was partly irrigated by rivers flowing through Glen, but greater portion of that was demesne land in possession of landlord, Mr. Leigh White; bulk of people had to eke out existence on patches of soil between rocks on seaboard; population was 1,600, valuation £954 2*s*., on average of 12*s*. 8*d*. per head; even if land were free of rent it would not be able to support its population; as it was they could only live by help of remittances from America, or by what they themselves earned as labourers in Wales, where many went for several months of the year; remote villages of parish suffered from disadvantage of being far from fairs; people had often to lose best part of two days if they attended them, and then they preferred to sell cattle at a loss rather than have trouble and risk of bringing them home; people of Crostera would be much benefited if £50 were spent in deepening bed of river; this would add thirty acres of good land to holdings; their population was 100, valuation only £40; £60 would reclaim forty acres in Coomerkane; the people of latter place also suffered from want of a bridge, as approach roads to one that had been built had never been finished; County Council could not finish it, as road leading to village was private; Mr. Leigh White had been approached about it, but his statement was that he had agreed to make bridge if tenants would make road; tenants denied having made such agreement; to north of demesne fifty-four families had, until quite recently, been cut off from public road, and in Derreenagorrig there were four families whose access to public road was blocked by wall of demesne; a petition had been made for gate through wall, but it had been refused; on seaboard there were four townlands with fifty-five families; they supplemented incomes by fishing; people of two of them—Mackera and Bocarna—had got seine boats from Congested Districts Board, but they had proved useless for want of landing place, though they had hoped that slip would be constructed at Bocarna; money promised for that was being applied to Glengariff pier, which would not help fishing, though it would be useful for hotel, tourists, and village traders; curing station was also required; at Derryconnery, whose population was 65 and valuation £18, fishing industry was a failure, in spite of slip, because there was no road from village to slip, 44868, 44897-900.—Witness did not suggest that land of demesne should be acquired and parcelled out into holdings, 44871-2.

Cattle.

Cattle were of poorest kind, and improvement of breed was matter which Congested Districts Board should take up; owing to exceptional poverty of people, bulls should be delivered on easier terms than in wealthier districts, 44868.

HARRINGTON, Rev. T.—*continued.*

Parish Committee.

Parish Committee had been established in Glengariff four years ago, and was doing good work; larger grants, however, were required for improvement of dwelling-houses of very poor, 44868.

Re-afforestation.

Planting of clumps of trees should be undertaken to improve climate; used-up bog, poor, rocky land, etc., would be suitable for the purpose, as they could not be used for cultivation, 44868.

Compulsion.

People of Bonane wished for compulsory purchase; Lord Lansdowne had offered twenty-three and twenty years' purchase on first and second term rents; tenants had offered twenty-one and eighteen, which had been refused, so deadlock was created, which should be terminated by compulsory powers being given to Estates Commissioners, 44868.—Land could not be acquired under voluntary system, as it was too expensive, 44873-4.—If compulsion were adopted price would be lower than at present, 44875.—Fair price would be one that would give tenants a fair chance of living decently, and would allow landlord his net income, 44876-7.—Witness's definition of net income would be what a man paid income-tax on; even if books were produced, and it were shown that cost of collection of rents was only 10 per cent., he would adhere to that definition, 44881-7.—Witness said that terms offered by tenants to Lord Lansdowne were generous, because they were higher than those for which neighbouring properties had been sold, 44889-90.

Drainage.

Drainage might be greatly improved in Crostera and Coomerkane with small outlay; at present lowlands were ruined by periodic floods, 44892-3.—If money were given by Congested Districts Board work could be done by occupiers themselves, 44894.—Owner of fishing rights would probably not object, 44896.

Land Purchase.

Bad debts should not be included in consideration of income when fixing price which would give landlord net income; witness would not agree that 10 per cent. would cover cost of collection, 44901-11.

DORAN, Mr. DAVID.

Congestion.

Divisions of Dromore, Greenan, Loughbreen and Reen were not scheduled as congested, as three landlords resided in divisions who represented valuation of over £500, while valuation of whole four divisions was only £3,625; area of division was 33,708 acres; area in occupation of three landlords was 3,917 acres, 44914-5.—Out of 289 holdings fifty-nine were under £5 and 131 under £10 valuation, 44916.—Boat slip had been applied for, but, though two officials came down and inspected, nothing had been done; district should be included in scheduled area; land was only mountains, rocks, and bogs, and people were mainly dependent on cattle; if foreign cattle were admitted people would be ruined, 44918-9.—Estates Commissioners should purchase land with a view to making future conditions more comfortable; land needed lime; parish of Killanin had abundance of lime, which could be distributed by Congested Districts Board, 44919.—If they took over estate they could attend to drainage, 44919.—Witness was tenant on Colonel Gough's estate; there tenants gave so much for game that was shot over several farms, 44919.—It was much better for tenants to have game rights, as there was considerable friction otherwise, 44920-5.—In sales landlord had right of pre-emption, and could offer much smaller price than value of land; if landlord could use compulsion in acquiring partner's interest he ought to have compulsion used on him, 44927.—If sales were being carried through, County Court Judge or Land Court fixed rent, 44928.—Leaving price to Estates Commissioners would be best, 44931.

ROCHFORT, Mr. WILLIAM.

Untenanted Land on Lord Lansdowne's Estate.

Witness contested that classification of land in Barony of Glenarought, Lord Lansdowne's estate, in Parliamentary Return moved by Mr. Ginnell, M.P., was incorrect; there 5,226 acres of untenanted land were returned as valued at £697; in Government valuation lists there were 2,673 acres of rough mountain land, valued at £45 a year; some of this was let for grazing on eleven months' system, 44934-40.—Witness agreed that acreage of untenanted land was 5,226 acres; it was in rated occupation of landlord, 44940A-1.—Under heading "Woods and Plantations" there were 1,689 acres, valued at £257, and under "Demesne Lands" there were 212 acres, valued at £199, 44942.—Under townparks and other grazing lands there were 652 acres, valuation £196 a year; out of total, less than 600 acres would be of any use for agricultural purposes if required for tenants, 44943.—Of land around town, some belonged to demesne of Lansdowne Lodge, some was let on short tenure, 44945.—Mr. Maxwell, assistant agent, lived in Lansdowne Lodge, 44946.—Tenants had twice approached Lord Lansdowne with reference to sale of land, and Canon O'Riordan was their spokesman, 44946.—The mountain land would be very little use for grazing if added to holdings; it was of very little value, 44948.

Land Purchase.

Negotiations for sale were broken off over price and game, 44949-50.—It had not been suggested that sale should be through Congested Districts Board, but through Estates Commissioners, but landlord did not agree, 44951-2.—This applied to Glenrock, main portion of estate, 44953.—Improvements could be effected by Congested Districts Board if they were prepared to spend money, 44954.—If estate were sold, judging by way people paid rent, there ought to be good chance of their meeting their engagements, 44955.—Witness thought estate might be sold direct, without any improvements, 44956-7.—If sale were agreed upon on basis of Lord Lansdowne getting net income, witness could not promise that books would be produced, though method might be found by which details would not be made public, 44974-8.

Drainage.

Many holdings needed drainage; tenants could do more if they chose; arterial drainage would not be required, as it was so much on the hillsides, 44958-9.

Cost of Collection.

Cost of collection would be about 10 per cent., 44962.—Estate was scattered, and there were sub-agents in outlying districts, 44963.—On peninsula cost of collection would be about 12 per cent., including bad debts, 44964-5, 44967, 44972.—Twelve per cent. would probably apply to whole of Kerry, 44968.—Cost of collection on outlying portions of estate was greater in proportion, but whole of expenses would be spread over, 44969-71.

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O'LEARY, Ven. Archdeacon DAVID.

Relief of Congestion in Neighbourhood of Kenmare.

If line were drawn east and west from Tralee, it would divide Kerry into two very different parts; north of that it would be fairly level, and suitable for tillage as well as pasture; South Kerry was mountainous, and land was mostly reclaimed mountain, morass, and bog; inhabitants had by persevering industry and toil, turned portions of bogs and mountain slopes into pasture land; greater part of parish of Kenmare was so reclaimed, but with exception of three electoral divisions it was excluded from operations of Congested Districts Board; rules for scheduling were difficult to understand, as sometimes districts as poor as those scheduled were excluded;

witness suggested that whole of County Kerry be scheduled, and that all tenants of holdings of £10 valuation and under should be entitled to special advantages now offered by Board to those whose value was £7, 44979.—This meant that holders of £10 valuation should not be excluded from advantages of Parish Committees, etc., 44981.

Suggestions for Congested Districts Board.

Opinion was strong in Kerry that it did not receive support from Congested Districts Board which its condition demanded; much had been done for Donegal, Galway, and Mayo, but nothing for Kerry; a few loans had been given, but Board had not established fleet of fishing boats, technical schemes, purchase of estates, industrial schemes, etc., had all suffered in the same way; special representative of Kerry and South-West Cork should be appointed on Board, and certain sums of money earmarked for Kerry; Board was unnecessarily slow in putting into effect its purchase powers under Act of 1903, thus depriving farmers of advantages they were meant to enjoy; housewifery school in Killarney was doing good work; Parish Committees were doing good work, and should be extended, 44979, 45188-9.—Representative should be selected by County Council, 45190.—It was possible other counties would claim same privilege, but up to the present Leitrim was only county, beside Kerry, which had made such a claim; a large Board, with public-spirited men on it, ought to work well, 45191-3.

High Price of Land in County Kerry a Deterrent to Land Purchase.

Estates had been sold in Kerry, but large estates were still unsold; prices demanded by landlord varied from 20 to 24¼ years' purchase of second term rents, which was considerable advance on average price of estates sold previous to Act of 1903, average before Act being about eighteen years' purchase; some years ago one landlord had offered to sell to tenantry at twenty years' purchase; this had been refused; same tenants had now paid twenty-three years' purchase for farms; it was questionable whether 5*s.* in the £ on second term rents was sufficient reduction for Kerry farmers; landlord whose rents were high had recently offered to sell portion of estate at 4*s.* to 6*s.* reduction; this was trifling with tenants; same landlord refused to sell considerable portion of estate; reduction in rent would be some help, but it would be a long time before indebtedness to shopkeepers was got over; mortality among calves was considerable, and all such disasters meant recourse to shopkeepers and bank; in view of all these things, reduction of 3*s.* in the pound was absurd; to meet unreasonable demands of landlords Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners might get power to intervene and arrange by compulsion or arbitration, 44979.—Interests of landlords should be considered as well as of tenant; tenant in South Kerry who bought at reduction of 5*s.* in the £ was much worse off than one who bought in North Kerry under Congested Districts Board, as dangers attaching to purchase were greater, people depended so much on stores fed on the mountains, 44982-4.—Small additions made a great difference to tenant, though they were trifling to landlord, 44987.—Witness gave example of farm in Dingle held by Presentation Nuns, rent was fixed by Land Commission at £17 16*s.*, it was sold at 21½ years' purchase, or 6*s.* reduction in the £, that is £382 14*s.*, bonus would be £35 18*s.* 5*d.*, total £428 12*s.* 5*d.*; that, at 4 per cent., would give £17 2*s.* 8¼*d.*, slightly less than amount previously received, 44988.—Bishop would probably have power to invest £428 in whatever security he chose, and Duke of Devonshire had stated in House of Lords that 4 per cent. was safe security generally, 44989-90.—Three and a half per cent. was, however, what was generally taken as a fair figure, 44991.—If the £428 had to be invested at 3½ per cent. there would be loss of income, 44993.—Bulk of Irish landed property was in trust, and not held in fee, 44995.—Trustees were not always free to invest as they liked, though Act of 1903 had extended scope of investments, 44996-7.—Tenants would be satisfied with 3¾ per cent., though they would not with 3½, as landlords could purchase on securities not recognised as sufficient for trust purposes before Act, 44998.—On estate in which landlord had offered to sell at reduction of from 3*s.* to 6*s.* in £ rents had not, as a rule, been fixed by Land Court, 45000-1.—Tenants did not want to go into Land Courts, as they had a prejudice against them, owing to the action of the Assistant Land Commission before Act of 1881, who actually in many cases raised instead of lowering rents, 45002-7.—People attributed their action either to landlord prejudice or to ignorance, 45008.—Fact was landlord was indisposed to sell at all; parish priest of Anascaul had written to him shortly after passing of Act of 1903, but his letter had never been answered, 45009.—Landlord had given tenants a reduction of 3*s.* in £, but it was not recognised by Courts, and could be withdrawn at any time, 45016.—If tenants did not pay within a certain time reduction was not given, 45018.—Voluntary reductions were often given in Ireland, as that saved trouble and expense of Land Courts, 45020.—This arrangement between landlord and tenant was not really substitution for judicial rent, as landlord could withdraw it at any time, 45022-5.—If Land Commission recognised it then it would be substitute for judicial rent, 45026.—Voluntary nature of agreement was objectionable feature of it, 45027.—Substantial reduction would be 5*s.* 6*d.*, 5*s.* 9*d*, or 6*s.*, 45052.—Reduction of 6*s.* in £ on rent of £5 would be £1 10*s.*, and at that rate it would take fourteen years to pay off £20 to shopkeeper, 45054.—If 8*s.* in £ were given £2 would be taken off; that would pay off debt in ten years, 45056-7.—But if reduction were only 4*s.* or 6*s.* in £ it would take from 14 to 20 years to pay off debt, 45059.—On particular estate before referred to they had to pay £3 to the cow, which was Kerry way of calculating; on neighbouring estate they paid £1 10*s.* to the cow, which was great discrepancy, 45060.—Mr. Drummond, of Slea Head, had, after passing of Act of 1903, offered his tenants reduction of 3*s.* in £, though, strangely enough, otherwise he was interested in tenants, 45062-4.—Witness called landlord who offered such reduction callous, as he was driving a hard bargain, 45066.—Proper price could only be estimated on basis of net income, and reduction of 3*s.* would certainly give more than that, as majority of landlords had offered from 4*s.* to 7*s.*, 45067-8.—When conditions of tenantry were such as would make application of land law to their case too severe a strain on them landlord should sacrifice some of his net income, 45073.—Three shillings in the pound would bring in more than net income derived from property, 45077-9.—In this case it certainly would give more than net income, and was an act of cruelty, 45081.—This reduction would give some immediate relief, and people grasped it without thinking of the future, 45082.—Obligation would be very difficult to meet in the future, 45084.—Sometimes people had advisors who would help them, often they had not, 45086-7.—Reductions should be greater on poor lands than on better, 45136-8.—Under preceding Acts inferior lands went for smaller number of years' purchase than better lands, generally speaking, 45139.—District was wettest in Ireland, which explained difficulty of growing crops in South Kerry, 45140-1.—When occupiers in poorer districts bought lands for smaller number of years' purchase reduction was proportionately greater, 45142.—Poorer land was generally reclaimed, 45145.—It was difficult to get rent down on reclaimed land to anything like what it was before reclamation, 45146.—Crop on poor land was very precarious, 45148.—Harvest was about three weeks late in the upland, and it was sometimes very hard to get in oats at all, 45149.—Income from farm on poor land was very precarious, 45150.—And rough stock did not find ready market in bad years, 45152.—So reduction that would enable a man to get on on good land did not give proportionate benefit to men on bad lands, 45154.—Therefore, 5*s.* might not be adequate reduction in Kerry, 45155.—Price of poor land had gone up under Act of 1903, 45157.—In sale of Dingle property if money could only be invested in 3½ per cent. instead of 4, interest would be £15, which would be a loss; but it was better to have that secure than to have third term rent fixed on property, 45161.—In case of Mr. Drummond's property at Slea Head 3*s.* reduction would mean 26½ years' purchase, which would give landlord more than gross income, 45163-4.—Mr. Drummond was now waiting to see what terms tenants would offer, 45165.—If tenants were under impression that a man ought not to have his net income they might wait until third term

O'LEARY, Ven. Archdeacon DAVID—*continued.*

rents were fixed, 45171-5.—Net income of owner would be ascertained by deduction from gross income; these would depend on cost of administration, &c., and could only be obtained through estate office, 45195-6.—Witness did not know of any landlord who had allowed his books to be inspected, 45198, 45202.—Reason for increase from average of eighteen years' purchase under Ashbourne Acts to twenty-two years' purchase under Act of 1903 was lowness of annuity that tenants would have to pay, 45199.—Prices which had prevailed since passing of Act of 1903 were probably indication of what net income was, 45209.—It was possible that some landlords had not received net income, as they had been anxious to get rid of a property which was a trouble to them, and were glad to lose a little under the circumstances, 45210-2.

Indebtedness to Shopkeepers.

Indebtedness of farmers to shopkeepers was greater than it used to be, partly owing to improvidence of farmers and partly to their extreme poverty, 45032.—Farmer had always first to pay the landlord, and shopkeeper comes in last, 45033.—Indebtedness might have something to do with rent, but standard of living had risen in recent years, 45037-9.—Indebtedness varied from £20 to £45; in one case in witness's knowledge farmer of £10 valuation owed £80, but that was an extreme case; average might be £20, 45040-1.—A man of £5 valuation might be the one who owed £20 to the shopkeeper, 45047.—Reduction of 5*s.* in £ would not go far towards enabling farmer to pay his debts to shopkeeper, 45050.

Cattle.

Farmers dependent to a great extent on cattle on mountain pastures to pay rents, etc.; if price of cattle fell benefit derived from reduction ceased; if Canadian cattle were introduced tenants would not be able to meet annuities, which would mean their ruin or increase of rate, 44979.

Emigration.

Population of County of Kerry was 293,880 in 1841, in 1901 estimate was 165,726; decrease was due to emigration, which was a great evil; it was not weak and infirm who left country, but young and strong, on whom a nation depended for growth and progress; last year 1,971 people emigrated from the county, all between the ages of fifteen and thirty; efforts should be made to keep youth in the country, 44979.—Only remedy appeared to be growth of Irish industries, and that would take time; in parish of Ferriter fishing provided occupation, and it was only parish in county where population had increased, 45116.

Fisheries.

Fisheries had been developed to some extent along south and south-western coasts, with result that Ferriter was only parish in county in which population had increased; these should be further developed, 44979.

Industries.

Lace schools helped to keep girls at home; they earned on an average 4*s.* to 12*s.* a week, and sometimes even up to 15*s.* and £1; if other industries were started some alleviation of present evil would be experienced; weaving and spinning should be developed and encouraged, 44979.—In Cahirciveen and Tuosist especially new looms would be desirable, 45117.—Lace schools had been established, but it was doubtful whether market would be found for increased output of lace, 45118-9.—There was always sale for lace from Kenmare School, but it made very fine class of lace, 45120-1.—It was suitable both for class and cottage industry; women and girls took it to their homes as well as doing it in convent schools, and it kept girls at home who would otherwise be in America, 45123-4.—Weaving was carried on in mill on River Sheen, and it was hoped that Congested Districts Board would develop that, 45186-8.—People should receive proper practical instruction in cultivation and improvement of land, 44979.

O'LEARY, Ven. Archdeacon DAVID—*continued.*

Harbour Accommodation.

Harbour accommodation was greatly needed; more piers, slips, and boats should be provided, and dredging should be carried out, 44979.—Large works should be carried out, but slips should be provided for small boats also; piers at Coomcross, Cahirciveen, and Dingle all needed improvement, and slips should be set up between them, 45125-A.

Suggested Improvements.

Smaller grants than may be received at present should be given for drainage; where embankment of rivers was imperfect, leading to flooding of large tracts, Congested Districts Board or Agricultural Department should be empowered to execute necessary work 44979.—Roads should be made to dwellings, particularly in villages, 44979.—Plantation of forest trees in mountainous districts would be conducive to health, and would be a source of profit eventually; instances of successful planting in Kerry gave guarantee of future success, 44979.—Sides of Mangerton and Torc had been planted, with great success; landowners had planted pieces of land not fit for agricultural purposes, 45126.—It was true that mountains were used for grazing, and if acquired by Congested Districts Board there might be demand for division among tenants for grazing purposes; but if advantages of planting were explained to them, probably people would not object, though they might demand certain amount of compensation, 45127-35.

Migration.

There was not much room in county for migration, but some landlords held large farms which they might sell to Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 44979.

Compulsory Purchase Advocated.

Some landlords refused to sell, except on conditions that tenants would not accept; in such cases Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners ought to have power to intervene and arrange by compulsion or arbitration, 45088.—Price could not be stated, as individual cases would have to be settled on their merits, 45089.—It might be fair to compel a man to lose some money over such sale sometimes, if it were for public utility and advantage; such considerations had compelled landlords to give up portions of rents by judgment of courts, 45090-5.—Witness did not know whether English rules of compensation would apply to Ireland, 45096-8.—In cases such as that of Lord Clanrickarde it was competent for State to take up estate, even though he should suffer some loss; it would not be injustice to try in that way to remedy the injustice which had prevailed on that estate, 45099-100.—State could take away property which it had given, 45101.—Some properties had been acquired by payment of cash, but most had been granted as reward for services, 45102-8.—But even those that had been acquired by payment of cash might sometimes have to be taken by State, at a loss to landlord, but loss should not be substantial one, 45109-13.—Principle was that, where public policy demanded it, it was not unjust to compel an owner to sustain loss by compulsory sale of property, 45115.—Congested Districts Board had now power to compulsorily acquire land for enlargement of surrounding holdings, 45178.—Board might take away holding much prized by owner, and for which money was not actual compensation, 45180-3.—But generally State should and would pay actual compensation for what was taken away, though there might be exceptional cases, 45184-5.

SHEEHAN, Mr. J. L.

Land Purchase.

Compulsion, with inspection, was only remedy for sale of estates in congested districts of South Kerry; Warden Estate was purchased for £38,240 in December, 1906, tenants thus paying twenty and twenty-three years' purchase, plus two years' arrears, whereas fourteen years ago they had refused to buy from Landed Estates Court Judge for fifteen years' purchase; under sale terms 4*s.* 6*d.* and 7*s.* in the £ were given to second and first term tenants respectively, but when two years' arrears were added annuities

SHEEHAN, Mr. J. L.—*continued.*

were very little reduced from old rents, 1*s.* 5*d.* being received by some instead of 7*s.*; only slum portion of estate was sold, landlord reserving better portion, including three townlands and village of Sneem; majority bought on rack rents only, 91 out of 300 tenants only being judicial; in addition, charges were made for landlord's improvements put up twelve years before, and which were all rotten; some evicted tenants signed under compulsion, as landlord notified that he would hand farms over to others if they did not sign; one evicted tenant who was in America had 200 acres reserved. by landlord; he had now about 25 acres to live on; whole estate had been bought by owners for £30,000; they had realised £38,000 on worst portion of it, and had reserved almost as much rental as they had sold; it should never have been sold direct to tenants, but should have been purchased by Congested Districts Board and re-sold by them to tenants, after careful separate valuation; if potato crop failed for one year, tenants would be unable to pay annuities, and there would be a state of famine; rent was now sent by tenants' children from America, England, and Wales; under Ashbourne Act tenants had bought more cheaply in South Kerry, Mahony Hickson Estate being bought at 14½ and 15 years' purchase, and Gough Estate at fourteen years' purchase, 45214.—Attention of Estates Commissioners had been drawn to this transaction, and they were now looking into matter, and had taken up sold portion, wtih object of expending 10 per cent. on it (though Treasury was opposing that grant, and matter had not yet been settled), before allowing it to pass to purchasers, 45221-30.

FISHING.

Fishermen were too poor to get loans from the Congested Districts Board for nets and boats; curing station should be established, especially for herrings and sprats; loss of Clyde Shipping Company's service to Sneem was very much felt by fishermen and others; it was loss of £400 a year to district, 45214, 45231.—Nets and boats had to be got before fishing could be done and if there were bad years instalments could not be paid, 45216.—Share system of acquiring boats did not apply to Kerry, only borrowing system, 45217.—Witness thought that Board required large security, 45218.—He was not aware that no security was required, but that boats were paid for by catches, 45219-20.

PARISH COMMITTEE.

Parish Committee was working very well; Father Hagan, parish priest, appreciated its efforts to help locality, 45234-6.

RINEY, Mr. JOHN.

CONGESTION AND POVERTY ON LANSDOWNE ESTATE.

Greater part of Lansdowne Estate was poor and barren, soil peaty and drainage difficult owing to rocky nature of soil; other parts were poor, light and gravelly, requiring good manure; there was very little clay, hence labour had to be done by spade; improvement was difficult owing to scarcity of labour and difficulty in getting lime or sea sand; sea sand was only to be had at Kenmare, and there were no able-bodied men to dredge it; witness had reclaimed some land, but found that improvements were not permanent; principal crop was potato, which failed if summer were very wet; some oats were grown, but they were not worth much; scarcely any potatoes or grain found their way into market of Kenmare; there would not be peace or prosperity in congested districts until they were purchased, but bargain should not be left between landlord and tenant; formerly rents had been raised on every possible pretext; if Lansdowne Estate were purchased 9*s.* and 7*s.* should be taken off first and second term rents respectively; there were several untenanted farms in landlord's possession, which it was thought he would plant; tenants had wished to purchase on two occasions, but landlord refused to sell; Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners should take up estate and not leave bargain between landlord and tenant, as tenant would certainly agree to anything that would give immediate relief; there were some evicted farms, some in charge of caretakers, others used as grazing ranches; if some of this land were given to evicted tenants it would be a relief; very small landowners with only a few cows would be greatly benefited by addition to their holdings; entire part of Tuosist belonged to Lord Lansdowne; there were about 450 landholders, three-fourths of them were under £5 valuation; if powers of Congested Districts Board were extended so that it could give grants to small uneconomic holders for drainage, improvements, etc., through parish committees it would be greatest help and encouragement to poor people in these distressed times, 45237.

CATTLE.

Cattle were very inferior, though several attempts had been made by better class of farmers to improve breed by introduction of bulls, they were very subject to disease; mortality in calves was great and cattle suffered from gout owing to grazing on poor wet land; average price of 1½-year old was £2 5*s.*, of 2½, £3, of 3½, £4; calf heifers of best quality, £5; "Kerry Goats" was appropriate name for cows; average quantity of butter was sixty or seventy lbs. per cow, even when hand-fed; town of Kenmare was market for goods and buyers came from Cork, Limerick, and Tralee; cattle had to be sold cheap to them as compared with farmers who lived near Cork, etc., 45237. —Cattle were generally kept until three years old; wet lands made them gouty, 45247-51.—Prices received were very low, 45252.—They had to be sold for what prices they could get, as they were not the kind of cattle graziers wanted, and it did not pay to keep them grazing too long, 45253-7.

EMIGRATION.

Great ambition of young people was to go to America; most members of family went there and sent home money, which paid landlords and shopkeepers, 45237.

INDUSTRIES.

Spinning and weaving carried on at two mills near Kenmare were only industries, and they employed only a few hands, there was no fishing industry, as it was too near head of river, 45237.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage was very necessary, as district was wet and boggy, though rocks, in many cases, prevented proper drainage, 45237.—If main drainage were done by Government small farmers would drain their own lands, 45238.—They would probably look after drains themselves without compulsion, 45239-41.—There was a good deal of heathery bogland which would require to be drained before being reclaimed; peat had been cut too low and water collected on the rock; cuts had to be made through rocks where proper drains could not be made, at great expense, 45244-6.

LAND PURCHASE.

Witness had had experience of purchase of holding under Ashbourne Act on estate of Colonel Goff, at Templenoe, near Kenmare; Government valuer valued each farm separately at from 12 to 16½ years' purchase; witness's had been 16½ years, which he considered fair, as quality of land was better than some others; land on that estate was much better than that on Lansdowne Estate, 45237.—Very little land had been sold on Lord Lansdowne's Estate, 45262.—Agricultural instructor might help people, as they were good labourers; two men might buy at 20 years' purchase, but farms might be of very different quality; one might prosper, the other might be ruined; the bad land might even have more rent than the good land, and thus tenant would become burden on ratepayers, 45263-4.

DOWNING, Mr. JOHN.

CONGESTION.

About eighty per cent. of holdings on Lord Lansdowne's estate were uneconomic; people could not maintain themselves were it not for fishing and money sent by friends in America; there was no means of enlarging holdings, as landlord had planted all lands that fell into his hands through right of pre-emption; the lot of the poor could, however, be improved by making roads and by drainage of bogs;

DOWNING, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

people were so poor that they could not supplement grant of £3 made by Congested Districts Board for improvements; growth of early vegetables, if encouraged by Department of Agriculture, would be of great service, as landlord was not willing to sell; only remedy would be to grant Estates Commissioners compulsory powers of acquisition, 45267.—Drainage and roads were much needed, 45273.—Congested Districts Board grant had to be returned because people could not supplement it, 45274.—Labour was counted as equivalent to money, but material and labour were wanted for these works, which would have to be paid for beforehand, 45275.

Fishing.

Fishing industry had been steadily declining for past six or seven years; formerly men made from £10 to £25 a year by it, 45267.—Fish migrated from one place to another; 25 years ago the pilchard had been found there, but now there was none; hake and mackerel had also declined, 45269.—Herring had come into bay last year and year before, and Fishery Board has sent merchant down, with result that £300 was made on Kilmaccologue pier in three weeks, 45270.

M'DONNELL, Very Rev. Canon.

Land Purchase.

Purchase of two estates was under consideration of Estates Commissioners; neither was completed, though annuities had been fixed on Clinton Estate, 45278.—In these cases it was sale to Estates Commissioners and re-sale by them to tenants, 45279.—On Puxley Estate landlord and tenants had agreed as to price; it had been offered to Congested Districts Board first, but they had refused it; on Leahy Estate negotiations had been carried on, but fell through; on Leigh-White Estate price asked was so extravagant that tenants refused to consider it, 45280.—Puxley Estate had not yet been inspected, so ultimate price was not yet settled, 45281.—Price agreed on between landlord and tenant was same as that offered to Board and now to Estates Commissioners, though that might alter after inspection, 45282-4.—Negotiations with Board about sale dropped one and a half years ago, 45332.—Cause of abandonment was not known; but there was very little land available for enlargement, 45323-4.—Striping, drainage, and building of houses were all needed, 45325-6.—There were three or four small lakes which Mr. Doran had been prepared to drain into one another and into the sea, 45327.—Coral sand scheme had been for benefit of Clinton Estate, 45329.—It was not yet handed over to Estates Commissioners, though annuity had been agreed upon, 45330.—Negotiations for sale of Leahy Estate had been broken off, 45331.—Properties like those in district should not pass direct from landlord to tenants; but through improving authority like Congested Districts Board, 45332.—Commission had impeded work of Congested Districts Board in purchase, 45333.

Drainage and Re-Afforestation.

Drainage should be carried out either in connection with purchase or without it; houses should be built for poorer tenants, either by free grant or easy loan; passages were needed to connect houses with road; common passage would probably serve several houses if Congested Districts Board could help, 45285.—Tree-planting might succeed on mountain sides, 45309.—If Board acquired grazing rights from people and planted trees it would give employment and eventually pay well, 43310.—Advantage would have to be explained to the people, and then they would agree in their own interests, probably requiring some compensation, 45311-3.—Amount of employment given by Congested Districts Board would be a great benefit, and as Board had already acted on principle of giving compensation even for work that would ultimately benefit people they could hardly complain, 45314-6.—Scotch firs and the *Pinus Insignus* grew well, larch would be most useful, trees could sometimes be got at reduced rate through County Council, 45317-8.

M'DONNELL, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

Parish Committees.

Parish Committee had power to encourage formation of passages, but their grants were mostly in improvement of houses; amount required for road would take all their money, 45286-7.—Last year £30 had been given, this year £80; there was difficulty in spending money as there were very few masons, and one man had to wait till another had finished with him, 45289.—Enlarged grant was needed, 45303.—If larger grant was given outsiders could come in and assist in making roads and draining rivers, 45305.—Drainage could be undertaken by Parish Committee, 45306.—Small drainage only was meant, not arterial drains, 45307.—Small sum of money in hands of body of men who knew district could be well administered, 45308.—Board's inspector had been pleased with work done by Committee, 45309.

Manures.

Manure was very important question; leaving out farmyard manures there were three alternatives, lime, sand, and artificial manures; artificial manures were rarely used; lime had to be brought 25 miles from Bantry or 33 from Kenmare; so that was out of the question, 45291.—Coral sand was available in unlimited quantities, and could be got with assistance of Congested Districts Board; Mr. Doran had inspected needs of people, and had promised to consider scheme for supplying it; he had proposed one scheme, but Board had rejected it; if sand was to pay it must be procurable at 1*s.* a load; present methods cost 2*s.* and 3*s.*, which was too much, 45294. Cost came in in paying boatmen to dredge it, 45295-6.—Coral sand was really shell sand; it was not burned, but put on fields as it was as top-dressing for grass land, 45297-300.—Congested Districts Board could help by extracting sand by machinery and storing in large boat anchored over sand bed; if delivered free people could fetch it in their own boats and have it for 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per load; if there were extensive output people would need supply of boats; boatslips were needed, and could be supplied by Board with little expenditure, 45300.—Pier that had been built some time ago was useless, as it could only be used at very high tides; result was that use of sand was being given up altogether; pier should be built on Clinton, Leahy, Leigh-White, and Puxley Estates; in a few cases roads should be made to enable people to get sand on to their farms; local Council was too poor to make them; failing supply of sand Congested Districts Board should procure lime; it could be brought by sea from Bantry or Kenmare, and kilns could be built in Castletown; lime would have to be delivered at cost price to poor tenants, 45302.—Labour for dredging sand was very scarce owing to emigration, 45334.—Mr. Doran's plan for raising sand would be best; artificial manures would be cheaper, but sand was more lasting in its effects, 45335.—If Board raised it it would be useful demonstration to show tenants what could be done, 45336.—Board would not lose much even if experiment were a failure, 45337.

Population and Valuation.

Population of union was 11,178, valuation £12,405, which averaged £1 2*s.* 2*d.* per head, 45303.

Industries.

Lace and crochet class had been established in 1906, but so far had not been very successful, teacher was to be changed so they might do better, some people advocated establishment of woollen industry, 45309, 45343.—Attendance at lace class had dropped off because girls could make no money, 45344.—If class were well established girls would be persevering, and industry would be a success, 45345-6.—Mr Walker had paid three visits altogether to the class, 45347.—His visits were too short and hurried, as he came by motor and went away quickly, 45348-9.—Military works on Bere Island did not give employment here, 45361.

Congested Districts Board.

If Congested Districts Board could pay occasional visits to districts and see work that was being done they would be more in touch with people and could see better what was required than by correspondence, 45319-21.

M'DONNELL, VERY REV. CANON—*continued.*

EMIGRATION.

District suffered greatly owing to emigration, people emigrated to Montana, where they could earn £200 a year, 45335.—Population of witness's parish was about 2,000 as against 4,000 twenty-five years ago, 45351-2.—People came back when they were worn out working and had saved some money, and raised price of land by paying extravagant price for it, 45353.—Children in America send money to parents, about £3,000 was sent at Christmas and £1,000 during the year, 45354.—If parents die some boy returns home to take possession of holding, 45355.—They could only work in mines from six to ten years, as they got rheumatic owing to damp, 45356.—Girls went as much as boys, sometimes marrying there, sometimes returning home to be married, but rarely, 45358-9.—If land were available for young people it would probably keep them at home, 45373.—There were very few failures among those who emigrated, 45374.—Emigration was a question of wages, an industry in Ireland which would give good wages would induce young people to stay at home, 45375-8.—About £10 a family came into parish from America, 45380.—Working men in Montana are able to save about half their wages, they were boarded in Butte City for £2 a week and got 14*s.* a day wages, 45381.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION AND DUES.

Pier had been improved twelve months ago for about £1,000, 45340.—Expenditure on pier was a success, but no dredging had been done in harbour, District Council had approached Congested Districts Board, but they had only offered £250 out of £1,000, 45341.—Mr. Wyndham had promised to consider matter, 45342.—Harbour dues were not charged on fishing boats, but any dues that were charged went to repair of pier, aided by contribution from Congested Districts Board, 45390-3.

SHEEP.

Mountains did not carry as many sheep as they might, for people had not money to buy either sheep or cattle, there were 280 landholders in parish of £1 valuation and under, 45370.—There was fine mountain run but scarcely any sheep on it, 45371-2.

STEAMER SERVICE AND POSTAL FACILITIES.

There was subsidised steamer service between Castletown and Bantry every day in summer, and every second day in winter, 45383-4.—Postal facilities were very defective, post arrived at 12.15 p.m. and went out at 1.20 p.m., so that letters could not be replied to on same day, fog horn was also wanted at lighthouse at mouth of harbour, 45384-5.—Lighthouse was under Irish Board of Lights and fog horn ought to come under term equipment; Admiralty was really harbour authority, 45386-8.—Harbour Board might be formed, but witness understood Admiralty did not like local interference, 45389.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

There should be representative on Congested Districts Board for both Cork and Kerry, two would be required as distance was too great to secure regular attendance if only one were elected, 45471-2.

STEAMER SERVICE.

Subsidised steamer running between Bantry and Castletown, calling one day in the week each way at Bere Island, she brought whatever was wanted, and if further subsidised could carry the mails, passengers were also carried, 45473-80.

MEMORIAL FROM THE REV. JAMES M'DONNELL, P.P.

Father M'Donnell was unable to be present, but sent memorial. Points he wished to emphasise were:—

(1.) Purchase of holdings from landlord and re-arrangement to prevent mixed holdings.

(2.) Desirability of migration.

(3.) Means of providing coral sand at cheap rate.

(4.) Encouragement to practise *general* fishing, so that one particular kind would not be depended on.

M'DONNELL, VERY REV. CANON—*continued.*

(5.) Necessity for veterinary surgeon from Berehaven who could also lecture on diseases of animals, etc., it was necessary that he should be able to speak Irish, otherwise his energies would be wasted.

(6.) Extension of knitting industry.

(7.) Establishment of weaving industry, such as that established by Congested Districts Board at Glengariff, 45470.

HARRINGTON, MR. DANIEL.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Fishing pier accommodation and dredging of harbour at Castletown needed to be developed by Congested Districts Board; if that were done herring and mackerel fishing ought to be very successful, 45394.—Proper pier accommodation ought to be provided, there was one narrow pier which was very dangerous, width ought to be doubled, if there were South of Ireland representative on Board matters might be improved, 45450.—County Council should select representative, Bishop of Ross would be good representative, 45451-2.—Seaboard of Cork was congested, and if Board developed pier accommodation fishing would become best in Ireland, 45454.—Castletown Harbour was filling up and dredging was badly needed, 45457.—Some dredging had been done, but it was no benefit, 45458.—£100 had been expended by Congested Districts Board on dredging, 45459.—At low tide at entrance to harbour there were only nine feet of water, outside at Dinish it was thirteen feet, if whole were dredged to that depth it would be very valuable, it would have to be dredged 200 feet on each side of pier, 45460.—If well done it would not be likely to silt up again quickly, 45461.—Time adopted for such work ought to be about 1st March, when people were not engaged in fishing, if begun during fishing season people could not give labour, 45465.—Tenders should be invited from contractors, as then there would be more competition and work might be better done, 45466-8.

FISHING.

There should be shelter sheds for proper curing of mackerel, as fish was easily injured by sun and rain, 45395.—If these were put up by Board curers could pay rent to Board, 45400.—Mr. Green had been approached about it, 45403-4.—Herring fishing should be developed at Berehaven as it had been in Donegal, 45405.—Herring curing was different from mackerel and people would need to be instructed, 45406-7.—Herrings were off coast about same time as mackerel 1st August to middle of October, 45410.—Last year Autumn mackerel fishing started about November and finished in February, 45411.—Scotch curers would not come down to cure herring although some came to cure mackerel, getting local labour, 45416.—Congested Districts Board should instruct in herring curing, 45418.—Seine nets were used, 45421.—Mackerel curing was much more profitable than herring, 45423.—Cost of cured mackerel was £3 a barrel last year, 45424.—They were sent to Liverpool whence they were shipped to America, 45425.—Herrings were very good, and fishing could be developed, 45426-8.—Nets and boats were the principal needs, 45429.—If Board subsidised boats as they did in Donegal that would be a great help to the people, 45430.—Subsidising meant giving boat so much at opening of season and having a chance afterwards of any fish they took besides, 45432.—Board never subsidised herring boats in that sense, though boats were given out on share system, 45434-5.—Application had not been made to Congested Districts Board for instructor in curing, but Mr. Green had said that Mr. Duthie, should come and see about it, 45436-7.—Board knew that fish were coming to these coasts, witness had cured fifty barrels of fish in a fortnight last year, 45438.—Herrings should be tried with herring nets, long-line fishing was important, it lasted from August to Christmas, 45439.—If there were opening for steam drifter Board would probably be willing to experiment, 45440.—Mackerel would not stop herrings as they were becoming later every year, they did not now come till October, 45441.—If herring fishing could be established there would be continuous fishing

HARRINGTON, Mr. DANIEL—*continued.*

for six months, 45442.—Transit facilities were very much needed, 45444.—Steam trawlers did a great deal of harm, stopping of trawling with small boats in harbour had injured line-fishing, small boats should be allowed to trawl for short time to clear the ground, 45445.—Now ground of inner harbour was fouled and fish would not lie there, if trawling were allowed by small boats fish would come in and spawn there, 45449.—Berehaven had got very little for the £10,532 paid by Board for purchase of boats and gear in County Cork, 45456.—In spring of 1896 capture of mackerel at Berehaven exceeded that at any other part by 40 per cent, seven steamers were sometimes loaded here during a week, 45462.—Spring fishing had gone down, but if there were transit facilities it would revive, steamer ought to leave Castletown for Bantry in the evening, to catch evening train, that was important as fish quickly deteriorated if kept over, 45463.—Population was too small for Harbour Board and provisional orders were very expensive, 45464.—Agricultural schemes had not been taken up by the county, 45470.

POWER, Mr. MAURICE.

Improvements.

Drainage was very necessary, 45483.—Witness meant farm dranis, 45487.—Roads ought to be made, 45483.—Trees ought to be planted on mountains, 45483.—Farmers would not lose much if portion of mountain were taken from grazing and reserved for planting, as mountains were very barren, 45485.—It was very necessary as mountains were so bare, 45486.—There were no agriciultural schemes in that district, 35508.—Piers were needed in several places along the coast, 45510.—Adrigole was one, 45512.—It had a pier but a very poor one, 45513.—It had been built for steamers, not for small boats, and was not yet finished, 45514-6.—Slip should be built beside the pier as small boats could not land anything, 45517-8.

Sheep.

Very few sheep were kept on mountains, and what there were were of very inferior quality, it would be useless to try to improve quality as they could not thrive on such land, 45491-6.

Manure.

Lime was very much needed, but it could not be got, it cost 1*s.* 6*d.* per barrel at Kenmare, and then had to be carried round the road, 45497-9.—Sand could not be got now as there was no boat in the harbour, 45501.—It had to be given up owing to want of men to work it as labour was very scarce, 45505.—Lime would be preferable to sand if it could be got, but people would be glad of either, 45507.—Only way of getting sand would be for Congested Districts Board to send down boats with large quantities to be landed at piers, 45520.

Land Purchase.

Landlords had not sold to tenant in that district, landlord of Leigh-White Estate had made an offer but price was very large, 45509.

O'SULLIVAN, Mr. T.

Fisheries and Piers.

Principal fishing ground in Berehaven was from Dursey Island to Cod Head, and these fisheries were some of most important in Ireland, Rev. Father Barton had made repeated application to Congested Districts Board for improvement of piers, slips, and roads, at last some members of Board, including Sir Horace Plunkett, came and saw for themselves, they recommended grant of £650 to build pier at Ballydonegan, but through some misunderstanding pier had been left half finished and useless, piers and slips were needed in other parts, request had been made for improvement of landing and construction of pier at Cainough, but nothing had been done, this was urgent piece of work, and could be done with little outlay, in this district about forty boats were employed in fishing with seine nets, each seine net was worked by sixteen men, commencing 1st August and continuing to November, some fifty local boats fished from August to February; hauls of mackerel taken by seines sometimes reached 50,000 in one catch, there were thirty curing stations where fish was bought, cured, and packed for American markets, giving employment to hundreds, fish merchants were English, Scotch, and American, with a few local capitalists, with such an industry it was pitiable to see best of young men emigrating, sometimes crowds of fishermen had to watch shoals of fish but were unable to catch them as they could not launch boats for want of a pier, from Carinish to Cod Head there was only one half-finished pier, parish priest had constantly written to Congestead Districts Board asking for aid and it was hoped that something would be recommended by Commission, 45521.—Pier had been constructed at Garinish many years ago by Board, 45523-4—Work had been begun at Ballydonegan five or six years before, but was stopped because of difference between labourers and engineers, they were employed in fishing when engineer wanted to begin building and they did not want to leave fishing for smaller pay offered by Congested Districts Board, 45530-4.—They would gladly work for 2*s.* a day out of fishing season, 45535, 45540.—Sir Horace Plunkett had been to Ballydonegan and saw trouble there was in launching boats, etc., and said he would recommend something to be done, 45538.—Pier had been built at Cahakeern sometime ago by contract, and work was done satisfactorily for £200, 45542.—There was no Parish Committee in parish, though Father Barton had applied for it, 45544-5.

DUDLEY, Mr. JAMES.

Congestion.

Whole district of Berehaven was congested; holdings were mainly uneconomic; out of 100 known to witness only five were uneconomic; potato crop was lost from time to time owing to exposed situation and absence of trees; 90 per cent. of houses were old, low, badly lighted and ventilated; congestion might be somewhat relieved soon, as Estates Commissioners were negotiating purchase of grazing land, 45546.

Fisheries and Piers.

Only industry was fishing; at Garinish ten seines, worked by 160 men, engaged in mackerel fishing from August to November; in years gone by fishermen could make £40 on an average; this could have been doubled if there were quay accommodation; at present there was only small narrow slip capable of accommodating two boats at a time, and even to this boats could not get at high tide; fish curing was much hampered through lack of quay accommodation; in fairly good season sum turned over would be £8,000; Garinish was one of most important fish-curing stations on south-west coast, and Congested Districts Board had neglected it badly; if properly equipped condition would be much improved; in April and May fish had to be sold at less price than in other places, as it had to be carted fifteen miles to Castletownbere to be sold; owing to delays fish deteriorated before reaching English market; merchants had to wait for payment until fishing was successful; if Congested Districts Board would improve quay accommodation fishing would be greatly improved; lobster fishing was carried on in summer months, 45546.—Pier which had been erected cost £1,500 or £1,600; it should be made right, 45549-50.—Slip was good as far as it had gone, but it was too narrow, 45553-5.—Fish was sent to Liverpool, thence to America, 45556.—Ballydonegan slip would be useful if completed, 45558.—A little work was being done at Dursey Island, 45559.—Dursey Island was being sold to tenants, 45560.—Pier at Garinish had greatly increased the fishing, 45564.

O'CALLAGHAN, Rev. JAMES.

Work of Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board had done useful work in Eyries parish during last two years; Cahirkeem pier had cost £900; Board contributed £600; they had removed rock at Kilcatherine, and had made safe landing place, though it was not finished; fish had to be put in bags and hauled over cliffs if tide was not favourable; a little outlay would make it safe place; Board had built slip at Darrigroe, and had removed rock which blocked passage between sea and Loughane, and had made landing at Innisfanard; they had undertaken to make landing place at Trasalig, where nets were torn by having to be dragged over cliffs; Travera and Tranimod needed looking after, rough weather was best for fishing, but it was impossible to go out if there were not good harbours of refuge; Board had promised to build bridge over ford between Glenbeg Lake and Argroom River, 45569.

Suggested Improvements

Road had been promised to Cleandra, 45569.—Glenbeg Lake was one of finest water powers in Diocese of Kerry; re-afforestation should be undertaken; every man should plant as much as would supply him with fuel; if properly planted trees would improve, not injure land; seeds of ash and sycamore were easily obtained; heath produced best butter and sweetest mutton; if cut and crushed in mill driven by water power and afterwards partly fermented it would make good cattle food; mountain torrents should be diverted and made to scatter clay and stones over barren slopes; cows liked fuschia, and it should be tried as a winter food, 45569-70.—If people were encouraged to enclose and plant two or three acres there would soon be enough fuel, 45570.—Ash and sycamore seeds planted themselves; ash was best timber for planting; poplar was easily planted, 45572.

Fisheries.

Fish-curing should commence immediately fish was landed, as delay spoiled fish; if there was a heavy take local agents showed telegrams, real or bogus, stating that market was glutted, and stopped buying; when bargain was made in evening 10*s.* worth of fish had to be sold for 3*s.* 6*d.*; people should be protected from bogus telegrams, and curing of fish should not be delayed; inspection was necessary, and ice-houses should be provided, also sheds and troughs supplied by pipes, 45569.

Turbary.

Bogs should be cut down to gravel instead of in holes here and there, as that made it rot; people would not be able to manage without help from Congested Districts Board, 45573.

O'LEARY, Rev. TIMOTHY.

Congestion in Parish of Muintinarara.

Five electoral divisions scheduled as congested in parish of Muintinarara, with population of 3,251 in 1901, 383 out of 478 families having valuation of less than £10; 629, or 24½ per cent., had emigrated from congested divisions since 1898; population had decreased by 616 persons, or 62 per cent., 45674.—There was such a craze for emigration that it was impossible to keep people at home; emigrants at Kaspar sent home invitations to others, offering good wages and £20 for expenses, 45695-6.

Improvements effected by Congested Districts Board.

Improvements on Board's estates, road-making, main drains, construction and improvement of houses and buildings were very useful and well done, 45574, 45643-4, 45574.—Work on Bird, Beamish, O'Donovan, and Bandon estates began on 10th October, 1905; three gangers sent down, each employing about fifteen men, who earned 10*s.* a week in winter, 11*s.* in summer; they had made eight miles of road, main drains, and sixteen houses, 45643.—They were also to improve and help to build fifty new dwellings and numerous out-offices, a most important thing, since houses were in many cases miserable hovels, 45645.—Improvement effected had even exceeded tenants' anticipations, 45644.—Board had expended about £1,700 on roads, drains, fences, dwellings, etc., 45651.

Success of Kilcrohane Crochet Class.

Kilcrohane crochet class doing well, 59 pupils earning £353 7*s.* 4*d.* last year, 45574, 45726.—Board had expended perhaps £150 on lace industry, 45651.—Sum earned was very big, considering that children came long distances in many cases, 45727.—Only three girls out of every 59 who attended classes, afterwards emigrated, 45727-9.

Board's Rent-collecting System too exacting.

Board's rent-collecting system too exacting, 45574.—Instance on Bird Estate, receivable orders sent to tenants ordering them to pay a year's rent to the bank in a certain time, and setting forth balance of arrears due, 45618, 45634.—This public setting forth of indebtedness would have a bad effect on solvency of tenants, 45619, 45625, 45635.—Mr. Mitchell, the secretary, had cancelled orders when witness had called his attention to them, and sent his assistant to collect rents, 45621, 45634.—Technically the Board, not Mr. Mitchell, were to blame, 45622-3.—Question whether it was desirable for a man deep in arrears to be able to get a loan from bank did not arise; these arrears were not worth a year's purchase, 45624.—It was necessary to go to the bank; instruction seemed to convey that tenant must pay there, 45626-30.—Improvements on Bird Estate extremely good, 45636.—In another case Board had threatened to process 25 out of 40 tenants who were unable to pay second year's rent at Bantry and Skibbereen; witness wrote asking for a list of threatened tenants, and was told it should be sent when quarter sessions were over, 45636.—He wrote again, with result that no processes were issued, and tenants got time, 45637.—Larger tenants who were not benefited by Board's improvements could not get labour, because men were all employed on Board's work, and so found it hard to pay, 45639.—It ought to be exceptional to allow tenants to go without paying full rent, but in this case three months' time was not much to ask, 45640-2.

Sales of Land.

Scheduled division owned by eighteen landlords, of whom two had sold under Balfour Act, two under Wyndham Act to tenants; three negotiating sales at present, 45574-5.—Seven landlords had sold to Board, 45576.—Principal landlord, Lord Bandon, sold direct to tenants, one townland only to Board, because tenants could not agree among themselves, some refusing to touch Board, 45577.

Prices paid for Land.

One landlord was willing to sell at 21½ years' to 18 years' purchase, but Board had made the offer, 45575.—Pending sessions of Commission, Board was not buying land unless it was exceptionally fitted for their purposes, 45579.—Board had given 18 years' purchase of first and second-term rents for Furlong Estate, on which about one-third of tenants were second-term tenants, 45612-3.—Seventeen years' for Brown Estates, 45613.—There had been negotiations for the Wright Estate, but Mr. Wright refused to sell except to tenants direct at 20½ and 22 years' purchase, 45613, 45615-7.—Estate was the poorest in the parish; Mr. Wright did not get full rents, because tenants could not pay them, 45614-45618.—Compulsory powers needed for remaining landlords, 45574-5, 45645.—Dr. Barrett, who had bought reversion of Miss O'Donovan's property for £350, refused offer which would give him 23 per cent. on £350 since death of M. O'Donovan; he also denied that he was landlord of Glenlough townland, though his agent had given receipt for rents six or eight months before, and he had sent a process to a tenant who was being evicted, 45579-87.—Most unreasonable for landlord to refuse to sell unless insured against loss of income when tenants were entitled to get fair rents fixed in court, 45588-94.—It would be reasonable enough if net income were derived from second-term rents, 45595-8. —Another landlord, Mr. O'Sullivan, wanted 20⅓ years' purchase for property of ordinary tenanted land, four-fifths of it mountain in non-congested portion of parish, 45598-602.—This landlord had no costs of collection, his rents being collected in a shop in town, 45603-6.—Very exceptional for gross income to be same as net income, 45610.—30¼ years' purchase would give gross income; bonus would be additional, 45606-9.

Compulsory Powers needed for Striping.

Compulsory powers needed for striping, 45574.—In case of a farm held in rundale the best field was divided into eleven plots; when this farm was re-divided one tenant chose the southern half, and seemed quite pleased; the inspector then decided to remove the dwellings, which had hitherto been quite close together, and when the tenant who had had his choice of a side of the farm found his neighbour getting £20 to build a house, he went to a solicitor, and threatened legal proceedings; there should be power to coerce such unreasonable persons, 45645.

Comkeen Townland.

In regard to Comkeen townland agreements to purchase had been lodged with Estates Commissioners 2½ years ago, 45574, 45647.—But the land should not be vested in tenants without some improvement, 45646, 45648.—Population was 75; valuation, barring two tenants whom witness wished to exclude, £73 16s.; rents for all practical purposes were second-term rents; lands terribly intermixed, resulting in a great deal of trouble and confusion, 45646.—Valuation Office knew nothing about it, 45699.—Impossible to vest sub-interests, as they were in any individual, 45650.—Migration was not a feasible remedy for congestion, and there was very little untenanted land available, 45574.

Thoreen Townland.

Thoreen was only townland in parish where population had increased since 1881; only one man had emigrated during last 9½ years, and he returned; valuation of townland was £13, population 32; they were isolated and contented, 45730.

Fishing Industry.

Mackerel, herring, hake, turbot, plaice, sole, brill, haddock, whiting, pollock, mullet, bream, sprat, lobsters, scollops, cockles, crabs, mussels, and periwinkles were taken in Bantry and Dunmanaway Bays, 45574.—446 men, practically one from each family; 116 boats, or one for every four men engaged in fishing; 265 men and 60 boats fished in Dunmanus Bay, 181 men and 50 boats in Bantry Bay; Board had helped local fishermen by building five boat slips, 45574.—And had expended on improvement of piers £182 in Thawcloonish, £469 at Glenroan, £455 at Gortavarig, £454 at Dooneen, and on roads and piers a total of £4,346 17s. 10d.; all expenditure on improvements to a certain extent useless unless things were carried a little further, 45651.—Four fish-curing stations, Traghruane, Thawcloonish, Lahane, and Tragatemple; average prices for mackerel during last four years £380, £600, £700 and £571, at the four stations, 45656.—Average total, £2,153, 45574, 45656.—At Lahane there were 600,000 herrings at 3s. per hundred, 5,000 hawked locally, 30,000 taken anywhere they could get a market, 45656.—About £750 paid annually for herrings; large quantity of fish sold locally, 45574.—Average price for mackerel at one station in 1902 for months August, September, October, November, December was: 4s., 5s., 6s., 10s-12s., 6s.-14s. per 100 of 126 fish in 1903, 5s., 4s., 3s.-9s. 4s., 4s. in 1904, 4s., 4s., 4s.-6s., 6s., 6s. in 1905; 5s., 5s., 6s. 3s., 3s. in 1906, 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 1s. 2d. 1s. 3d., 10s.-11s., 11s. 8s.; in June 1907, 8s., 45656.

—Good deal earned on hake, £4 or £5 a man on an average, 45656.—Hake cured and hawked round, 45657.

Landing Places and Market Facilities Needed.

Landing places were needed at many more places, and market facilities were essential, 45574, 45651, 45654-6, 45659-60.—Piers needed at Tragher and Lahane, but Board had not sufficient funds, 45653.—Big piers wanted in only one or two places; landing of fish should be concentrated, but small landing places and facilities were needed for securing boats and taking nets up easily, 45661-9.—A motor service should be established to Kilcrohane or Ahakista, 45574, 45654.—And a monthly fair at Durrus would be useful, 45574.—Fishing was holding its own well; in some places expenditure on piers had increased amount of fish landed, 45670-3, 45680-2.—Piers asked for would not cost anything like £10,800, and the Treasury ought to return something for taxes paid on tea and tobacco, 45675-8.—Small landing places would cost perhaps £200, 45679.—Fishermen all farmed; there were no fishermen pure and simple except in town of Bantry, and there could not be unless they had boats large enough to take out in the winter months, 45691-4.—Dooneen Pier gave landing facilities for large mackerel boats, 45695, 45701.—A bit of land attached to fisherman's house was a great blessing, 45698.—Fishermen could easily be induced to concentrate their energies on fishing, and follow the fish all the year round, if they had landing facilities, 45697, 45699-700.—There was a tendency on part of fishermen to go in for large boats, 45704.—But small piers would always be useful, 45705-6.—Witness feared Government would not give the money for large piers, 45707.—Only at Durrus that a very large pier was wanted, 45709.—Church Island would be the place for the market, 45710.—People along the coast near Bantry itself did not fish; the district was not congested, and people could live on the land, 45712-4. —It was remarkable that with all the advantages of Bantry Bay there were not more big boats, but there was hardly any market except for mackerel; railway carriage was expensive, and fish did not reach Dublin in good condition, 45711-8.—Fishermen should be provided with bigger boats, and trained to get more out of the sea than they did now, 45720.—Take could be brought up to Bantry Bay on one side, 45721.—Dunmanus Bay catch would have to be taken to Ahakista or Kilcrohane, 45723.—The only two piers in Dunmanus Bay were one at Durrus, the other near Dooneen, 45725.—Pier at Dooneen was of very little use; the swell was said to be too great for boats to be moored there safely, 45726.

Parish Committee's Work.

Parish Committee had done good work, 45574, 45657.—But results were small, because when people saw Board were likely to buy estates they did not care to avail themselves of facilities offered, 45659.—Work done included building of twelve new houses and repairing six old ones, building six new out-offices and repairing three, and making of drains, roads, and fences; total of grants amounted to £162 10s., and estimated cost of work to £814 13s. 6d., 45574, 45657.—Or more than five times amount of grant received, 45658.

Potato Blight and Spraying.

Potato blight had ruined early potatoes in case of witness's curate, 45683.—That was not universal, 45684.—People believed in spraying, and sprayed carefully, twice this year in most cases, 45685-7.—It required a dry day, and that was hard to find this year, 45688-9.—No one had sprayed when blight occurred, 45690.

TURNER, Mr. A. B.

Explanation of Canon O'Leary's Mistake in regard to Mr. Barrett's Property.

Mr. Barrett was right in stating that he was not the owner of a certain townland; Canon O'Leary's mistake was perfectly natural and due to receipt issued from witness's office, and the office was in the wrong, 45731, 45741.

Circumstances of Sale of Furlong Estate.

Mrs. Furlong sold her estate to Congested Districts Board at eight years' purchase because her tenants withheld the whole of the rents and she could not fight them, 45731-3, 45740.—Price was 18 years' purchase without the bonus, 45735-6.

Object of Act of 1903 was to tap a new Class of Vendors.

It was not fair to make comparison between Act of 1903 and preceding Acts; Act of 1903 was meant to bring about a great ameliorative change, and it was arranged at Land Conference that the prices should be increased in order to facilitate transfer of land, 45737-9.—Scheme of finance of Act of 1903 devised in order to tap a new class of owner; financial inducements of older Acts did not attract the landlord who looked to his rents as his sole means of income; selling was now a matter of business to both sides, 45742-4, 45768-9.—Two classes who sold under former Acts were the very rich landlord and the bankrupt, as a rule, 45765-7.—Lord Dillon had a fine place in Oxfordshire, 45770.

Means of arriving at Price of Land.

Usual procedure in sale was that tenant approached landlord directly or indirectly, 45748.—Landlords willing to sell if they got their net income, 45744-5, 45749.—Net income arrived at from rental of estate; books not submitted for examination to tenants; witness did not see why they should be, 45746, 45751-8. —He had never been asked to do such a thing, 45760. —No objection to placing rentals for inspection before the Estates Commissioners; it was an excellent suggestion, 45759, 45761-3, 45771-2.

Leahy Estate.

In regard to the Leahy Estate, when the terms of sale were arranged the tenants in the Castletown division were satisfied; Eyries tenants refused to purchase; it was decided not to split up estate, and rents had to be recovered; tenants of one division refused to pay rent and proceedings had to be taken; there was an idea abroad that tenants were harshly treated, 45772.—In consequence of proceedings a great many paid, but there was great unrest in the Eyries division, 45773.—There was no proposition at present for sale of property, 45774.

Demesne in Glengariff.

Father Harrington had stated that a good deal of the best land in Glengariff was in the demesne of Glengariff and in the hands of the landlord, but except for a small herd of fallow deer all the cattle in demesne were property of people in the glen, grazed at 2*s.* 6*d.* per month in summer and 2*s.* in winter, 45774.—Demesne did not hem in the people; two public roads going right through it were maintained by landlord, 45775.—Three years ago it was agreed between landlord and tenants to build a bridge over one of the rivers, landlord to build the bridge, tenants to make the approaches, but tenants never made the approaches, 45775-6.—There was no contribution from the District Council, 45777.—Bridge was in connection with one of the roads maintained by landlord, and replaced a board used as foot-bridge; the bridge was higher than the board, so that approaches were necessary, 45778-82.—Roads were perfectly free to the public, 45783.—Another demesne in Glengariff was Lady Ardilaun's, at Reenan, which was more a garden than a demesne; there had been an addition to it lately by the death of the Countess of Ferrers, 45784-5.

Boat Slip at Muccaragh.

Father Harrington referred also to the want of a boat slip at Muccaragh; there had been one there for three years, built by Congested Districts Board, with a contribution from the landlord, 45785.—Witness had not been there since slip was built, 45787.

Scheduled District of Bantry.

In scheduled district of Bantry—Bere and Berehaven—land was mostly poor and mountainous, with small portions of good land; tenants had grazing rights over mountains and were generally well off for fuel; there were valuable fishings on the seaboard, 45788.—Standard of comfort in Berehaven equal to that in poor parts of Kilkenny and Carlow; houses as good; no considerable extents of pasture nor of land suitable for dividing up; commonage fairly and fully occupied; cattle sold in autumn fairs in good store condition; bulls supplied by landlord in certain districts some years ago, 45801.

Fishing Facilities should be considered in fixing Judicial Rents.

Fishing facilities should be considered in fixing judicial rents; landlord was entitled to benefit from position since the drawbacks were considered in fixing rent, 45788-98.—Tenants often were fishing when they ought to be looking after the farms, 45789.—By Act of 1881 the Land Commission was directed to take into account all the circumstances of the holding, 45797, 45800.—Till recently Irish farmers had maintenance of all roads; their ability to take road contract being due to fact that they were farmers and had horses idle at certain times of year; that was another economic advantage of holding farms, 45799.

Age at which Stock was Sold.

Small men kept stock, as a rule, till two or three years old in Kenmare and Berehaven districts; in Longford it often paid better to sell as yearling, 45802-5.—Animals under a year old sold as calves at, perhaps, £3, but, as a rule, they were sold at home, 45806-9.

Causes of Emigration.

There was still a great deal of emigration owing to lack of congenial employment and impatience of parental control; cheap and improved means of communication had robbed emigration of much of its terrors; emigration would continue while standard of wages remained low, 45809.—Moreover, Irishmen got on well in new countries; in America a man always got a civic position or a vote from the Town Council, 48510.

Migratory Labour.

A few men migrated as labourers to South Wales and elsewhere; this temporary absence was very advantageous; men earned good money, which they usually saved and returned more tolerant and contented, 48511.

Berehaven Mining Company.

Berehaven Mining Company had their headquarters near Allihies and Ballydonegan; mines produced copper and were satisfactorily worked for many years, employing 1,300 men, but for some years past working had not been profitable; experts declared that mineral was there, but more capital was wanted and was hard to get because the mines were in Ireland, 48511.—Capital was very sensitive, and restless condition of affairs in Ireland kept it away, 45812-22.—People in London possibly thought industry would not bear the addition of more capital, there had been a request to comply if there were a prospect of industry struggling to its feet again, 45829.—Mines were on different estates, 45829.—A member of present Government looked at a very fine demesne for sale and said he would buy it at once but for the disturbed condition of Ireland, 45823, 45830-1.—He was frightened by the socialistic tendency of legislation though he was a member of the Government responsible for it, 45832-5.

Leigh-White Estate suited to be taken over by Board.

On the Leigh-White Estate, area was 65,000 acres, average rent, £6, rental, £11,000; estate was eminently fitted to be taken over by Congested Districts Board; tenants mostly small men, tenacious of rights and fond of litigation, needing someone in authority over them to arrange and stripe property and make them obey regulations, 45836.—Rents not exorbitant; full rental received from 1895-1905, and only two ejectments carried out; 28 years' purchase given on

TURNER, Mr. A. B.—*continued.*

an average for tenants' interests, 45836-8.—Rents uniformly reduced by 25 per cent. last winter, entire reduction falling on landlord, 45838.

Landowners' Distrust of Land Commission.

Wholesale and uncalled for reductions of rent had made owners distrust fairness of Land Commission; all parties interested concluded that steps had been taken to lower generally accepted standards of value, 45838, 45844, 45847-8.—Witness could speak for many people in association with the land, 45846.—There was no great increase in cost of living or labour, 45839-40.—But standard of living had gone up and there must be some relation between cost and standard, 45839-43.—Reductions to which witness took exceptions were those on second term rents within last year or year and a half, 45850-1.—Additional inspectors and Sub-Commissioners having been appointed who took an unfairly low standard of value, 45852.—Act of 1906, by reducing inspection from two Commissioners to one had greatly weakened the Land Commission, 45853-5.—Men now appointed were apt to go if their services were not satisfactory to the powers that be, 45856, 45865.—Remarks applied in some degree to appointments made before last one and a half years, but test had been withdrawn and witness thought those appointments were really impartially made, 45857-60.—Removal of some of these men could only be explained by the exigencies of the political situation, 45861.—Witness would like to see the privilege availed of which existed, but was not sufficiently well known, that was, that landlord and tenant could apply for services of two Commissioners without any preliminary hearing or expense of valuing, 45862, 45866.—Appointment of valuers must remain with Government, 45864.—In case of disagreement there would be the ordinary appeal, 45868.—Appeals were rare, 45869.—Commission under the late Government, which was supported by landlords, had been strongly leavened with democratic element from the North of Ireland; the Tory Government were obliged to consider the Ulster tenant-farmer who was just as anxious as anyone else to get a cheap rent, though once it was fixed he paid it, 45869-75.

Administrative Persecution of Landlords and Socialistic Legislation.

Government had resorted to administrative persecution, 45876.—Witness had 100 land cases in one district, and three days before cases were heard a supplementary list of forty-six cases to be taken before the 100 was issued and witness's protest disregarded, 45877-81.—Tenants ignorant of law might require more indulgence from courts than the other parties, but that question did not arise in present case, 45882.—Cases were put in at request of solicitor for the forty-six tenants, 45985.—Legislation had been most one-sided; Act of 1857 empowered lessees, but not lessors, to get their contracts broken, 45876, 45897-8.—Act of 1896 refused to allow re-consideration when judicial rent had been fixed in error, while permitting tenant to have his case re-heard, 45876.—Much in Act of 1881 was unnecessary; it was panic legislation and might have been so framed as to avoid necessity for subsequent socialistic legislation, 45884-6.—It was socialism that State should do for an individual what he would do for himself, nothing could be more socialistic than purchase of land on public credit, 45887-8.—But witness had a good deal of sympathy with much that had been done in the way of making roads, piers, etc., 45889-92.—And preferred socialism to confiscation, 45893.—He was in favour of land purchase, as the only solution of the present deadlock, 45896, 45899.—Whole trend of legislation was socialistic, 45900.—Witness would give every facility to Congested Districts Board to take over Bantry Estate; he would leave the records for past twelve years with Commission, 45901-3.

Work of Board in Berehaven.

The Board had done much beneficial work in Berehaven, mostly by improving means of communication, 45903.—Board had declined to purchase Puely Estate on terms accepted by tenants, 45903.

Sale of Dursey Island.

Board had offered to purchase Dursey Island at a price that owner could not accept; property was subsequently bought by tenants at a price 50 per cent. in excess of Board's offer, 45904-5.—Rents had been twice reduced and tenants were perfectly willing to give price named, 45934.—Zones had nothing to do with it, 45937.—Tenants were a better judge of what they could pay than Board's inspector, 45935, 45938.—Date of transaction was about two years ago, 45940.—Purchase was not yet finished; Estates Commissioners would have something to say to final arrangements as it was a judicially rented estate, 45906-8.—Board's valuer (Mr. Doran) had refused to supply witness with detailed valuation; this was a Star Chamber method of dealing fraught with evil, 45908-9, 45911, 45932, 45938.—Same thing happened in regard to arrangements for restoring evicted tenants, 45910, 45912.—There were considerations in case of evicted tenants which ought to affect price, which was another reason why figures should be given in detail, 45913-7.—No evicted tenants on Bantry Estate, 45920.—Witness had lately been invited to confer with Commissioners and hoped that reinstatement of tenants in question would result, 45921-2.

Price of Small Holdings.

Number of years' purchase went up directly in proportion to smallness of holdings; the market was wider for small holdings all over Ireland, 45923-5.—Average for large holdings was about eight years' purchase, for small, 20 to 25 years', 45925.—Small holder better security to the State than large holder, 45926.—Small occupiers in districts known to witness were excellent paying tenants, 45928-9.

ROYCROFT, Mr. E.

Congestion.

Area of Schull Union was 57,666 acres; congested portion 41,669 acres; poor law valuation £15,607 15*s.*, of congested portion £11,409 7*s.*; population 10,243, congested portion 8,159; people lived by fishing and cultivating small patches of land; seaboard was very congested, many holdings being only £2 or £3 valuation, 45944.—Large dairy holdings and untenanted land should be divided among small holders, 45993.—Many holdings were very congested, with grass for only two or three cows, but land available for migration was very limited; there were two dairy farms, one near Goleen, another at Dunbeacon; 300 or 400 acres would be available, and it was close to many holdings, so they could have their borders enlarged, 45994-9.

Piers.

More piers and slips should be built along the seaboard; Schull pier was quite inadequate for coal business and for foodstuffs landed, and ought to be enlarged and slip made at end of it; also sheds ought to be erected for curing fish, 45944, 45954-7.—Eight years ago Congested Districts Board had made contribution of £400, 45974-5.—Two or three small slips had been built at Dunkelly and other places, and more were required, 45976.

Fishing.

Seaboard districts of Dunmanus, Goleen, Toormore, Crookhaven, and Schull were congested; people lived chiefly by fishing, though some worked in mines and as sailors; fishing could be greatly improved if there were close season against trawlers in spawning season; also if small-meshed nets were used, so that immature fish might not be caught, 45945.—Sailing trawlers were allowed and steam trawlers under 20 tons, 45946.—Fishermen would not use large-meshed nets unless it were compulsory, 45950.—Some had modern appliances, but others could not afford them; if they had them they could better compete with Manx, Scotch, and French fishermen, and if Congested Districts Board could supply apparatus they could do much better, 45959.—Congested Districts Board had spent money on piers during past years, aided by grants from County Council, but amount had been too small, 45959.—Fish was sold straight to buyers and taken to Liverpool and America; spring mackerel were sold fresh; in autumn it was cured, 45960-5.—Mackerel was caught with seine nets; generally two boats to each net, 45967-72.—Probably 800 to 1,000 lived by fishing in Schull rural district, but a number of people did not live by fishing, 45983-4.—Some were half farmers, with one or two cows and an acre or two of potatoes, 46014-5.—Long-line fishing should be developed; men from Isle of Man all fished in that way; with proper appliances men of Schull would do that, 46016.—Herring fishing was more on the Bantry side; mackerel was more profitable, so people had gone in more for that; it was also easier, 46017-22.

Roads.

Roads were very much required in some congested portions; one place particularly was one mile from main road at Dunbeacon, and there was no way of getting to road except across fields; a grant from Board to connect that with main road was needed, 45981.

Re-Afforestation.

Large scheme of tree planting should be undertaken; there was plenty of waste land, and it would give employment and afford shelter, 45985.—There was some grazing on the land, but no tillage, 45987.—About 100 acres had been planted on Mount Gabriel 70 years before, but it had been cut down and sold by landlord before selling to tenant, 45988-91.—Another mountain belonged to Lord Bantry; before selling to tenants he had offered to sell to County Council for planting, 45992.

Land Purchase.

Good many tenants had purchased under Land Purchase Acts; Lord Bandon was first to agree with tenants; but other landlords and agents refused to come to terms; witness proposed that Congested Districts Board should buy from them and sell to tenants, 46000.—Dairy farmers were let by owners to dairymen; so that if Board bought all these lands would be available for enlargement straightaway, 46001-2.—They were on Mr. O'Grady's, Mr. Somerville's, and Captain Townsend's Estates, 46003.—Tenants were very anxious to buy, as they were paying much more rent than their neighbours; they offered same terms as neighbours had purchased at under Act of 1903, but were refused, 46004-8.—Longfield Estate was not in this district, 46040.—Lord Clinton had been approached, but he wanted too high a price, and gave a reduction of only 4*s.* in £; while tenants wanted 7*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.* 6*d.* on first and second term rents respectively, 46041-8.—Lord Bandon, Mr. Hehir, Colonel Spaight, and Edenburgh Assurance Company were principal landlords who had sold, 46049.—Average had been 19 to 20 years' purchase under Act of 1903, 46050-1.—One had been sold under Ashbourne Act at 11 or 12 years' purchase, 46052.

Migration.

Small colonies of people would be glad to migrate if land were available elsewhere; if one out of three were migrated, land vacated would be used for enlargement of existing holdings; they would prefer migration to emigration, 46009-13.

Bacon-curing.

Bacon-curing factory should be started as that was good pig-raising country; people had to bring pigs a long way to market, 46022.—Pigs were now sent to Limerick, but home factory would save cost of transit and people in district would receive profit now received at Limerick, 46023-6.

Reclamation.

At Dough's Strand a lot of land was flooded, also at Lissagriffen; sea was encroaching; if this were drained and reclaimed it would free a great deal of land; County Surveyor had estimated cost at £600 to £700; but if Board would send down expert it would be more satisfactory, 46026-8.—There would be some local contribution to cost, but district was already paying heavy guarantees for Schull and Skibbereen tramway and Bantry extension, and could not undertake too much, 46030.—It was on Lord Clinton's Estate and was not sold yet, 46033-4.—Farmers were not getting any redress from landlords, but had to pay heavy rents all the same 46038.

Tramway and Steamers.

Schull and Skibbereen Tramway caused great loss to ratepayers in keeping up rolling stock; curves were short and pull was great on engines; Congested Districts Board should give some subsidy; some time ago Board gave £500 a year to Clyde Shipping Company and their steamer used to call at Schull, but they had discontinued it; if £500 a year were given to Tramway it could be much improved and rates could be cheapened, 46053.—Line belonged to County Council, who ran it by Committee of Management, 46054.—When subsidised steamer ceased running foodstuffs, etc., were supplied from Limerick, 46056.—Steamer called once a week with meal, flour, and bran, 46058-60.—Clyde Shipping Company's steamer used to ply between Cork, Schull, Bantry, Castletown, Cahirciveen, and Dingle, 46061.—If Board would only transfer subsidy to tramway, it would greatly benefit the people, 46062.—Ninepence was paid in the pound as guarantee, 46063.—Tramway had been badly constructed, and contractor boasted that he made £25,000 out of it, as he had been able to gull old Grand Jury, 46064.—Greater part of light railway kept to the road, but contractor had bought bad land cheaply and run all sorts of sharp curves over it; £57,000 had been spent on it, but contractor did not spend £3,000 a mile, 46066-7. Two trains ran each way daily, sometimes three in summer, guaranteed at 5 per cent., 46068-9.—Treasury paid two-fifths, 46071.

Rates.

2*s.* 9*d.* in £ was not excessive rate for agricultural land; separate charges were what were complained of, 46073.—There were separate charges for public health, water, etc., 46074.

Postal Facilities.

Postal arrangements very very bad; mail left Skibbereen at 2 p.m. one day and was delivered at Schull at ten o'clock next morning; Schull, Crookhaven, Goleen, Ballydehob were last villages served, 46075.—Mails were not carried by light railway, but by mail car, 46076.—Postal authorities would not give enough subsidy, 46077.—Mr. Burke, of Skibbereen, gave evidence before Railway Commission respecting it, and witness might be called later on, 46078-80.—If subsidy were granted trains would be made to suit post office, 46081.—Authorities responsible would be willing to accept any fair terms to accelerate service, 46082-4.—Special train would have to be arranged which would also carry passengers, 46085-7.

Minerals.

District had large mineral deposits; Congested Districts Board should send down expert to test mineral resources and report upon them; if diamond-boring machine were sent down it would have good effect in developing mines from Skibbereen to Mizen Head, 46087.—People wanted Board to do boring, as they did not want to invest money without seeing what they were going to do, 46088.—Copper mines were working; £30,000 to £40,000 had been laid out on plant, and they employed a good many men, over one hundred, 46089-91.—State should do something for mineral resources of country, 46090.—If they did the testing, others would work them if worth while, 46093-4.—Miners earned from fifteen to twenty-five shillings a week; if mines were developed there would be employment for 600 men; this in addition to fishing would be great help, 46096.—Some copper had been sent to Swansea, 46097.—Smelting had not been done so far, but would be eventually; at Ballycummisky, plant costing £20,000 had been put up, as there was copper there; there was barytes mines four or five miles away; copper mines had stopped when copper got cheap; now price had gone up they had started again; if State did boring, capitalists would come, 46098.—Department had given almost a promise that they would send boring machine, 46099.

ROYCROFT, Mr. E.—*continued.*

LIVE-STOCK SCHEME.

Regarding live-stock scheme, complaint was made that congested districts were not treated so well as richer districts, 46101.—Half-bred sires which had been sent down were not always suitable, though they sometimes were, 46102.—Nominations were given on basis of valuation, 46104.—Schemes were working well on the whole; good bulls had been sent, 46105-6.

O'BRIEN, Mr. PATRICK.

CONGESTION.

Witness had been negotiating sale of estate of 3,200 acres; average area of holding was 33 acres; average valuation £9; that meant poor land, as 33 acres would be valued at £20 if good, 46108.—Holdings could be enlarged by having cut-away bog and other wet land drained, and where holdings were badly arranged there should be re-striping and re-fencing; this would increase arable land from 15 to 20 per cent.; in many holdings out-offices and dwellings were bad and insanitary; improvements could be brought about by Government advancing cheap money at land purchase interest to people willing to improve on specified plans; agriculture should be taught in rural schools, 46109.—These uneconomic holdings of 33 acres, valued at £9, could be improved by better methods of agriculture, 46110-2.—£9 holding should be doubled to make economic holding, 46113.—60 or 70 acres would be required of that class of land to make holdings economic, 46114.—Plan for advancing money would cause great improvement in dwellings; Board of Works charged too high interest; expenses were too high, and time for re-payment was too short, 46116-21.—If farmer had 33-acre farm, and could get money at 2¾ per cent., and had sons to work for him, it would be inducement for sons to remain at home, 46122.—In time holding would be improved, though it might never be economic, 46123-4.—Agricultural Committee gave prizes to increase tillage, but most of prizes went to large holders of forty acres; prizes must be given to small holders, and doubled if people were to return to tillage, 46125.—Small holders really required three times as much help as large holders, 46127.—Prizes were given by County Committee of Agriculture for increase of tillage in Cork; no one was eligible for prizes who had not one-fifth of his holding under tillage, 46129.—Small holders were not eligible at all; valuation of £15 to £40 were in one class, from £40 to £80 in another, and over £80 in another, 46132.—Class below £15 belonged to Munster Agricultural Institute, not to Committee of Agriculture, 46133.—From point of view of getting land under tillage there was much to be said for scheme of County Committee, 46137.—And it had increased tillage, 46139.—Money should not be advanced on land not purchased, as landlord did not care for improvements, except to raise the rent, 46140-1.—Exceptions to indifference of landlords were Lord Bandon and Mr. Doherty, 46142.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION.

Agriculture should be taught in all rural schools; children were absolutely ignorant of everything pertaining to agriculture, 46143.—Plot should be attached to schools to teach children different soils, &c., and teaching should include knowledge of tree-planting and fruit-growing, 46144.—School teachers could not do this, but special agricultural teacher could attend two or three schools a week, 46145-7.—If children were early given taste for agriculture they were more likely to remain on the land, 46148-52.—Agricultural instructor had a few experimental plots in the district, 46153.

FRUIT-GROWING.

Fruit-growing should be encouraged; some parts of district were specially suitable for it; bounties or premiums should be given to induce small farmers to start planting orchards, 46153.

O'BRIEN, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

RENTS AND VALUATIONS.

All holdings should be inspected before sales were concluded; no money should be advanced for agreements between landlord and tenant; landlords often offered some reduction, which tenants grasped at, when they might have had greater reduction by going into court, 46155.—Sometimes Land Commission fixed too high rent, but they were better than agents; when tenants were buying they took nothing into consideration except present advantages; on that account all holdings should be inspected, 46156.—33 acres with valuation of £9 was uneconomic holding, and it would be difficult to make it economic, but perhaps not impossible, 46157-61.—It would be mountain land and cut-away bog, 46162.—About one-fourth of such holdings could be tilled, 46166.—In one holding witness knew there were 52 acres, and 24 were arable, 46167.—Valuation of 24 acres would be about 15*s.* an acre, 46168.—Economic holding would be one valued at from 18 to £20; all arable land, 46170-1.—Department's definition was that there should be 50 acres of arable land to make an economic holding, but they reduce it to 30 where two farms would come together, and join horses for ploughing, 46172-4.—Congested Districts Board's definition was 25 acres, 46175.—There were many holdings under £5 valuation varying from 3 to 117 acres, 46176.

MIGRATION.

People would probably migrate if they had not to go too far, 46177-8.—There was very little land in district available for enlargement; one dairy farm was held from year to year; there were about twelve cows on farm, 46179.

DAIRYING.

Dairy system was dying out, 46180.—There were no creameries in district; most holders were getting hand separators, and making butter themselves; price of butter was very poor, 46181-3.—Cause of decay in dairying was that money could not be made out of it; farmers were now going in for dry stock, 46213.—Ranching system was taking place of dairy system, 46214.—Such farms were really non-residential grazing farms, and should be taken for enlargement of holdings, 46216-9.

PARISH COMMITTEE.

There was no Parish Committee, though Congested Districts Board had willingly given money, when asked, for other things, 46184-6.

LIVE STOCK SCHEMES.

Live stock scheme had been started by Congested Districts Board, but taken over by Department of Agriculture, which had not improved matters, as there was no bull in district now, 46194.—County Committee was responsible, but majority of people took no interest in improvement of breed, 46195-7.—Now it took £12 to buy a pure-bred bull; Congested Districts Board used to do it cheaper, 46199.—Hackney stallions had been introduced, but were not a success, 46201.—Pure-bred draught horse and a thoroughbred should be sent, 46202.—Schemes which suited richer districts did not suit poorer ones, 46205.—Poor districts needed proportionately more help than richer ones, though tendency of County Committees was to give sums proportionate to rates raised, 46206-7.—There were only 13 nominations of mares in Bantry and Schull districts; value of each was £3; money should be halved and nominations doubled, 46208.—There should be special schemes suited for poor districts, as they had not same class of animals as richer districts had, 46209-11.

O'CONNELL, Rev. JOHN.

INDUSTRIES.

Principal industries were fishing and mining, if these could be helped by Congested Districts Board it would be great advantage to district, 46220.—Lace class had begun well, thirty or forty girls were in class and were doing well, 46237.

O'CONNELL, Rev. JOHN—*continued.*

Piers.

Pier would require extension and sheds should be built for curing fish, 46221.—Pier had been extended about sixty feet some years ago, 46222.—State contributed half and county half, £1,200 was estimate, it would require to be extended another 60 or 100 feet, it was very inconvenient in fishing season, 46223.

Fisheries.

There had been no increase in fisheries lately, last year fish came very late, in December, 46225.—Mackerel was chief fish, and there was trawling for turbot, sole, and plaice, 46228.—Two islands, West Calf and Middle Calf, required slips, 46229.—There were only a few people on them, 46231-2.—Fishing was capable of development, but there was little competition between buyers, it had been suggested that Board should send buyer, 46242.—In autumn fishing many fish were cured, 46244.—There should be close season for trawling, 46244.—Larger-meshed nets fishermen could make themselves, 46245.

Parish Committee.

There was no Parish Committee though it would be very good thing; people were not persevering, they let things drop, 46234-6.—Where they had been started there was great improvement in out-offices, etc., it was not difficult to get one started, 46240-1.

Congested Districts Board.

District was not sufficiently represented on Congested Districts Board, it ought to have a representative of its own, 46237.

Postal Arrangements.

Postal facilities were very inadequate, car contract should be given up and letters should be carried by tramway, 46245.—Present contractor did it for £200 a year, railway company offered to do it for £250, post arrived at 9.30 a.m., just as train left, so if people were travelling they could not have letters before starting, 46246-9.

JAGOE, Mr. ABRAHAM.

Minerals.

Mineral resources of district should be developed, 46251.—Diamond drills should be provided for purpose of ascertaining what minerals there were, several mines were working, 46253.—No district had shipped any ore yet, 46254.—Barytes mines had been working for fifty years, they were not in prosperous condition, copper mines had been abandoned owing to low price of copper, but had begun again now, as copper commanded higher price, 46255.—They had better chance now as machinery was improved, 46257.—Price of copper was likely to be maintained, 46258.—Electricity had helped to bring it more into use, 46260.—Surface indications showed probability of copper, sinking shafts was expensive, but boring machinery would be cheaper, 46262.

Mining Facilities.

No boring had been done, 46265.—There was geological survey of district which mining people said was accurate, 46267-8.—Witness had gone up to Dublin to Department, but they gave no encouragement as they said they had no funds available, 46269.—Drills were very expensive as they had to be renewed often, rock was soft, but hard was better, 46270-1.—Witness suggested that drilling machine should be provided by State as shaft-sinking was so expensive, 46272.—Man could lease mining rights for six months and then give it up, 46276.—District was congested, but there was very little untenanted land available, 46278-9.—Congested Districts Board should tap mineral wealth and so remove congestion by giving employment, 46280.

JAGOE, Mr. ABRAHAM—*continued.*

Piers.

Schull pier needed enlargement, 46283.—It had been enlarged by old Grand Jury, but that was not sufficient 46285.

Postal Arrangements.

Postal arrangements were very poor, Treasury had been asked for £100 a year as subsidy to tramway, but they would not give it, 46286.—£200 was present contract, another £100 was needed if tramway were to carry mails, 46287-90.—This would help rates, 46291.

Fruit and Vegetables.

Fruit and vegetables should be grown, witness had offered ten-acre pot for experiments to see what could be done, if this were encouraged Congested Districts Board should have depot for buying from people and then sending away in bulk, 46292.—They would go by rail to Cork, thence to England, 46293.—District round Schull was well suited to production of early potatoes, cauliflowers, etc. 46296-8.—Quick and through train service would be absolutely necessary, 46299.

Fisheries.

Fish was sent by rail to Cork, mackerel was cured there, spring fish were brought to Baltimore, a Liverpool man had steamers and took away fish for American market, 46300.

Tramway and Steamers.

Tramway carried bran, flour, etc., which came by steamer from Limerick, and Cork, 46302.—Russell's of Limerick ran their own steamer to Schull, 46303.—They distributed up and down the coast, but did not carry passengers, 46305-6.—Other firms sent down steamers occasionally, 46307-9.—Clyde Shipping Company had stopped running when subsidy was withdrawn, 46310.

DALY, Mr. RICHARD.

Mineral Rights.

Mineral Bill now before Parliament ought to be pressed on as far as possible; employment was the thing next in importance to Home Rule, 46314, 46329, 46346.—Tenants who had minerals on their lands ought to have the mineral rights, 46316-7.—They were not included in purchase; witness understood they would be vested in Land Commission, 46335.—In 1852. when Dr. Hickson bought the land, he bought the mineral rights, 46316, 46325-7.—Land would be exempt from that only by special contract, 46327-8.—The present Government would be more justified in selling the mineral rights because they were selling to tenants who had to meet them for 68½ years whatever happened, 46316, 46318, 46331.—Object of Land Purchase Act was to do away with dual ownership; if there were to be two owners of mineral rights that object would be defeated, 46317, 46330.—Witness believed that the Amending Act was to give Land Commission power to restore mineral rights free, whatever terms they would be under, 46319.—At present the landlord owned the minerals before sale and it was unfair to keep back mineral rights from purchasing tenants; either a deduction for supposed value of minerals should be made from purchase price, or mineral rights should be given over to tenant entire, 46321-4.—Tenant would be prepared to buy mineral rights if he could not get them free, 46332-4.—Or they might be leased to tenant in occupation, 46336-9.—But tenant purchaser should have first claim only when he was willing to develop the minerals, 46342-3.—A few men from Ballydehob were working in the mines, 46347.—Witness had a mine of his own, 46348.

M'CARTHY, Mr. FLORENCE.

Piers.

As far back as 1883 witness had tried to get the Piers and Harbour Commission to improve the piers, 46350-1.—Crookhaven pier was in a bad condition; the place was owned by Lord Eglinton, an absentee, who took no interest in anything but his rents; some members of the then Government came to Crookhaven in 1891, Lord Zetland, who was one of them, nearly having a fatal accident owing to the conditions of the pier, 46351.

Fishing Industry.

Witness had tried to start a co-operative fishing company, but was prevented by influence of some other districts and of the late Father Davis; fishing was altogether in the hands of English buyers, who treated fishermen worse than slaves, 46351.—Part of the money spent on Boards, Departments, and Royal Commissions would be more usefully spent on improving condition of the people; witness got a miserable loan from the Congested Districts Board to provide a boat, which he called the "Self-Reliance," it was this boat that effected the rescue of the Fastnet Lightkeepers some years ago; the loan was paid off; he also get a small loan of Sir T. Brady's private fund for helping fishermen, and these small loans had been very useful, 46351.—People from other countries came and fished while Irish people emigrated; Crookhaven was once the most prosperous place in Ireland and ten times its present size; its decline was not entirely due to want of fishing appliances, but largely to modern improvements which had ruined ports of call all over the United Kingdom, 46351.—At one time the County Council was prepared to offer a system of bounties for fishermen, and then again the Department stepped in and said the County Council had no power, 46363-4, 46366.

Transit Difficulties.

A mode of carrying fish was needed as well as piers and roads, 46352.—The tramway was fifteen miles away and twenty-one miles from another part of the district witness was speaking of, 46353.—Roads would require some expenditure before they were in a condition to accommodate motors, 46354.—Extension of the tramway to Crookhaven would be a means of collecting fish; it had been pressed on Mr. Balfour in 1890, 46355-6.—A scheme for carrying a line of railway to Crookhaven from Durrus in connection with carriage of mails had fallen through in consequence of increased speed of steamers, 46356.—If the tramway were extended *via* Dunmanus Bay it would tap the bay and relieve ratepayers of the district who paid about £4,000 a year in connection with the tramway which was built under a guarantee; £1 shares stood at 27*s.* to 28*s.* and the guarantee was 5 per cent., 46358-61.—It ought to be possible to pass a short amending Act compelling shareholders to sell their shares at par, 46361.—Line cost £4,000 a mile and more; it could have been made cheaper; part of it did not cost £1,000 a mile, 46362-3.—There was a short extension a few years ago at cost of ratepayers, which would be a great source of revenue if fishing were developed; the London Company man, Mr. Avigdore, came down and entertained members of the Grand Jury lavishly, with result that railway work was scamped, old engines and wagons passed, and in six months the whole thing broke down, new wagons having to be purchased and new engines hired, 46363.

Poverty of District.

During the distress of 1890 relief works were started at Dough; starving people were compelled to walk twelve or fourteen miles, men, women, and girls, and break stones on the roadside; the work selected was the widening of a road already too wide for the traffic, whereas the building of small piers near the people's homes would have been a practical and useful work, 46351.—Works carried out were monuments of the bungling associated with everything connected with Board of Works and had cost the district much money; over £200 special grant had to be made some years ago and the contractor relieved of his work; the road was constantly flooded and lives of children going to school in danger, 46351.—The Department had power to set up creameries, which were anything but a blessing to the towns and villages, 46364-5.

M'CARTHY, Mr. FLORENCE—*continued.*

Re-Afforestation.

Witness had done his best to push on tree-planting, and as much as 10,000 to 15,000 acres of land was offered for that purpose in the county six years ago; then Department of Agriculture stepped in and said that witness and his friends on the County Council had no power to do anything in connection with the tree-planting scheme, 46363.—Re-afforesting would give a great deal of employment and improve the climate; value of timber was increasing, 46367.—There was no direct importation of timber into Schull, but foreign timber was used, 46368-71.

Pier Built by Witness.

In 1891 two Manx Companies threatened to leave Crookhaven owing to the condition of the pier; to prevent their leaving and the consequent loss of employment witness spent £53 12*s.* 6*d.* out of his own pocket to improve the pier and had never been able to get the money refunded on the ground that no formal permission was given for its expenditure, 46371, 46375-80, 46384.—Formal permission ought to be required, but this was an exceptional case; there was a grant of £120 conditional on the securing of a contribution of £50; witness applied to Congested Districts Board who had not decided at end of four months; he then wrote to the Mansion House Committee and got the £50 on condition it should be refunded if the Board would contribute the amount; the Board wrote three days after the day when amount should have been lodged to say the matter would be considered at their next meeting, 46372-4.—The pier ran out just beyond witness's place of business, but private persons should not be expected to do public works, 46381-4.—Two or three members of the Board came on the Board's steamer to see the work on the pier and they were fully under the impression that they were doing the work themselves; they were in too great a hurry to go to Dunmanus Head or Dunkelly, having to keep a dinner appointment at Glengariff, 46383.—The Board were consulted; witness had been trying to get pier improved for ten or eleven years, and money was spent legitimately, but uselessly in other ways, 46387-95.

ROGERS, Rev. FRANCIS.

Pier and Road needed at Goleen.

A pier and road were much needed at Goleen, Board's consent had been nearly granted; at present no boat of any size could land; there was a small pier of no use except for row boats, 46397-8, 46402.—Witness thought the vote was actually made, but did not know for what amount, 46399-400.—It was five miles from Crookhaven by road, two by ferry, 46401.—The steamer called about once in three or four weeks, 46407.—Roads were greatly flooded on the strand owing to the sand choking it up, 46407-8.

MAHONEY, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Pier and Road needed at Goleen.

Pier at Goleen and a little approach road of a few perches were badly wanted, 46412.—The Board was giving £400, but £200 more was wanted, and that was a stumbling block, 46413-4, 46419.

Board would do the Work better than a Contractor.

If the Board would do the whole thing they would do it better than a contractor, 46415-8.—That was Mr. Longford's opinion, 46424-5.—There were not many contractors in the district who would take up the work, 46426.

Floods on the Strand.

Another work that would have to be grappled with was the cutting of the sand bank, which was causing floods, 46420.—It would cost at least £500 and that, in addition to £200 for the pier, would be a very heavy tax on ratepayers of Schull Rural District, though

MAHONEY, Mr. TIMOTHY—*continued.*

not if it were on the county-at-large, 46420, 46423, 46426.—Landlord certainly ought to contribute to the opening of this drain, but the agent would do nothing except take the rent, 46436, 46442-3.—Only a little of the landlord's land suffered, and for that he still got rent, 46437-8.—His point was that the county authorities ought to do the work, it was a public road, 46438-40.—The cutting of the strand was a public necessity, and would not add anything to purchase price of holding, 46444-5.—There was a great deal of valuable manure left there by the sea, 46444.—There was a question about spending money on improvement of property that had not been transferred from owner to tenants, but witness did not see how that came in with regard to the piers, 46434-5.

Other Pier Accommodation in District.

A pier was wanted also at Dunkelly, 46426.—The Board had built a pier and contributed £90 (half cost) towards the making of a road at Gortduff, which had done a lot of good to the place, 46428-9.

Curing Sheds needed.

Curing sheds should be built and let to curers at a fair rent, 46430.—Witness did not know many curers resident in Schull, but he cured fish on his own account, 46431.—Witness had seen Mr. Green ten or twelve years ago with reference to his projects, and Sir H. Plunkett had come to Goleen and seen the need for a pier, 46432.—Mr. Oliver went out there some months ago, and the work was going to be done now, 46433.

Close Season for Fishing and size of Mesh used.

There had been some suggestions about a close season for fish and also something about a smaller mesh; it would be a great hardship to stop a fisherman when he had a chance of making money, and if a large mesh were used all the fish would get meshed; if they caught small fish they should let them go again, 46445-8.

COGHLAN, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Dough Strand: Closing of River Estuary and resulting Floods.

In regard to the Dough Strand and the closing up of the river estuary, there were several properties concerned as well as the Clinton estate; all the farmers of the district took coral sand off the strand for manure, and it was very injurious to them to have the sand covered with the tide as it was, 46451-2, 46459.—The roads were flooded in winter, so that people could not get to a place of worship nor the children to school, 46451-2.—There were three public roads under contract submerged for six months in the year to a depth of three feet; people used to walk on the fences, now they were down they had stepping stones, 46453.—It was too deep for a car to go through after heavy rain, 46454.—About a mile of road was under water, 46455.—The bank was formed about two years ago, 46456.—Twelve small farmers had got a seine net two years ago, which they could now scarcely use owing to the obstruction, 46456.

Cost of opening Strand.

County Surveyor estimated that £300 would open it, 46458.—The road contractor did nothing to that portion, and the landlord would do nothing, 46458.—An application had been lodged with the District Council to open the bank, and it was passed that the Rural District Council, the Congested Districts Board and the County Council should each give £100, but the County Council struck out their £100; the majority of the votes were in East Cork, and they would give nothing but what they could not help, 46460.—The strand must be opened on the land side, 46475.—Once opened it would not be allowed to close again, the Council would employ a man to keep out obstructions; one man and his family, with a boat, could do the work, 46476-7.

COGHLAN, Mr. TIMOTHY—*continued.*

Pier needed at Goleen.

A pier was much needed at Goleen, 46460, 46473.—Two steamers came once a month, and in winter were sometimes unable to land provisions, 46460.—The Congested Districts Board were contributing, the ratepayers were so heavily taxed that the opening of the Dough Strand was all that they could do, they would have to do that, 46461-5, 46474.—Ratepayers were taxed for the Schull and Skibbereen and the Bantry Railways; rates on the whole of County Cork were low, and the County Council had £30,000 to its credit; it would be reasonable for the County Council to contribute as was done in Mayo, 46466-72.—There was a seine net in Goleen, but until the pier was built there was no way of getting the fish to market, 46472.

SHEEHY, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Inquiry into Question of a Brand for Mackerel.

People in Skibbereen were not enamoured of inquiries; an important inquiry affecting deep-sea fisheries and presided over by Mr. Green had been held a few weeks ago on a resolution unanimously adopted by Council of Agriculture in favour of a brand for Irish-cured mackerel; the inquiry ended in smoke, Mr. Green pooh-poohing the idea of branding or inspecting mackerel, and making no suggestion as to a remedy to the injury done to Irish-cured fish in America, 46478-9.

Congestion in Skibbereen.

Area of congested district in Skibbereen was 28,620 acres, valuation £10,191 12*s.*, population 6,769; of non-congested portion area was 83,746 acres, valuation £32,988 19*s.*, population 15,218; entire area, including urban district of Skibbereen, was 115,395 acres, valuation £49,245, population 25,195, 46479.

Extent of Skibbereen Fishing Industry.

Eighty-six large mackerel boats and 825 yawls, representing capital of £40,000, were registered in Skibbereen, 46479.—They were all local boats, 46480.—Port of Skibbereen extended from Gally Head to mouth of Kenmare River, 46480.—Use of a 2½-inch mesh by Penzance boats had had a bad effect; grading would have to come with inspection, 46502-3.—Spring mackerel season was a thing of the past; prices dropped after a week or two owing to the enormous quantity of trawled fish dumped into England, 46504.

Causes adversely affecting Mackerel-curing for the American Market.

There were three causes encroaching on the curing of mackerel for America; (1.) the excessive tariff levied by the United States, 8*s.* per barrel; price of a barrel fell to 8½ dollars last year, which left very little for the fishermen, 46840-1.—This was an opportune time to raise the tariff question as the United States and England were in communication over the Newfoundland fisheries; this question had been raised at the Colonial Conference, on which Ireland ought to have been represented, 46840.—Whatever facilities were given to Newfoundland or Canada Ireland ought to share; Ireland contributed a great deal to the American markets, and claims of Irish fishermen should be considered on this point, 46482-6.—(2.) Unfavourable conditions under which fish were cured; at present fish were cured along the open pier-head; Commission should press Government for a grant to fix suitable sheds on all fishing centres, 46486.—The uncertainty of the fishing industry prevented this from being done by private enterprise, but small buyers would be only too happy to pay for accommodation; at present cost of labour, barrels, and tariff was so great that with any further expense there would be nothing left, 46487.—

(3.) Want of a brand and inspection for fish, 46481.—In evidence before Inquiry held by Mr. Green it was stated that some badly-cured fish sent to America had given a bad name to all Irish fish; last year thousands of barrels remained unsold, 46488.—In Mr. Green's summing up witness found no reason for his having overruled the application; his statement that Donegal herrings were fetching a higher price than others branded or unbranded was not a fact; Donegal people were in favour of brand, 46489.—As to the trade not being prepared to bear the cost of branding, the curers would be willing to pay a share, but they considered that Government should provide a large portion of the funds; if Mr. Green would not recommend them to give all that money why did he not experiment with a voluntary brand?, 46489.—Ireland got the privilege of branding in 1819, and it was taken away in 1829—since when there had been no trained inspector, 46489-90.

Branding.

Cost of branding was held out as a sort of bogey, but it was the duty of the Government to undertake it; 4*d*. a barrel on 100,000 barrels would realise £1,666; £2,000 more would be enough to meet the difficulty, 46490.—Curers would be willing to undertake the restrictions imposed by adopting a brand; the small curers would certainly co-operate, 46493-5.—Witness was willing to have the brand voluntary at first as a test, 46496, 46506.—If it were voluntary no one could accuse Government or Congested Districts Board of arbitrary action, 46500.—It was most important to regain the ground lost in America, which was the only market for Irish-cured mackerel, 46496, 46505.—Herring brand in Scotland was purely voluntary; in 1898 1,260,000 barrels were not branded but 500,000 were, 46497.—Witness knew that branding had paid in Scotland, but Scotland had had many advantages not shared by Ireland, 46498-501.

Grants made under Marine Works Act and by more incomplete.

£5,000 granted a few years ago under Marine Works Act was expended to provide Island of Cape Clear with a harbour of refuge; Congested Districts Board had given £220 for Crow Head and £25 for a road, but many other places needed help; landing stages were wanted at Tralisheen and Sherkin Island, 46491-2.

Extension of Railway from Skibbereen to Baltimore incomplete.

Some years ago Government gave a free grant to extend railway from Skibbereen to Baltimore; £60,000 was available, but line was not completed, it was still 300 or 400 yards from deep water; its completion would be a great advantage, 46506-7.—Estimated expenditure was £10,500; there would have to be a pier in connection with railway; Congested Districts Board had agreed to give £3,500, thus recognising the value of the work, 46508-10.—At the time the absence of through communication at Cork was the great obstacle to the continuation of this work, 46511.—That obstacle would be removed, a Bill had been passed through Parliament to that end, 46506, 46512-3.—The Cork and Bandon Railway were giving £15,000 and the Cork Harbour Board £10,000, 46513.—The English Great Western Company was also concerned in it, 46514.—No doubt some of the American liners would call and mails would be dropped at Baltimore, 46515.

Congestion on Coast-line between Skibbereen and Courtmacsherry.

Portion of coast-line from Skibbereen to Courtmacsherry needed attention; there was no possibility of getting grants unless district was scheduled, 46515.—There were no untenanted lands in district, but a tenant farmer in Castlehaven had 500 acres which could be had if a satisfactory price were paid, 46516, 46518.—The farmer lived on one part and farmed the whole under the dairy system; the land had been cleared of tenants 50 years ago, 46517.—It was exactly in the centre of the congested area from which many young men emigrated, 46519-20.

Benduff Slate Quarries.

The Benduff Slate Quarries near Carberry had been working for 50 years, and the slate was of splendid quality; help was needed to provide up to date machinery; the managing director would take £500 for new machinery and £500 for development, and pay reasonable interest on it; at present he could only employ 15 or 16 men and could not fulfil the orders coming in, but with improved machinery he could employ 50 or 60, 46521.—It was a family company, James Swanton, Limited, 46522.—It was paying, but in Ireland it was difficult to get advances from the banks for industrial purposes, 46523-4.—Government might be asked to assist, because the employment provided would be a public benefit; the work had slackened since an accident which happened 8 or 10 years ago, 46526.—Considering the way in which England strangled Irish industries in the past it was not unreasonable to ask for restitution; three or four millions a year for 50 years would not pay back what had been taken, 46527.—Creditable character of houses in the district was due to the slate quarries, 46528.

HURLEY, Mr. JEREMIAH.

New Pier needed at Glandore Harbour.

A pier at Glandore Harbour was almost useless for trading purposes, it was used chiefly for curing mackerel; to get mackerel to the harbour they had to be taken out of fishing boat into a small yawl and hawked again at the pier; this handling detracted from quality of fish and made perfect curing more difficult, 46529, 46532.—A quay was wanted where fishing vessels could come alongside at any state of the tide, 46530, 46533.—There were thirty-five boats, half of them local the rest belonging to Manx companies, but manned by local men, 46534-5.—Herrings had been taken off Glandore, but mackerel was the great fishing, 46537-8.

Improvements needed on Unionhall side of Harbour and at Leap.

On the Unionhall side of the harbour there was a quay built twenty or twenty-five years ago; it was entirely inadequate for the requirements of the fish-curing alone; it could be cheaply enlarged, a T-piece should be put at the head of the pier, and the channel should be deepened, 46538, 46540.—Improvements might not increase the quantity of fish but fishing would be prosecuted with greater industry, and time now wasted in discharging could be given to fishing, 46543.—No portion of the coast between Crookhaven harbour and Courtmacsherry was scheduled owing to the fact that there were one or two large farms in the district, 46539-40.—At Leap, at the head of Glandore harbour, a great deal of sand was discharged; a great deal more could be done with proper vessels and a good harbour, and there would be a market for the sand; the channel up to Leap should be dredged and the quay there enlarged and improved, 46540.

Railway needed from Clonakilty to Deep-Water Pier at Glandore.

A railway ought to be constructed from Clonakilty to the deep-water pier at Glandore Harbour, about fourteen miles, 46544-5.—The gauge should be the Cork and Bandon gauge, 46546.—Witness would not be prepared to give a baronial guarantee; part of the district through which line would run was aready paying a guarantee for the extension of the Cork and Bandon Line to Courtmacsherry, and the charge for the Schull and Skibbereen line extended to Leap and almost into Ross, 46547-9.

HURLEY, Mr. JEREMIAH—*continued.*

Extravagant cost of Schull and Skibbereen Line.

Cost of Schull and Skibbereen line was £4,000 a mile for construction and rolling stock, 46550-1.—Witness believed that was extravagant; the contractor boasted that he made a good deal of money out of it; inferior and unsuitable rolling stock was put on, which had to be changed by the guaranteeing area soon after the line was built; at one time the railway was idle for want of rolling stock, 46552, 46554.—It was constructed under the supervision of the Grand Jury—the County Surveyor, 46563.

Benduff Quarries.

Witness believed the Benduff quarries had been worked for over a century; he had seen as many as 200 men working there; work was done by contract, unskilled men drawing 12*s*., and skilled men 15*s*. a week, the excess amounting often to £2 for unskilled, £3 10*s*. for skilled men being paid at the end of the month; they worked in gangs of twelve, 46554-5.—Not more than twenty men were now employed owing to the failure of Shaw, who was President of the Munster Bank when it broke, and owned half the quarry, 46556-7.—At that time machinery was up-to-date, but the failure of the bank shortened the capital of the quarry, and the work began to dwindle; then it was taken over by the Munster Bank and still greater loss occurred; a cliff fell down and seven men were killed, 46558-9.

Transit Difficulties.

If the railway were made it would pass the gate of the quarry which would be an excellent feeder for it; at present the railway company having refused to continue to allow the loading of slates at a siding, and Clonakilty station being difficult of access, the company had to cart slates eleven miles to Skibbereen and rail them fifty-three miles from Skibbereen to Cork instead of thirty-two miles from Clonakilty, 46559.—These facts had not been brought before the Railway Commission so far as witness knew, 46560.

Legal difficulty hindering Completion of Landing-stages at Prison Cove, Cow Cove, and Blind Harbour.

Prison Cove, Cow Cove, and Blind Harbour needed a landing-stage or shelter for the boats; witness had approached Department of Agriculture in autumn of 1903, and in May, 1904, the County Council having officially asked the Department to consider the question, Department offered to contribute two-thirds of the estimated cost, the remaining third to be provided by the Council and the work to be carried out as a county undertaking, 46560-1, 46568.—The County Council agreed to this, and tenders were asked for, when (in October) the Department postponed the matter owing to a legal difficulty which was not yet overcome, 46562, 46563-4.—The difficulty was that under the Local Government Act the Department had no power to co-operate with the County Council in such matters, 46562, 46566.—The legal adviser to the County Council said the Council was free to pay the moment the Department paid in their contributions, 46568.

Reclamation of Land.

In country around from Dunmanway and further north a great deal of land ought to be reclaimed; some could only be used for tree-planting, and that ought to be done, 46568, 46571.—County Councils were slow to undertake such work until land was transferred to tenant, it would be better for the thing to emanate from an official source, 46569.—Many cutaway bogs comprising hundreds of acres could be made useful for tillage by a reasonable outlay, 46569-70.—It would not take long, 46572.

HURLEY, Mr. JEREMIAH—*continued.*

Mineral Resources.

The place abounded in slate quarries, and people who knew said there were plenty of minerals in Glandore, 46572.

Glandore Lighthouse.

Little lighthouse outside Glandore harbour was erected by a local Committee ten years ago, and up to the present, maintained entirely by contributions from fishing boats and from private sources; some months ago, the Secretary, Mr. Callinan, got a grant of £5 for three years from the Department, 46572.—The light was kept going for seven months of the year; it was first erected in interest of the fishing fleet but had become useful for more purposes; the Department should give a substantial grant so that the light could be maintained all the year round, 46572a-3.

COOPER, Captain RICHARD W.

Objections to breaking up Grass Lands—Effect on Cattle Trade.

Splitting up grazing lands to any extent would be a great injustice to small farmers in the South who depended on the up-country market for their stores from soon after Christmas till the English market opened, 46576, 46593, 46605.—Graziers usually bought cattle at 1½ to 2 and 3 years old, according to the part of the country they were to be taken to; 1½ year olds costing £6 to £7 stayed a year on a Tipperary farm, then being worth £12 10*s*., were taken on to a farm in Westmeath, going out fat at £19 5*s*. to £19 10*s*. in following November, 46577a.—Small farmer must sell his 1½ year olds to make room for the new calves, 46605-7.

Effect on Value of Land.

Another objection to breaking up grass lands was the certainty that the land when laid down would be worth about half its present value; in County Cork the whole object of tillage was to renew the land, but if fattening land were broken up it took years to get it back into heart; witness remembered seeing a field of such land broken up by a Scotch steward who took one crop off it, then con-acred it out in potatoes, and then laid it down; that field was still only a storefield, 46577a-83.—The return on tillage was very poor; witness had been paid for oats double the price of beautiful oats from Odessa, 46584.—To get a judicious system of tillage you must till only according to your requirements, 46585-6.—The people who would be brought in if grass lands were broken up were little better than labourers, 46590-1.—Assuming a good system of tillage inferior grass land might pay better under tillage if you could be sure of the price of produce, 46592.—Tillage was a gamble; in witness's view the less tillage the better, 46608-13.

Stall-feeding and Employment for Farmer's Family.

And witness's experience of stall-feeding was that it was a dead loss, 46594.—As to advantages to small farmer of having employment for his family, all round Carrigaline the farmers' children could get employment; the girls did lace work, and did not like farm work, which ruined the hands for lace-making, 46595-9.

Best Training for Boys to teach them to be Handymen.

Best thing for agricultural boys would be to teach them to be handymen; witness had worked as a farm labourer in America, and could have earned double if he could have done blacksmith's or carpenter's work, 46600-2.—The young Irish farmer often thought it *infra dig* to work, 46602.—Mothers were more to blame than fathers; if local people would interest themselves in this question it would do a great deal of good, 46603.

COOPER, Captain RICHARD W.—*continued.*

Effects of Free Importation of Canadian Cattle.

In regard to Canadian cattle, the important thing was protection from disease; the United States were full of disease, and there was 3,000 miles of border between them and Canada; it was really a question for the cities; they would be the sufferers if the milk supply were cut off, 46614, 46616.—Importation would not affect the price of store cattle at home; it would affect the price of dropped calves, as it did before, 46615.

CARROLL, Mr. JOHN T.

Distribution of Nominations.

Nominations for mares and cows in County Cork were given to farmers, cottagers, etc., in lower valuations; £25 in West and £50 in East Riding; mare nominations were distributed *pro rata* over rural districts, but as this was considered to work unfavourably to poorer districts the County Committee adopted the Bishop of Ross's suggestion whereby number of working horses in each district was taken into account as basis of distribution; this almost doubled the nominations in some of the poorer districts, 46617-8.

Location of Premium Bulls and Boars.

In regard to location of premium bulls poorer districts in South and South-west were pretty well served, 18 bulls being in or near congested districts; the greater number were bought under Department's Loan Scheme, which was gradually being understood and availed of, 46618.—They were mostly Shorthorn bulls; there were a few Polled Angus, 46619-20.—Number of premium boars would be materially increased but for the difficulty of obtaining suitable animals; six of the 16 subsidised were in congested areas, and County Committee intended to increase the number in the poorer districts, 46620.

Grants for Local Shows.

County Committee gave £700 annually in grants to local shows, viz., £200 to Cork, £15 each to Clonakilty, Skibbereen, Bandon, Mallow, Coachford, and Midleton, £25 to Cork Poultry Show, and £90 for small butter and poultry shows in places remote from these centres; the latter shows usually finished up a month's course of lectures in one or more districts and created great local interest as well as leaving a permanent impression on those who attended the classes; the best was at Bantry, which embraced several congested areas; the six county shows were very important as interesting people who would not attend a big central show, and they had done much to grade up cattle in their neighbourhood; it was a condition of the grant that special provision should be made in the prize list for farmers of low valuation and there must also be classes for poultry, which were particularly applicable to poor districts; in Ballinhassig, where a few years ago there were not two dozen pure-bred fowl, there were 600 entries last year, chiefly owned by labourers' wives, and the Department bought a considerable share for stock purposes in other counties; two poultry, two dairy, and two agricultural class instructors and one instructor in horticulture and beekeeping were employed, 46620.—In grouping farms to compete at shows £25 was about the fair average for smaller valuations; in some classes at Skibbereen valuation was as low as £15; it varied in different parts of the county, 46621-2.—The man under £10 valuation was dealt with locally, the people of the locality having practically a decisive voice in making these divisions, 46623-4.—There were no special prizes for congested districts, 46625.

CARROLL, Mr. JOHN T.—*continued.*

Egg Stations.

There were 54 egg distributing stations in the county, 40 turkey and 20 geese stations; 20 of them in, or in easy reach of congested areas; eggs sold from stations this year would probably amount to 80,000, 46625.

Butter-making Instruction in Congested Areas.

In regard to lectures, special favour was given to poorer districts; for butter-making all congested portions of the county had been visited except Castletown district, where the West Cork instructress was soon due; the instructress spent about a month in each district, taking six to twelve pupils who attended daily through the whole routine, and in the intervals visiting private dairies where asked, 46625.

Horticulture and Bee-keeping.

There were 16 demonstration plots for horticulture and bee-keeping under the superintendence of the County Horticulturist, who also made it his special business to visit cottages and small farmers; a second man would have to be provided in October; to effect a permanent impression the instructor must come round again and again to the same place, 46625.

Central Market in Cork.

The establishment of a central market in Cork would be a great help to the poultry and horticultural industry; Department had set aside £500 for making necessary alterations in a suitable site in the Corn Exchange, 46626.

Agricultural Instruction.

Agricultural instruction was given by lectures during winter and early spring at suitable centres and visits paid between whiles to neighbouring farms; over 250 demonstration plots were arranged in various kinds of crops and manures; 2,000 copies accompanying report had been circulated through local shows, District Councils, etc.; 80 of 117 demonstration plots in West Riding of the county were in congested districts and had good results; witness did not agree with evidence tending to discredit usefulness of Itinerant Instructors, but their work might with advantage be supplemented in poorer districts by a system of resident instructors localised centrally in a small model farm, which could also be used as storehouse for distribution on loan or sale at cost price of sprayers, etc., and also for distribution of boars and other animals from Departmental institution; this system would have the merit of continuity, which was specially needed in poor districts, 46625-6.—Two agricultural class instructors were employed to teach science as applied to agriculture in six centres; train centres had been selected hitherto, but it was hoped soon to get into more remote places; the classes had been very successful and popular, 46626.—One of the largest manufacturers of artificial manures wrote attributing increased demand for manufactured fertilizers during last three years to County Council lectures, 46639.

Prize Scheme to encourage Tillage and Home Consumption of Produce on Large Farms.

A trial scheme of prizes for large farms had been arranged chiefly on the basis of a revival of tillage and home consumption of farm products; for this there were 124 entries; the scheme was framed by the Bishop of Ross; there were to be three inspectors, as the scheme involved a system of accounts and keeping of books and the ascertaining at end of year of amount of farm produce consumed on the farm, 46626-8.—Committee contributed £270 to Munster Dairy School Governors, who had charge of a scheme of prizes for cottages and small farmers (under £15 valuation), 46626, 46629.

CARROLL, MR. JOHN T.—*continued.*

WORKING OF FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT.

The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act had been put in operation extensively with good results, especially to poorer classes; Act of last year was a poor substitute for its predecessor, 46631.—Resident instructors were needed to prevent the sale of bad seed and calf meal; the latter was outside the 1906 Act because it was mixed, and a good deal of it still came into the country, especially the remote parts, 46631.

VETERINARY RELIEF NEEDED IN CONGESTED AREAS.

Some system of veterinary relief was greatly needed in congested areas; there were only 15 veterinary surgeons in County Cork outside the city; less than 1 for every 7,000 farmsteads, 46631.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN METHOD OF DEPARTMENT AND CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

There was a good deal of confusion when Department first took over the working of the congested areas; witness had no personal knowledge of methods of Congested Districts Board, but he feared that, as might be expected from a centralised governing body dealing directly with unformed and mostly apathetic units, there were no permanent results; there was also a difficulty in getting people used to a spoon-feeding system to take any initiative in matters involving an element of risk, such as the purchase of a bull, etc., and but for the energy of the priests matters would be almost hopeless; however, things were improving, 46631-7.—The Committee spent £100 a year in premium bulls alone in congested areas, 46631.—There was no question but that poor districts required more help than better-off ones, 46638.—It would be admirable to have subsidiary grants available for special requirements of poor areas and administered by County Committee through, perhaps, a local committee; the Department had made special payments for subsidiary schemes, but there was nothing like the amount that would be needed, 46639.

CREAMERIES AND TILLAGE.

Cork was a great dairy county, and there were a considerable number of creameries in some parts of it; they were chiefly co-operative, 46640-2.—Witness did not think they caused a decrease of tillage, 46643--4.

TOWNSEND, REV. PRECENTOR.

LAND FOR SCHOOL FARMS.

Witness had tried to promote tillage by giving land for school farms, but parents would not avail themselves of it, 46645.

BOARD'S TRACTS AND PAPERS.

The Board had done a great deal of work as regards tracts and papers; they should have some depot in a country town where people would know they could get them for 1*d*. or so, 46645.

SOIL IN SKIBBEREEN DISTRICT.

Soil in Skibbereen district was generally light and moory on a clay slate foundation; where red sandstone came in the union of the two made a better soil; butter from such soil getting ½*d*. more in the market than that from clay slate farms, but the general character of the land was small fields with rocky, uneven surface, 46645.

CONDITIONS OF TILLAGE ON ROUGH GROUND.

Tillage did not pay because farmers did not know how to make it pay; advanced machinery could not be used in the district and tillage by manual labour must die out; it would take a hardworking farmer ten to fifteen days' manual labour in addition to horse labour to plant an acre of potatoes; if they would only work with a drill plough and make the drills they would do it in less than half the time, 46645.—Lazy beds were made almost universally for drainage purposes in rough and rocky places but on average land because it was a tradition, 46646-8.—Witness thought a great deal of the rough land in the West must lapse into grazing, 46645, 46648.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION SUITED TO DISTRICT NEEDED.

A better system of irrigation was needed and instruction as to improving very poor pasture land, a class of instruction not as a rule given; witness's father had found Leicester sheep too delicate for the country, but by using common ewes of the country with the South Down ram had produced lambs to sell in April and May, whereas formerly lambs were never seen in the market till June or July, 46648.

KIND OF CATTLE NEEDED.

It was the same with cattle; Shorthorns were rather delicate for the country and they were very bad milkers; with Shorthorn bulls, bullocks sold well, but for milkers some of the old Irish cows were needed; the Aberdeen Angus also had the name of being very bad milkers, though thirty or forty years ago they got prizes at the Dublin Show as the best milkers from anywhere; Board should apply their attention to getting a race of milking cattle for this district, 46648.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AND THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR.

Present system of labourers' cottages tended largely to emigration; in many ways cottages were a boon, but the vice of the system was that they had no connection with farmers on whose land they were put up; as a result, the acre or half-acre of land attached was exhausted by continual potato growing; the labourer had no certainty of employment and the farmers could not find labour, 46648.—Many of these cottages were now empty, 46648, 46651.—Many farmers gave constant employment and more would do so if they could get the men, 46649.—The usual practice was to have a six or twelve months' agreement, the labourer getting a cottage and land and so much wages, 46650.—Chief cause of emigration was the decrease of labour, as farmers gave up tillage, 46653.—Better system of tillage would give more employment; labour should be spent on the most productive land, but the tendency was for farmers to farm as much land as they could work with their families, having a few cattle here and there and one person to attend them both, because it was the easiest way and because of the scarcity of labour, 46656-62.—The labourer's cottage should be part and parcel of the farmer's holding, and the farmer should pay the rates and give the labourer a separate acre of land each year, 46663-4.

FRUIT-GROWING AND VEGETABLE-PRESERVING.

The return from fruit-growing was uncertain, but vegetable preserving would employ a number of women; there should be an instructor; witness was not in favour of the factory system, which tended to break up home life, and at the Cork Exhibition most interest was taken in large factory work; witness had had a little drying machine made and could have excellent green peas, beans, etc., in winter; there was a good sale for preserved vegetables all the year round; the drying process was very simple and there was no difficulty in keeping the vegetables, 46664, 46669-72.—Witness had not been in communication with Department; he had only worked locally, 46673.—Early potatoes did better near the sea on account of the late frosts; they had not been very successful, 46674.—The through service to Cork would help to provide market for them, 46675.—There was a local market for fruit, but with railway rates and deterioration from handling it did not pay to send it to Cork, 46665-9.

O'MEARA, Dr. T. J.

Congestion in Coast District from Toe Head to Roaring Water Bay.

Coast district from Toe Head to Roaring Water Bay, including islands of Sherkin, Cape Clear, and Hare, had an area of 20,900 acres, population of 5,750, of whom about 1,260 lived on the islands; land was mostly rocky and soil light; greater part of district was congested; inhabitants were poor, dietary defective, general health not good, houses were bad, and their surroundings very unsanitary, 46676.

Dietary—Effect of Creameries.

Dietary consisted of bread and tea, dried fish and potatoes; tea was largely used, milk and porridge hardly at all, 46676.—Substitution of tea for new milk in feeding children was a serious matter, 46689. —Creameries would eventually interfere greatly with general health of the country; the farmers sent as much milk as possible to the creameries and would not keep it back to sell locally even at an increased price, 46676-84.—Separated milk was not used; it had a disagreeable taste and deteriorated quickly; as food, it was nearly, but not quite so good as skim milk but for the taste, 46685-8.—Typhoid had broken out in connection with creameries before they were established on a proper sanitary basis, 46688.—Return to former simple dietary was much to be desired, 46716.

Diseases Prevalent.

There was an amount of tea drunkenness in the country, 46689.—And anæmia and dyspepsia were common owing to defective dietary; other diseases prevalent were rheumatic ailments and typhus fever, which was endemic, 46690.—Typhus germs had been in the country a long time and remained owing to defective sanitation; it was a disease that might arise *de novo* from insanitary conditions, 46691-2.—It was worst in Toe Head, Aughadown and Hare Island; there had been numerous outbreaks during past twelve years; one in Hare Island in 1886 very severe; after the last outbreak on Toe Head in 1903, Mr. Justice Ross, in whose court the estate was, on requisition being made to him gave directions that some twenty houses should be better ventilated at estate's expense, 46693.—It was difficult to say who was liable for putting houses in a sanitary condition; the estate was in Chancery and was administered by Judge Ross, 46644-6.—Witness, like all other doctors, was very loth to prosecute his patients, 46693, 46700. —But twenty or thirty people on Toe Head were prosecuted at his suggestion, 46693.

Prevalence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary tuberculosis was very prevalent, especially in Aughadown, Hare and Sherkin Islands and Cape Clear; its incidence was greatest in places to which consumptive Irish-Americans returned, 46696, 46700.—When the disease was introduced into houses which, from their structure could not be properly disinfected frequently, the whole family died out, 46696.—Persons suffering from tuberculosis should have their cases notified at port of landing to medical officer of district to which they were proceeding, 46696, 46715.—American regulations as to landing of consumptives were extremely stringent, 46699.—Witness believed the disease brought from America to be especially infectious, 46698.—Girls had often been employed as housemaids in America; men worked in factories and the work was very hard; it was a curious fact that in America as in Ireland the Celtic race seemed subject to tuberculosis, 46697.—A form of neucrosis was also common among young women returning from America, 46700.—Causes of high death-rate from tuberculosis were—(1) general weakening of health of people owing to emigration and defective dietary; (2) defective housing and sanitation; (3) return of consumptive Americans, 46715.

Condition of Houses.

The houses, except poor law cottages, were low, thatched, ill-ventilated cabins, with earthen floors, consisting generally of two apartments; at front and back were cess or manure pits; the conditions were highly conducive to disease and difficult to rectify for many reasons; dispensary medical officers as Medical Officers of Health were naturally and to a great extent properly unwilling to prosecute their patients, 46700, 46702-3.—There were no separate medical superintendents except for large centres, 46701.—County Medical Officers of Health should be appointed who would give all their time to sanitary work, going among the people and instructing them; prosecutions were not much use where people were too poor to put sanitary officer's recommendations into effect, 46704.—Landlords ought to keep houses in sanitary condition, but it was difficult to get them to do so when the land was passing from them to the tenants, 46705-7. —Witness believed there was no power in Ireland for the medical officer to do the work and recover from the landlord, 46707-8.—There were many houses without chimneys, and in those people suffered from ophthalmia, 46709-11.—Grants-in-aid should be made, through Parish Committees or otherwise, in the poorest districts for improvement of surroundings of dwellings, putting in proper windows and cementing floors; many people could build houses by local co-operation if they got a grant for slates and timber, 46711.—Average valuation in Hare Island was £4; in some parts houses were built in villages so that "bawns," *i.e.*, manure pits, of four or five houses adjoined, which added materially to the evils of congestion; the origin of building in villages had nothing to do with relationship, 46713-4.

Number of Houses unfit for Habitation.

In Toe Head, population 175; seventeen out of thirty-seven houses were unfit for habitation, the remaining twenty were almost all defective; in Hare Island, population 300; forty out of forty-six houses were unfit for habitation; in Cape Clear, population 620; twenty-five out of 120 houses were uninhabitable; in Sherkin Island, population 300; only six or eight out of sixty houses were unfit, 46714.

Fishing Industry in Sherkin and Cape Clear.

People of Sherkin and Cape Clear, especially the latter, were all engaged in fishing industry and were not badly off, 46715.

O'SULLIVAN, Rev. JAMES.

Congestion in Aughadown South.

Population of congested districts of Aughadown South was 1,400; there were thirty or forty uneconomic farms on mainland and on the islands (Hare, Skeam, and Calf) they were all uneconomic, 46717-8.

Compulsory Powers for Board proposed.

There was no word of property being sold to the Board; so far only two estates had been sold by private arrangement direct to tenants, 46719-20.—Such districts as Hare Island and Toe Head should pass through hands of an improving authority, 46721.—Overtures had been made for other estates, but prices asked were too high; Board should have compulsory powers particularly with regard to Hare Island, where sanitary improvement and definition of boundaries were much needed, 46736.

Agricultural Instruction needed.

A large proportion of land was cultivated, but imperfectly; plots should be attached to National Schools, where children could be instructed theoretically as well as practically, and there should be itinerant teachers or inspectors coming round from year to year, 46721.—Teachers would have to be trained, 46722-3.—It was on the mainland that instruction was needed and some plan should be adopted to secure good seeds, 46729-30.

Creameries and their Effect on Health of Children.

There were creameries in the district, 46721.—They certainly had a bad effect on children's health; separated milk had a disagreeable taste and very soon became unfit for food, 46724.—People could not be induced to retain sufficient new milk for the children, 46725-7.

Needs of Island Fishing Population.

Fishing population, especially on the islands, was greatly in need of piers, 46730.—Hare Island causeway was intended as a passage from Hare Island East to Hare Island West; at high tide there was six feet of water on the strand and the tide came up very rapidly, 46731.—Work was not yet begun; it was originally expected that a quay or slip would be built in connection with the bridge and this was badly needed, 46732-4.—There were large mackerel boats and a large number of lobster boats on the island; lobster fishing would be very successful if there were a good permanent market, but except last year there was only one buyer and prices hardly paid for fishermen's labour; the Frenchman who came last year might not return, 46732-3.—A road was made through the island for the first time in 1892; Lord Zetland came down on the island to see it and through him witness succeeded in getting the road, a slip at east end of island, and a large quay at Roaring Water Bay; slip on the east was not sufficient, there should be a quay with a slip at the end of it allowed to run out; when there was a glut of fish and price was low in Baltimore, mackerel boats would come over and employ women to save fish for their own use; a quay was wanted on the mainland; all the engineers who saw the place were in favour of proposed improvements; two more little roads, north and south, were also needed, 46735.

Cork needed Representation on the Board.

District was badly congested; valuation about 12*s.* per head in Hare Island, but the Board had never given anything except for the bridge; Cork ought to have a representative on the Board, 46736.

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. IX.

M'NULTY, Mr. JOHN.

Acreage of Holdings in Balla Rural District.

The area of Balla Rural District was 8,936 acres, of which about 4,400 acres were in the occupation of 201 tenants of under £5 valuation, 46740.—4,522 acres was grazing land, 46740-4.—Held by 37 graziers, 46745, 46755.—Lime stone and clay were found in it, 46757.—Some was moorland, some good land, though sticky, 46758.—Very little was mountain land, 46747-8.—Witness was unable to state the exact proportion of grass land, bog, and rough grazing, but the land was chiefly grazing land, 46749-50.—Witness described as waste land all the land in the occupation of graziers, or land not held by tenants under the Act of 1881; it was only occupied by bullocks, and did not relieve congestion; the former tenants had emigrated or been evicted, 46766. 46791-4.

Holdings in Croaghmoyle Electoral Division. Parish of Islandeady.

The area of Croaghmoyle was 7,150 acres, of which only 654 acres were in the occupation of small farmers, 46767.—Forty-one occupiers were under £15 valuation, 46772.—Their valuation was £551 8*s*., 46777-9. —Only four occupiers were over £15 valuation; their valuation was £131 10*s*.—It was a very poor division; a congested area, 46771-5.

Holdings on Ballinafad.

The area of the electoral division of Ballinafad was 7,150 acres, of which 3,420 acres were under grazing, 46760.—All land in this division over £15 valuation was untenanted, or perhaps a small area tenanted, 46763, 46764.

Uneconomic Holdings in Ballina Union.

The number of uneconomic holdings in Ballina Union was 2,242, 46813-6.—The valuation of these was £4, 46817.—The number valued between £4 and £8 was 1,593, 46817.—£8 was not a standard, 46818. —The valuation of £15 was put on different areas, 46765.—Valuation varies from £1 to 5*s*. or 2*s*. 6*d*. per acre, 46765.

Landlords in Balla.

The Earl of Arran held a valuation of £781 in Ballina Union, 46811.—This included demesne, 46812. —Several landlords in Balla division, 46751.—Sir Henry L. Blosse owned 117 acres, at a rateable valuation of £1 12*s*., 46762.—And twenty-nine acres valued at £7, in the township of Ballinagrane, 46768.

Stock of Tenant Farmers.

The tenant farmers with uneconomic holdings were obliged to sell their stock very young, at ages varying from four to twelve months, 46795-6.—Stock was sold to graziers and larger tenant farmers, and at fairs and markets, 46798-46800.—Markets for stock would not be injured by taking up grass lands, but probably improved, 46801-2, 46804.

Taking up Grass Lands.

Grass lands should be used to enlarge small holdings, 46789.—The large grazing ranches near Croaghmoyle would relieve a good deal of distress, 46790.—The purchase of land was of immediate importance; for this compulsory powers were indispensable to the Estates Commissioners, 46830, 46847, 46849.

Allotment of Grass Lands.

Grass lands, when acquired compulsorily, should be used to enlarge small holdings, 46821.—And to make new small holdings for small farmers; middle-aged men, in the first place, 46822-6.—Or for farmers' sons of from twenty-one to twenty-five, as this might check emigration, 46740.—Witness was unable to state whether land sufficient to satisfy both small holders and their sons was available, 46828.—If not, the surplus population must emigrate, 46829.—But if land remained after satisfying small holders, it should be given to uneconomic holders from other districts, 46803, 46841-3.—Preference being given to adjacent districts, 46837, 46840.—Sons of tenants should not be considered till all uneconomic holders, irrespective of place of residence, were satisfied, 46842.—But, if land sufficient could be acquired, the sons of farmers should be considered, 46834-7.—The uneconomic holders in that district should have first claim, 46832-4.—The reception of congests from other districts would probably be favourable, 46844.

Migratory Labourers.

The tenants of uneconomic holdings were unable to live on proceeds of their land; they, or their sons, migrated to England or Scotland every year, to obtain the necessaries of life, 46740.—Migration from Balla and Croaghmoyle, 46740, 46780.—Migratory labourers went to England in the spring, some immediately after tilling their own land, and remained away for four or five months; females also went, 46787-8.—Enforced migration was due to the uneconomic nature of the holdings, 46740.—The condition of these harvest men in England was bad; they were obliged to sleep in out-buildings, 46780.—Witness had seen this at Chapeltown, near Sheffield, 46784.—The pay was better in England, and allowed the necessaries of life to be bought, 46785-6.

MELVIN, Mr. MATTHEW J.

Valuation of Holdings.

The population of Ballina Union was 20,148, 46851.—The area 1,496 acres; the number of holdings valued at or under £4 was 2,242; from £4 to £8 was 1,593; from £8 to £15, 715; from £15 to £20, 219, and over £20, 332; the total valuation of the Union, including the urban area of Ballina, was £45,000, exclusive of fisheries, 46852.—Near Crossmolina the land was one large ranch; one holding was 654 acres, valued at £300; another, near Ballina, 524 acres, valuation £318; another of 170 acres, at £100; a farm of 300 acres, at £144; and there were also farms of 30, 50, 62, 65, 69, and 163 acres, 47057.—The valuation of grazing ranches in Ballina and Crossmolina was all under £1 an acre, 47063.—Some was good land, some inferior, 47064.—Griffith's valuation was used, 47065.—Rent and valuation were nearly equal, 47065.

Land Held by Graziers and Shopkeepers.

Sixty-four graziers held land in Ballina Union, to the amount of 3,816, on the eleven months' system; witness was unable to say whether these figures referred to valuation or acreage, 46854-5.—And twenty-five landlords owned land, mainly grazing, to the value of £5,693, including demesne; the figures concerning landlords and graziers were mutually exclusive, 46855-8.—Some land was held by shopkeepers; 654 acres belonged to a shopkeeper in Belmullet, 47059.

Deterioration of Grazing Land Remedied by Mixed Farming.

Grazing land had deteriorated, 47064, 47066.—If the system of mixed farming were employed, the land would be better, and support more people, 47066-7, 47069, 47072-3.—At any rate, if this were combined with a system of small holdings, 47069-71.—If the Belgium system were adopted Ireland could support eight million persons, 47071.

MELVIN, Mr. MATTHEW J.—*continued.*

Reduction of Population Remedied by Division of Grass Lands.

Population of Ballina had fallen from 24,960, in 1881, to 20,148, in 1901, 46859-60.—Only remedy for this was the dividing of grazing ranches, for the enlargement of holdings, 46859-62.—Uneconomic holders in congested districts should have the first claim on distributed grass lands, 46862-6.—Witness would forward this, but would not resist the giving of grass lands to farmers' sons, if uneconomic holdings were first made economic, 46867-8, 46879, 46900-2, 46918.—Unwise to create new tenancies unless this meant vacated holdings, 46865.—Uneconomic tenants in other parts of the country, and not adjacent to grass lands, should be migrated, 46870.—But witness would not advise bringing of congests to Mayo from Galway, 46873.—Or Leitrim, 46875.—These should be migrated to Roscommon; witness would not object if uneconomic tenants of Mayo first supplied, 46879.

Jealousy of Migrants.

If uneconomic tenants from other districts were migrated into Mayo there would be jealousy, 46880, 46886, 46888.—This would wear off, 46827-8, 46889.—And would yield to representations of influential men, 46899.—There was a prepossession in every locality in favour of the people of the district, 46897.—But there is no more objection to migrants from a different county than to migrants from a remote part of the same county, 46915-6, 46921-3.—Who soon were on good terms with their neighbours; example, migrants to Lacken, 46924-9.—This question unlikely to arise in Mayo, because there was not grass land enough in county to supply its own congested districts, 46873, 46881, 46892-6.—But, in witness's opinion, public authority would be required to arrange distribution of grass lands, 46891, 46904.—Because there was mathematical order in which land should be distributed to sons of tenants and congests from other districts, 46904-7, 46919.

Landlords Unwilling to Sell.

Public authority with powers of compulsory purchase also needed, because landlords unwilling to sell, unless compelled, 46946.—Witness had no practical experience of negotiations, but knew by "experience," not hearsay, 46947-51—Landlords demanded twenty-six years' purchase, though they were content before 1903 to take eighteen years; Cranagh Farm an example; it consisted of 111 Irish acres, mostly grazing, given up in 1905; landlord refused it to tenants wishing to enlarge their small holdings, 46951-3.—Of which there was a large number on that and surrounding estate, 46981.

Sale of Tenants' Interest by Auction.

Landlord refused to sell in first instance, but afterwards got an auctioneer, and proceeded to sell to the highest bidders, 46981.—Divided the estate into tenancies of five to fifteen acres, and put up the "chattel interest" of it by auction, 46952-3.—Tenants' interest was called chattel interest, 46953.—Public opinion prevented sale by auction, 46953, 47002.—But it was sold, by private arrangement, at ten or twelve years' purchase; this was of witness's own knowledge, 46953-5, 47005.—This and one other the only instances of auction of chattel right in the union, 47004.

Tenants' Interest Sold at Ten Years' Purchase.

Ten or twelve years' purchase, a low price, was equivalent to £1 8*s.* per acre, exclusive of taxes; land would be saleable at twenty-three years' purchase, and bonus would make it equal to thirty-five years' purchase, 46956-8.—Tenant right sold by tenant commanded a higher price; this land, though of average quality, was not dear at ten or twelve years, 46958-61.—This ten years' purchase was in the nature of a fine, 46963.—Rent of the land in question was £1 2*s.* per acre, 46962, 46999.—This rent was the basis on which the fine and future instalments were calculated, 47001.—The rent was lower than £1 2*s.* at the time of auction, but afterwards raised to £1 8*s.*, 47002.—The

MELVIN, Mr. MATTHEW J.—*continued.*

high price and sale at auction showed the determination of landlords to obtain the extreme value of land, 46963, 46991.—Price made at auction was, as a rule, excessive, 46998.—Because of land hunger of tenants, 46994-6.—And he would give any price, or borrow at any rate, to obtain a holding, 46995-7.—Witness objected to sale by auction of tenant-right, because the small holder, a poor man, would not give ten years' purchase, 46982.—Though a rich man would, 46982.—This frustrated the Act of 1903, 46964, 46988, 46991.—Which Act was passed to relieve congestion, 46979.—If landlords found it possible to obtain ten or twelve years' purchase above the proper price of land, auctions would become general, small holders would be unable to enlarge their holdings, and congestion would become stereotyped, 46982-8.—The graziers would still have the land, 46989, 47007.—Public opinion so hostile to auctions that police protection required, 46978.

Refusal to Sell to Congested Districts Board.

Landlord of Cranagh Farm refused to sell to Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 46991.—This not of witness's own knowledge, 46993.—Tenants willing to give the same price as the Congested Districts Board, 46966.—Witness was not aware of negotiations between the landlord and Congested Districts Board for the purchase of this land; the Chief Secretary had said in Parliament that negotiations had been in progress, 46967-8.—There was no prospect of these negotiations succeeding, 46975-7.—Witness knew of no instance of a member of the Board being in Ballina Union, though ten districts in the union were scheduled as congested, 46858.—Witness in favour of compulsory powers of purchase, 47008.—There was hardly any voluntary sale in Ballina Union, except of land in Chancery, 47009.—It was necessary to define compulsory powers, 47010.—Prices might be fixed by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, 47013.—At about the same price as voluntary sale, 47013-4, 47037.—Price of voluntary sale, a fair price, 47016.

Holding of Witness.

Witness himself had a farm of thirty-one acres—sixteen acres on one estate and fifteen on another, 47050-1.—With a residence on one of them, 47018-20, 47026.—And, in addition, twelve acres adjacent, which was grazing and meadow land, but sometimes tilled, 47022, 47028.—All this, with the exception of the residential land, was untenanted land, according to witness's definition, and might be taken by Government to enlarge small holdings, 47021, 47030.—Of which there are some adjacent, 47031.—Witness would suffer by this arrangement for a time, 47033.—But might as well suffer as his neighbours, 47030, 47032.—Acquisition of witness's holding by Government would be just, if it left him with an economic holding, 47024.—Standard of economic holding depends on the quality of the land and the nearness of markets; ten or twelve acres near Dublin or Belfast would be economic, 46909.—But not less than twenty in Mayo—probably between twenty and thirty acres in Mayo, 46910.—A holding that cannot be worked with a horse is not economic, 46911-12.—Witness could sell his land by auction, but wants compulsory powers; land was in his family for years, 47034.—Witness does not object to selling chattel interest by auction, but to selling grazing land by auction, 47035.

Price of Land Fixed by the State.

It was as reasonable for the Government to fix selling price of land as rent of land, 46971.—Though the rent would be subject to readjustment at the end of fifteen years, 46972.—But the question was logically the same, because no man has an absolute property in land, 46973.—This was an old theory, 46974.—Witness thought it for the good of the State, that his land should be taken for the same price he could get at auction, or by private bargain, 47037, 47043.—Or at a less price if he had a grazing ranch, 47041.—This a practical question, 47039.—A hard question, 47038.—Estates Commissioners were competent to fix the price of land compulsorily taken, at the same price as that of a voluntary sale, 47049.—Witness thought

MELVIN, Mr. MATTHEW J.—*continued.*

railways did not give higher price for land compulsorily acquired, 47055.—Witness had had experience of Killala Railway; in a few cases had known prices of compulsory purchase higher than voluntary sale, 47057.

Migratory Labourers.

Labourers in Attymas West and Attymas East, Kilgarvan, Sallymount, and Faugheen went to England annually, as harvest men, 46873, 46943.—1,500 labourers migrate, 1,400 in ten parishes, 46873, 46944.—Migration not greater in the poorer parishes, 46944.—Labourers migrate because of poverty; a proof of this was, they were unable to pay rates, 46944.—Three rate-collectors appointed since the passing of the Local Government Act, and all unable to collect rates, 46944.—When in England these labourers had to sleep in fields, 46945.

Poor Relief.

A district on the slopes of Nephin Mountain rated at £1,200, paid in 1905-6 £115 8*s.* 1*d.* in outdoor relief, 46928-9, 46938.—The same amount was being paid in 1907, 46930.—1905-6 was not an exceptionally bad year, 46938.—This was provisional relief, 46939.—Was given to holders of land, irrespective of valuation, 46939-40.—But holders in the district were poor, chiefly of £2 and £3 valuation; there was not ten men of £15 valuation in the division, 46941.

The "Thirteenth Section."

No special arrangement was made for Mayo in 1905-6; the Thirteenth Section was not put into force; witness was a member of the County Council and of the Board of Guardians for seven years previous to 1907, 46932.—Witness remembered the Thirteenth Section being put into force in three unions of the county—Belmullet, Swinford, and Westport, and under that Section they were allowed to levy a threepenny rate, 46933-4.—The Government contribution was 75 per cent., but the cost over the whole county was £1,700, 46936.—Witness considered this a degrading section, 46934.

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Holdings in Killala.

There were 909 holdings in Killala Union under £4 valuation; 534 between £4 and £8; 331 between £8 and £10; 78 between £10 and £15; and 146 over £20, 47078.—There were within the Union of Killala 6,728 acres of land in the hands of landlords, let under the eleven months system; all the land round Killala was waste, 47080, 47260.—There was no population but an occasional herd's man, and a few persons living in the town, 47080, 47261.—The land was not all good; but some was superior, some medium, and some rotten land, 47083, 47087.—The valuation was about 10*s.* per acre, 47085-6.

Landlords in Killala.

2,959 acres were held in the union by Miss S. Pringle, and was superior land, though her 228 acres at Carrowmore, near Ballycastle, and value at £36, was not superior, 47078, 47081-2.—Other landlords were Miss A. G. K. Gore, who held 483 acres, Mrs. B. W. Bourke, who held 1,080; Mr. J. V. Knox, 338; Mrs. P. Knox-Gore, 340; Mr. J. M'Cormick, 197; Mr. G. O. M. Ormsby, 266; Sir R. Palmer, Mrs. Saunders-Knox-Gore, the Earl of Arran, 47078. 47029.—These figures were taken from the return of Mr. Ginnell, and that of the Clerk to the Union, and witness did not think them misleading, 47077, 47079, 47084.—Part of Killala Union is greatly congested, 47140.—But only two divisions are scheduled as congested, of which Lacken North is one; the whole Union should, in the opinion of witness and the Board of Guardians, be scheduled as congested, 47280, 47284, 47290.

Tyrawley.

The Killala District Council embraced the greater part of the Barony of Tyrawley; Ballycastle was the most important centre; the population was about 9,000; the area 165 square miles; the valuation £20,437; more than half the tenant farmers were under £5 valuation; these men had taken up bog, mountain, or marshy bottom lands, and, after reclaiming them, were compelled to pay increased rents, 47087.—This land was acquired thirty years ago, before the Act of 1881, 47089.—The holdings were much improved, and might support tenants in a good year, but in bad times they applied to the Union and the Government, 47089.

The Thirteenth Section of the Act.

There were then 500 families in Killala Union, 47113.—And, if application were made to Government, the district was asked to put the Thirteenth Section in force; under this section the Government paid £75, and the Union and County Council £25 out of every £100 expended, 47089.—This a fairly liberal arrangement, 47091, 47101.—But the money was not expended to the best advantage, 47109.—And was expended in the employment of men, women, and children, at low wages of 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day, on heavy work, 47089-90.—The system was degrading and demoralising, 47089, 47095.—It was the last shift, 47090.—And only accepted in cases of real necessity, 47101.—If avoidable, should never be employed, 47090.—The people continued to beg from year to year, 47091, 47100, 47107.—Though the Government might improve their position, 47094.—As it had improved the large holdings, and benefited important persons, 47111.—Work should be provided, other than relief-work, 47099, 47102.—No country but Ireland had to apply to Government for relief, 47092.—The money spent on relief works should be applied to drainage, opening up of railways, or some industry, 47111, 47278.

Responsibility of Local Authorities for Unwise Expenditure.

The local authority determined the expenditure of the money, subject to its being used to provide work, 47105-6.—The impression left by the witness on the Commission was that local authorities were to blame for unwise expenditure, 47109.—Witness was of opinion that the high salaries of officials absorbed most of the money, 47109.—The County Council unanimously objected to the working of Section Thirteen, 47110.—Only relief for distress, since industries are non-existent, was division grazing lands for the enlargement of small holdings, 47112-3, 47133, 47136.

Witness's Holdings.

Witness agreed with Mr. Melvin's evidence—agreed on the questions of shopkeepers owning grass lands, 47114-5.—Witness held a twenty-acre field, situated on the Madden Estate, on the eleven months' system, 47116, 47121, 47126, 47145.—Which he had held for twenty years as accommodation land, 47145.—And also a non-residential farm of eighty acres, at Kilfian, on which were two houses made into one, 47118-9, 47117, 47149.—These he would be willing to relinquish if required by the State for the enlargement of small holdings, 47121, 47141, 47146.—Witness had, in fact, offered in Judge Ross's Court to relinquish it, 47134, 47141.—Though he understood tenants of long standing who wished to retain their land, had the preference, 47146.—Witness would be willing to relinquish his holding, because he would prefer to attend to his shop, and believed he would be "fairly handled," 47122.—This expression was meaningless, as applied to grass lands, since he would simply relinquish his tenancy, and no money would pass, 47146, 47148-9.—But he thought an acre, or grass for a cow, should be retained by him, if the land were distributed, 47149-51.

"Fair Price of Land."

Expression "fairly handled" might apply to the non-residential farm, in which he had a tenant-right, 47157.—For this he should expect a "fair price," 47153.—Witness could not indicate by a fair price, but the buyer would know, 47154.—Witness's farms varied as to profits—some years good; some years not so good, 47157, 47171-2.—The profits might be estimated from his books, which he did not keep accurately, 47156, 47158.—If the Estates Commissioners should offer him a sum of money producing a less income than he received from the farms he would be satisfied, 47160.—Considering the affair a speculation, 47160.—Because he would not complain of a price fixed by Act of Parliament, 47161-2.—Even if he did not consider the price "fair," 47169.—Witness would estimate his profits from the farm on a ten years' average, 47173.—And would be content with a price producing this income, less twenty or twenty-five per cent., which might be considered as representing risk and wages of management, 47174-6.—He believed the Estates Commissioners would give a price representing the value of the land, though they would not be guided by him, 47164-5.—The value of the farm to him was the amount of money it brought in, 46167-8.—The farm was a secondary source of income, 47179.—And higgling about the farm might injure the shop, 47180.

Witness would ask more if the Farm were his Sole Livelihood.

But if witness depended entirely upon the farm he would not be content with a price returning twenty or twenty-five per cent. less than his income from the farm, 47181.—Witness was of opinion that it was unfair to dispossess tenants residing on, and living out of, their land, 47182.—But land held on the eleven months' system should be acquired by Government, for the relief of small holders, 47188.—And the eleven months man should be eliminated, 47190.

Non-Residential Holders to be More Leniently Dealt with than Eleven Months Men.

The non-residential man was in a different category, having a bigger interest in the land, 47193.—As much as the landlord, 47170.—But, if the division of the large ranches did not provide sufficient land for the congests, the non-residential holdings, in addition, should be compulsorily acquired, 47194, 47201-2.—The non-residential holder was less wealthy than the landlord, 47194, 47198.—And less able to survive compulsory deprivation, 47198.—Witness thought that the processes of acquiring grazing lands and non-residential holdings should not proceed side by side, because the two classes were distinct, 47196.—But, if the ranches in Killala Union were parcelled out, there would be land enough for enlarging of small holdings, or provision of new holdings for congests in Kilcummin, Rathlacken, and along the coast to Balderrig, and also for sons of tenants, who now emigrated, 47204, 47205.—There was no industry to retain them in Ireland, 47204.—Nearly all farmers in the union had some friend in America who assisted him with money, without this they could not pay their way; witness himself cashed £700 or £800 every Christmas for his customers, and the post office cashed large sums, enabling farmers to pay their rates, taxes, and other debts, 47024.—Witness did not say "Mayo for Mayo," but would speak first on behalf of his own county, though anxious for the welfare of all Ireland, 47206-8.—Not "First for myself, next for the town, next for the union," 47209.

Conditions of Life in Lacken.

No engineering works are done in Lacken, but £50 was given as relief, 47282.—The people are working well, but £50 is a small sum, 47284.—And the expenditure is limited to that part of the union, 47284.—There were eighty or ninety houses in Rafftay, 47285.—Lacken has a good harbour, and a fairly good pier; its inhabitants are half farmers and half fishermen; the County Council endeavours to put things in repair, 47286.—Houses are occasionally improved, and cattle and pigs removed, 47282.—There were sometimes ten or twelve persons living in the same house; outbuildings were necessary; Father Conway was doing his best to make the relief scheme workable, 47290.—Properties had been purchased at Belderig and Derry (at Mrs. M'Donagh's); there are no grants, but the property is maintained by the local authority, which builds houses, engages engineers, and makes roads into the village, 47288.—Witness would like to see these operations extended, 47289.—There was no Parish Committee at Belderrig, 47291.—The number of officials in Killala Union is fifteen, 47292.

Character of the Western Peasantry.

The peasantry of the West of Ireland were not too lazy to work, if they had the facilities of farmers in other parts of Ireland—good land, large buildings, and low rents—there would be no distress, even now; the gift of more land would rehabilitate the peasant of the West, 47209.

Price of Land.—Number of Years' Purchase Demanded.

But landlords are unwilling to sell land to tenants; few landlords in Killala Union have sold to tenants, the largest landlords hold out for exorbitant prices, 47209-10.—They acquired their land after Oliver Cromwell's war in Ireland, and now ask twenty-four to twenty-six years' purchase for second judicial tenancies, together with a bonus of three to five years; witness would not recommend anyone to give more than eighteen years' purchase for second judicial tenancies, in view of the climatic changes in Ireland, and the probability of the importation of Canadian and Argentine cattle, 47210.—Sir Roger Palmer's tenants made offers he would not accept, other landlords demanded 24½ years' purchase; this witness considered exorbitant, 47212.—Taking into account that before the passing of the Act of 1903, they were willing to sell at eighteen or twenty years' purchase, under the Ashbourne Act, 47217, 47216.—And now refuse good offers from tenants, 47216.—Mr. Pratt, before the 1903 Act was passed, offered to sell his land for eighteen years' purchase, and after 1903 Act came into operation he sold it at 24¼ years' purchase, this was a case in point, 47219-20.—Witness, acquainted with agrarian history, recognised the difference in position of landlords before and after the Act of 1903, 47217-8.—Witness is not aware whether landlords were solvent or not, but understood that some, being insolvent, still refused to sell, 47218.—Under the Act of 1903, though the same annuity is paid for 68½ years, instead of 49, which is a great difference, 47223-4.—Witness considered that the price of land had risen since 1903, whether that was the object of the Act or no, landlords were now looking for a greater number of years' purchase, instead of meeting their tenants half-way, 47225-6; tenants in witness's district had made fairly good offers, which were refused, 47225-6.—Witness would not consider landlords demanded exorbitant prices for land, if sum demanded, if invested at three and a-half per cent. would not exceed previous income from land; witness had based his opinion on number of years' purchase, 47229.

Department of Agriculture conferred no benefits on Killala.—Use of Spraying Machines.

The Union of Killala had derived no benefits from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, the suggestion of a County Committee are ignored by them, 47229, 47236.—The County Committee asked some years ago for the supply of spraying machines to the congested or poor districts of the Union; this the Committee refused, though they had ample funds for the purpose, 47229.—Notice was given to the Department in 1907 of the appearance of potato blight, and though in answer to a question in Parliament by Mr. Flynn, the Vice-President replied that means were being taken to combat it, no action was taken in the Union, 47229.—Mr. Russell stated that thousands of leaflets had been sent out, but, to witness's knowledge, no leaflets were received in Killala, 47229.—It was stated also that large posters were affixed to police barracks, and that men had been sent out to give instructions in spraying, and to repair machines; also that machines would be sold at 27*s*. 6*d*. (cost price), and sulphate of copper at 36 per cent. (cost price); no machines were received in Killala, 47229, 47277.—Though witness believed they had been asked for immediately the blight appeared; the Union had passed a resolution to apply, 47267-70.—An official reply was sent by the Department, witness could not say whether it was a promise to send spraying material, but, if so, the material would now be useless, 47271-3.—When it was pointed out to witness that a great quantity of spraying material was sent to Belmullet, he replied that an official from the Department required guarantees before supplying the material, 47229, 47274.—Which

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few people were able to pay, 47274.—The people understood the use of the spraying machines, 47229.—And every farmer in the Union used them, 47235.—Though farmers of under £4 valuation were unable to obtain machines, 47235.—And in districts where the people are very poor, the absence of spraying was a great loss to them, 47229.

SPRAYING MACHINES SUPPLIED BY SHOPKEEPERS.

Shopkeepers in the Union lent machines on hire, and others sold machines and materials, 47230.—The machines were lent out at a shilling a day, or a shilling for a small field of potatoes, 47231-2.—It might be possible to let them at a shilling for two days; local shopkeepers have sold sulphate of copper at 35*s.* per ton, as cheaply as the Department, 47230 47277.—Witness had bought it from the United Alkali Company, 47230.—Shopkeepers had to wait a long time for their money, 47230, 47277.—Witness did not say that the Department should compete with shopkeepers, but that, considering their boasted philanthropy, they should do something for the poor, 47234.—It was better that the machines should be locally supplied, 47237.—The Department imported people from England and Scotland, who considered the English rather than Ireland, 47237.—While the local people, who knew the district, 47237.—And paid a penny rate, 47234, 47237.—Obtained no results for their money and suggestions, 47229, 47234, 47236, 47250, 47278.—Witness had never seen an official of the Department in the district, 47249, 47277.

REFUSAL TO STRIKE A RATE.

The Union might refuse to strike a rate, but those who receive benefits in their own districts would oppose this, 47239.—And the majority of the Council considered that they had had good value for their penny, 47240-1.—Some years ago the Council had refused to strike a rate, and an influential deputation of persons who were receiving benefits, had begged them to revoke it, 47242.

DISTRICTS IN MAYO BENEFITED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Witness considered that the part of Mayo about Westport received the principal benefit, where they received a grant for training or convent schools.—Witness was aware that Ballaghadereen and Claremorris received grants, 47243-7.—Ballaghadereen was not in the administrative county, 47247.

PREMIUM BULLS AND BOARS IN KILLALA UNION.

Clegg Royson was not a premium bull, but the property of Dr. Macaulay, 47256.—There was a premium bull at Drumroe, and one at Ballycastle, 47258-9.—Mullavany, where there was a premium bull, was not in Killala; there were nine nominations about Killala, 47257.—Mr. Thomas Dillon had a premium boar at Rafftay—it was easy enough to give a boar, but a poor man could not get a boar without giving £2, 47264.—Witness did not consider he was inconsistent in making these statements, and saying also that the Department had done nothing for the Killala neighbourhood, 47265.—Nor did he wish to withdraw his statement about the Department, 47267.—Which many persons would confirm, 47265.

EGG STATION.

Mrs. Dillon had an egg station, but witness considered it useless, 47266.

HIGH SALARIES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

All the Department's activities were equally useless, and the funds were squandered in high official salaries, 47278.—There were several important fishing stations in the Union, but from want of proper harbours and piers, and neglect of ancient substitutes for piers, fishermen could only go to sea in fine weather; the fishermen's boats (many of them canvas curraghs) were unsuitable, and when the fishermen got a good haul, they had to sell it locally, and could not send such fish as turbot and salmon to the proper markets, for lack of railway facilities, and therefore only obtained a half or a third of the price they would command in London or Dublin, 47278, 47286.

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A COAST RAILWAY NEEDED.

A coast railway would serve the whole Union of Killala, and would develop and improve the country, producing better prices, more prosperous fairs and markets, and allowing the mineral and flag quarries to be worked to advantage, 47278.—Witness was in favour of the Blacksod Railway scheme—if the Blacksod, Collooney, and Belmullet scheme could be carried cut soon, the peasantry suffering from the failure of the potato crop would obtain employment and keep themselves and their families till better times.—Witness wished the Government to establish the All Red line to Canada, 47279.

LAND HELD BY SHOPKEEPERS AS AN INVESTMENT.

Shopkeepers acquired land as an investment, because there were so few suitable investments in Ireland, 47117.—If the country were more prosperous shopkeepers would not need to hold land, 47121.—In small, backward country towns, shopkeepers were entirely occupied with their business, but this depends on their business methods, 47122.—They buy land instead of gambling on the Stock Exchange, 47117.—If the county were more prosperous they would not necessarily buy the tenants' holdings, but would have more money to invest, and do more business, instead of farming, and could employ their surplus wealth in some other form of investment, 47117.

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CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD DID GOOD.—PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS.

Agreed generally with preceding witnesses, 47294.—The Congested Districts Board was doing good, more than the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, but it would be more useful if two or three new members were added to it, appointed or nominated by the County Councils of counties at present unrepresented on the Board, 47294.—Donegal was already represented by Dr. O'Donnell, and Mayo, by Father Denis O'Hara—other counties might complain of not being represented, 47295.—Witness would not necessarily limit the number to three or four, 47296.—Men with local knowledge were useful, 47296.

INCREASE OF BOARD'S POWERS.

The Congested Districts Board should have charge of the purchase of land in Connaught, and in the congested counties of Donegal, Kerry and Cork, unless on any estate the tenants were prepared to purchase direct, or through the Estates Commissioners, and should have discretionary power to schedule as congested, any electoral division, or part of a division, in the congested counties, 47296.—Present definition of congestion was arbitrary and unjust, as the presence of three or four large demenses in a poor division would prevent the division from being scheduled as congested, 47296.—The Congested Districts Board should have more money for the purchase of land; for grants to rival banks, to parish schemes, and such like, 47297.—Compulsory powers were needed in some cases, where landlords refuse to sell at all, or refuse to sell at fair prices, 47308.

MIGRATION.

The most urgent duty of the Board was to relieve congestion by migrating uneconomic tenants to grass lands, 47297.—This could not be done where no grass lands existed, but there is available grass land in Mayo, and where no grass land exists, the uneconomic tenant should be migrated to another county, 47298, 47303.—To the nearest available land, 47300 47303.—Though in Mayo, the congests of Mayo should have the first claim, 47301.—The matter should be considered as part of a broad national policy, 47302, 47305.—For if migration were confined within county boundaries, it would be impossible in counties without grass lands, 47305.—And admitting sons of tenants to new tenancies would exclude migration in many counties, while migration is the best way for congestion—

sons of tenants should have land only after congested persons were satisfied, and by this means some deserving young men might be saved from emigration, 47306.—Public men, both clergy and representative men, and the general public, would be willing to assist a public authority, such as the Congested Districts Board, in migrating uneconomic tenants, 47304, 47307.—There would be a general disposition to act reasonably, 47304.—Though some selfish persons might be unwilling to assist, 47307.—And the majority would be strong enough to get their view adopted, 47308.—Without any great conflict, 47307-8.

"Fair Price" was Difficult to Fix.

It was not easy to agree on a fair standard of price, 47309.—But a landlord compelled to sell should not be left worse off than before, 47310.—Though he might reasonably be offered somewhat less than his net income, owing to the greater security of his income after sale, than when it was dependent on land, 47311.—Which is uncertain, owing to the possible effect on the value of grass land, of possible importation of Canadian cattle, 47312.—There were hypothetical difficulties, but likely to arise, 47312.—And since the purchaser chose his time for buying, 47313.—A limit must be set to the consideration of future contingencies, 47314.—And the value of land is most fairly estimated by considering the returns from it on a five, ten, or fifteen years' average, 47314.—Private interests must not be injured, even for the public good, 47314.

Landlords unwilling to Sell at a Fair Price.

Witness believed that landlords would refuse to sell at a fair price, for to his own knowledge landlords had refused, in answer to a deputation of tenants, refused to consider the question, one refusing even to reply, or to acknowledge the request, 47315.—Power of compulsory purchase were more needed in the case of grass lands than of tenanted land, 47317-8.

Higher Prices demanded for Grass Land than for Untenanted Land.

The price asked for grass lands by landlords would be higher; one landlord, a reasonable man, demanded twenty-seven years' purchase, plus the bonus, of a deputation of tenants, accompanied by witness, though he had previously offered it at eighteen years' purchase, and nothing had occurred in the interval to enhance the value of the land, 47319.—Witness would only resort to compulsion when the landlord, offered by a Government Department, the Estates Commissioners, or the Congested Districts Board, a price that would leave him no worse off than at present, should refuse to consider the bargain, 47319.

Little Land sold in Mayo.

Comparatively little land had been sold in Mayo, owing to the high prices asked by the landlords, together with the possibility that Canadian cattle would be imported, and the prevalent storms, which in July and August were destructive to crops, more so, even, than the potato blight, 47319.

Selection of Migrants and position of Tenants Remaining.

Witness considered that the migrants selected from a district should be the active, young, strong, and energetic men, 47320.—With promising families, those likely to do well, and make a good living, 47319-21, 47323.—Because old men do not like to be removed from their surroundings, 47319.—This would not leave the congested districts in a worse position than before, 47324.—Those left behind would only be unfit in the matter of age, 47325.—And would do better when they had more land, 47325.—The family might be weak at the time of migration, but likely to grow up and do well, the migrating tenant would be succeeded by his son, or his daughter's husband, 47326-7.—It would be wise to migrate five or six people from the same district, that they might be less lonely in their new homes, since their associations would remain the same, it would make little difference whether they came from the same or adjoining townlands, 47321-2.

Substantial Men as Migrants.

Migration was carried out at a cost to the State, which should reap equivalent, or at any rate some advantage, and in migrating tenants, must consider the quantity of land he leaves to be divided, but in Mayo there were no large farmers who were likely to be removed, and the plan was impracticable in Mayo, 47332-3.—However, the removal of substantial farmers is the best policy, and had been kept in view by the Board when arranging migration, 47331, 47332-3.

Inducements to Migration.

A substantial farmer would expect large compensation for removal, 47336.—Which would seldom be in money, 47337.—But in the obtaining of a better holding, 47335.—It was wise to offer a prosperous man considerable inducements to migrate, 47336.—The migrating tenant would relinquish the tenant-right of the holding he vacates, 47340.—And acquire the tenant-right, as well as the landlord right, of the new holding, 47341.—And would be in a good position, if the money demanded as payment for his new house and fences, were not unreasonably high, and did not unduly increase the annuity he paid for the new holding, 47341-3.—He could do as he chose about accepting the terms, 47344.—And his successor in his original holding, should pay him a sum agreed upon by the Congested Districts Board, or a similar body, as compensation, 47336-8.—This sum, the migrant might use to buy stock, 47338.

Loans to Congests who had received additional Land.

The congest, who received part of the migrant's land, should pay a sum (to be fixed by the Congseted Districts Board, 47345), for the tenant right of the land added to his holding, 47345-6.—Which sum should go to the State, to recoup it for the expense of migrating the original owner of the land, 47346.—This would much decrease the expenses, 47336.—The congested tenant, if unable to pay compensatoin to his predecessor, and a sum for the tenant-right of his newly-acquired land, should be able to obtain a loan at a low rate of interest, or to have his annuity increased, to cover losses largely, 47339, 47346.

Government should undertake Arterial Drainage and encourage Tenants to Drain Holdings.

A system of drainage was the most urgent need of the district, after the relief of congestion, arterial drainage should be first considered, and the Congested Districts Board, or a similar body, should have power, when purchasing lands, to have them drained, 47346.—And to drain waste lands, 47356.—If the Board were to widen and deepen rivers, and provide arterial drainage, it would be possible for tenants to drain their own lands into the rivers, and they should be advised, or exhorted to do so, 47346.—There being no power at present to compel them to do so, 47350.—There was no more urgent need in Ireland than drainage, and no more profitable manner of spending money, 47347.—For the land was only producing half its possible return, for want of drainage, 47346.—And the land was in some cases lying under water at the time when seed should have been sown, and consequently produced no crop, 47346.

Necessity of a Central Board of Drainage.

A drainage scheme would be better undertaken by a Central Board, 47355-6.—And the details should be delegated to the County Councils, 47355.—Or a Board might, in its own county, carry out the scheme under the central authority, 47353.—Local bodies should operate in their own districts, 47355.—And would carry out the work efficiently, 47353.—But are not suitable for making a scheme, since adjoining counties might not agree as to the scheme, 47354.

Maintenance of Drainage Works.

The drainage works should be maintained (1) by a cess or levy on the district; (2) the money necessary to keep the rivers open should be provided by an assessment on holders of land benefited by drainage.

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in proportion to their valuation, in perpetuity, 47348-9.—Any scheme for arterial drainage must also depend on the contributions of the local authority, which should have ample legal powers enabling them to undertake the work, 47351-2.

Tree-planting on Waste Lands.

The Congested Districts Board had also done good by tree-planting—the country was deficient in timber, and existing timber was constantly felled, leaving the country increasingly bare, 47356.—If the Congested Districts Board had power to plant waste hillsides, it would provide employment and improve the district, 47356.—Where there was much land, not even used for grazing, except a small number of miserable sheep, not worth a 1*s.* per acre, but capable of being made profitable by planting, 47358-9—Tree-planting on a large scale must be undertaken by Government, 47384.

Tree-planting by Landholders.

Proprietors of lands should be encouraged by the Congested Districts Board to plant trees round their houses, for the shelter of cattle, 47359.—The majority of landholders would consent to do this, 47360.—And (despite the experience of the nuns of Foxford, who had distributed 12,000 trees, and found that the people refused to plant belts of trees, but insisted on planting in rows, for the purpose of saving land), witness believed that a majority might be induced by the influence of public men and public bodies, to plant belts of trees instead of rows, if they had more than a small quantity of land, 47361.—Witness was not aware that a belt of trees less than seventy yards wide was useless as a shelter belt, 47362.—Trees grew splendidly at Dr. Pratt's place, and even trees not planted in belts, 47364.—Even single trees would grow, 47365.—As on witness's own land, 47366.

Reasons why County Council not successful in Tree-planting.

The Congested Districts Board was the most suitable body for encouraging tree-planting, the County Council Committee, of which witness was a member, was not succeeding in this work, 47366.—The Parish Committees might do some good, if they were provided with funds for the purpose, 47367.—But it was all a question of obtaining the requisite funds, 47369, 47374.—The Agricultural Committee of the County Council could only undertake tree-planting at the expense of more important work, 47370.—Since they could only raise a rate of ½*d.* in the £, for agricultural instruction, and 1*d.* for technical instruction, being limited to 1*d.* in the £ for the two, and having no power (to witness's knowledge), to raise a ½*d.* rate for tree-planting, 47376-8.—At any rate, the sum available was so small as to be inconsiderable, 47379.—The County Committee, moreover, operated over the whole country, whereas it was essential that efforts to encourage tree-planting should be concentrated in smaller areas, 47369, 47373.—The Parish Committee would have more knowledge and show more interest in the matter, than the County Committee, 47373.

Instruction in Tree-planting and Grants of Trees.

The Congested Districts Board might buy trees by the gross and sell them cheaply, thus encouraging planting, 47380-1.—And should give instruction in planting, 47381.—Since the people had little knowledge of how to plant trees, 47369.—Instruction is now given for the County Committee by Mr. Gordon, who is doing good work in instruction as to tree-planting, given to those in his district who apply for it, and making second visits to inspect results, 47369.—Parish Committees might encourage planting by offering a grant, 47375, 47385-6.—Tree-planting might be done by the Congested Districts Board, before handing over land to tenants, but this would probably be dearer than if the tenant did the planting himself, 47383.—If a certain proportion of trees were granted to them, they would comply with necessary conditions, such as fencing the belts of trees, 47382, 47387.—And would prevent trespassing, 47388.

KELLY, Rev. JOHN—*continued.*

Loans for Improvements would prevent Migration.

If the tenants could obtain loans from the Congested Districts Board for the improvement of their holdings, they would be able to live without going to England as harvest-men, which was an uneconomic proceeding in the long run, as they left their land and crops untended, except by their wives, and by children who ought to be at school; if they could get loans on the security of their holdings, the repayment of which could be spread out over many years, they could do valuable reclamation work, which would more than repay them for the loss of the higher direct earnings in England, 47388.

Industries Non-Existent.

If anything could be done to establish industries, it would be an advantage to the district, which now had none, 47388-9.

Lack of Transit Facilities injure the Cattle Trade.

Transit facilities were insufficient in Ballina Union, there was no railway nearer to Belmullet than Ballina—the inhabitants hope for a branch line to Belmullet, 47389.—This would enable farmers to obtain a better price for their cattle, 47389.—Witness (who had lived in Sligo) would be surprised to hear that cattle prices in Belmullet compared favourably with those in Sligo, 47390.—And he was sure, from hearsay knowledge, that people in his district would get prices for their produce equal to those obtained in Ballina, which was distant forty English miles, 47391.—If the Midland Great Western people said that this was probably or actually true, it was because they were personally interested, 47392.—And if their opponents did not deny the statement, it was because they did not think it necessary, for it is absurd to state that cattle can be driven forty miles from Belmullet to Ballina, without suffering deterioration, 47393.—Cattle were not less injured by being driven forty miles than by forty miles rail, 47394.—And people who bought cattle at Belmullet took them to Meath by rail, rather than road, 47396.—It was agreed that pigs were deteriorated by travelling by road, 47393-5.

Congestion in Adrigool.—Valuation of Holdings.

Adrigool, where witness resided, was a congested neighbourhood, particularly in the three divisions situate in the Castlebar and Westport Unions, in these divisions the majority of the holdings were under £5 valuation, a few were between £5 and £10, and not more than twelve or thirteen holdings were over £15 valuation. The land was wet land and moorland, or bare and rocky, all poor, but capable of reclamation, if encouragement and capital were to be had, 47396.—There were grass lands in the Crossmolina South divisions (to which these congests might be removed) of a valuation of £1,049, and amounting to 2,000 acres, excluding demesne, which were held by landlords and graziers, 47396-7.—And two of these had valuations of £302 and £242 respectively, 47397.—And in North Crossmolina, there were seven persons owning 2,563 acres, of a gross value of £890, 47397.—These lands should be bought by the State and distributed to congests, at a reasonable price, 47397.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.

Congested Districts Board.—Proposed Alterations in its Constitution and Powers.

Witness proposed that by a change in the constitution of the Congested Districts Board, powers should be given to it, as to the Estates Commissioners, to act from day to day, 47398.—To prevent the delay, which (witness was informed) now arose from waiting from meetings, 47399.—Witness did not consider the difficulty would be well met by the appointment of paid Commissioners, since Ireland was overdone with paid officials, 47400-1.—And thought the work could be done by committees of the Board, 47400.—Paid officials might be used as members of the Board, 47402.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—*continued.*

—Witness would be satisfied if the Board continued to meet at intervals, paying officials to carry out its instructions in the intervals; these paid officials to have larger powers than the present officers of the Board, 47403.—The Board should be maintained as an independent body, apart from the Estates Commissioners, 47403.—The Board should be more representative of classes and districts than at present, 47566-7.—There being too few persons on it at present, and very few from Connaught—the Board should have power to buy land outside congested districts, for the purposes of settling poor tenants, also from non-congested districts, 47566.—As at present land was purchased for the benefit of persons from congested districts, while the equally poor in non-congested districts could not be assisted, 47569, 47570.—This should only apply to small tenants on the fringe of congested areas, 47571.—Congested areas should be scheduled by townlands, rather than by any other unit, 47566.—A resident agricultural instructor should be appointed in every district, with control of a fair-sized farm, 47567.

SPORTING RIGHTS.

The Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners should take precautions to preserve sporting rights on estates sold to them, and to apply the income from these to the relief of annuities payable by tenants on such estates, 47567.—No money was now advanced by Government in respect of sporting rights, 47568.

TURBARY BOG.

The Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board should take upon themselves the functions of striping and mapping turbary bog, upon estates which have been sold direct to the tenants, and witness also suggested that a fair price should be paid for turbary, estimated upon its value for fuel, 47569.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE UNNECESSARY.

There was a large quantity of grass land in Mayo, which owners were willing to sell, either to the Estates Commissioners or to the Congested Districts Board, simultaneously with their tenanted lands, 47403, 47420.—At a fair price, and therefore compulsory powers were unnecessary, and were only demanded in order to enable purchasers to obtain lands at prices unfair to the owners, 47403-4.—Compulsory powers were not needed in dealing with unreasonable landlords refusing to sell land necessary to be acquired, as equally good land might be obtained from other owners, 47408, 47410.—The unreasonable landlord would probably sell if he could obtain a fair price, 47405, 47418-9.—And in exceptional cases, where the landlord is obstinately unreasonable, compulsory powers might be resorted to, 47407, 47419.—As a last resort, 47416.—If the necessity is clearly shown, 47407, 47415.—And where compulsory powers were used, the owner should be treated in the manner adopted by railways, 47406, 47413, 47411.—And offered compensation on a liberal scale, 47412-3.

UNDESIRABILITY OF DISTRIBUTING GRASS LANDS.

Witness did not think the division of grass lands would benefit the country and the small proprietors, 47420, 47432, 47435.—It would destroy the great grazing industry, 47420.—Which was comparatively unaffected by the changeable climate, 47430, 47439.—And was a great advantage to the smaller tenant, in providing a market for his stores, 47420.—There was not at present too large a quantity of land in Ireland under grass, 47438.—Though some land would not stand continuous grazing, 47436.—And it was desirable that small holdings should be enlarged, 47437.—But if the land would pay better under tillage than grass, the owners would till it, knowing their own business best, 47438, 47440.—Some of the grass land was unsuitable for tillage, 47420, 47431.—Though this was only a small proportion, 47433-4.—And some of the remainder might not pay for breaking up, 47433.—It was easier for a large grazier to succeed than for a small one, 47426-7.—And witness could not say that a man with a forty-acre holding, who failed at grazing, would make a profit at mixed farming, 47428-9.—As some land was suitable, and some unsuitable for tillage, 47431.—The system for giving agricultural instruction to farmers was not good, but of late it had been undertaken by the County Councils and the Congested Districts Board, 47441.

ATTITUDE OF WITNESS.

Witness was not an agricultural expert, and would give no opinion as to whether the present system was the best possible, 47443-6.—He knew little about mixed farming in Ulster, 47447.—The Belgian system might be unsuited to the Irish climate—however, if the breaking up of grass land were approved, owners in Mayo would sell grazing and tenanted lands at a fair price, 47420.

FAIR PRICE OF LAND.

A "fair price" was such a sum as, when invested in securities at 3½ per cent., will bring in to the seller his net income from the land, 47421-47448.—Meaning the net income after deducting agency expenses, and, in the case of grazing land, also taxes, 47420-3.—The net income should be calculated over a term of fifteen or twenty years—this income could be best ascertained by reference to the books of the property, 47449.

LANDLORDS WILLING TO OFFER BOOKS FOR INSPECTION.

Witness considered that the landlords would be glad to offer their books for inspection in the case of a *bona fide* offer of a "fair price," 47450, 47453-4, 47457-8.—That is, if the authority had the power to give a "fair price," 47455.—Witness had not known a case of books being refused in view of a fair offer, 47452.—It would not be sufficient that the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board should approach the owner, an offer being presumed, 47456.—The private affairs of landlords should not be made public, 47456.

TENANTED AND UNTENANTED LAND SOLD SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Witness, in his statement that landlords would produce their books in view of a fair offer, and be willing to sell land at a fair price, was contemplating the simultaneous sale of tenanted and untenanted land, 47403, 47458, 47461.—And if the proposed sale was of tenanted land alone, his answer was the same, 47459-60, 47462-4.—This was not said on the authority of the Landlords' Convention, but witness's opinion as to landlords of his acquaintance, 47464.—And in his opinion, when landlords refused to sell, it was on account of the insufficiency of the offer, 47464.—Witness considered if untenanted land were sold separately it should command a higher price, since a dual interest, both as owner and occupier, should be paid for, 47464.—A "fair price" is difficult to fix, which would work well under the varying circumstances of different estates and districts; Mr. Doran's method was fair in principle, but in practice has been unfair to the landlords, 47464.

MR. DORAN'S METHOD OF ESTIMATING PRICE OF GRASS LAND.

Mr. Doran's principle was to estimate the fair rent of an area of grass land, and then to give the landlord 27 years' purchase on this estimate, 47464, 47489-90.—The 27 years was not a fixed term but an average, 47490.—And Doran suggested no fixed term in case of compulsion, 47492.—This was unfair to landlords, since the estimated fair rent might be insufficient, and was substantially below the net letting value of grass land, 47464.

MR. DORAN'S ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF TENANTED LAND.

Though the Congested Districts Board had done good, Mr. Doran had not given sufficient weight to the reasons for compensating the landlord upon his net income instead of upon his estimated fair rent; judging by Mr. Doran's evidence, it would appear that the average price paid since 1903 for first term and yearly tenancies was 18½ years' purchase, and for second term tenancies 21 years' purchase, whereas

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—*continued.*

these figures covered the arrears of debt due to the landlord at the date of the sale, 47499.—This was under the voluntary system, 47500.—Mr. Doran gave three periods: prior to 1896, from 1896 to 1903, and since 1903, and in each period there was an increase on the average price paid, 47501-2.

Rent as Evidence of Value of Grass Lands.

If for fifteen or twenty years a particular rent had been paid for a grass farm, this was evidence of its letting value, 47488, 47519.—And afforded evidence that the landlord should be compensated on the basis of net income, rather than on a theoretical income, prophesied by the Estates Commissioners, 47488.

Compensation of Owners relinquishing Grazing Lands.

Owners, on giving up their grazing lands which were needed for congests, acted virtually under compulsion, and should receive the full value of their property, and in addition 10 or 20 per cent. as compensation, 47464.—This compensation, though not actually legal, was now customary, in respect of owners selling under compulsion, 47464-5.—And though witness did not actually ask for it, he pointed out that Irish landlords were asked to take less than was customary elsewhere, 47468, 47474.—Under the Lands Clauses Act this compensation was 10 per cent., and in the case of railways 20 per cent., 47466.—And though in this case there was no severance, compensation was necessary as the sale was compulsory, 47467.—Though formally the compulsion only amounted to exigency, 47464.

Irish Land a good security.

Irish land was not so bad a security that to part with it without compensation, while retaining the same income, was a benefit, 47478, 47492.—On the contrary, it was a good security, as was shown by the regular payment of rents, 47470-2.—On most estates in Mayo, tenanted and untenanted land, a year's rent had been paid within the year, and this for the last twenty-one years, 47492.—Witness knew little of English rents, and did not state (in answer to questions) whether he would consider an estate in the West of Ireland an equivalent to one in England bringing in the same income, 47472-3.

Questions relevant to the Valuation of Grass Land.

He saw the point of the questioners in suggesting that the weather was uncertain in that locality, and that renewed agrarian trouble might injure landholders, 47474a-5.—But witness saw no reason why the landlord should not therefore receive his net income, with full security for the future, 47475, 47487.—Nor should speculative considerations, such as the possibility of the importation of Canadian cattle, causing injury to grazing lands, be taken into account when considering the price to be given for grass land, 47477, 47481, 47487.—The fall in gilt-edged securities may continue, and the capital value of landed property be depreciated, though the income remains the same; and again the price of land may rise, in consequence possibly of the adoption of fair trade, 47481.—Rents have been paid regularly, and though they may be reduced, securities also may decline in value, 47484.—Witness could not say why Irish Land Stock was depreciated, it was Government Stock, 47480.—And had nothing to do with the value of Irish land; the ultimate security of Irish Land Stock is the State, 47485-6.—These considerations would not affect the sale of stocks and shares, 47478.

Rents of small Holdings not paid from produce of the Holding.

Witness, though taking payment of rent as an indication of the value of land, could not state that rents were always paid from the proceeds of the holding itself, in the case of small holdings, 47496.—Sometimes that was impossible, 47498.—As in the case of uneconomic holders who went to England as harvestmen, 47494, 47497.—But in the majority of cases it was so paid, 47498.—And witness knew nothing of payment by means of money from America, 49494.—If this were so, it was possible that the security for payment of rent in the future was not based upon the value of the land, 47499.—But the demand for grass land in Mayo was improving, and the grass rents had been maintained in Mayo for many years, 47488.—Yet Mayo was not rack-rented, since the reduction of rents in the country averaged less than any but two or three counties, 47499.

Father O'Hara's method of valuation.

Father O'Hara had suggested that a landlord in Connaught should receive 20 per cent. bonus upon the price of his estate, or a sum which when invested at 4 per cent. should bring him in his net income.—If these suggestions were carried out together, the great majority of Mayo owners would be willing to sell their tenanted and untenanted lands together, except their demesne and purely home farms; witness believed this, as the 4 per cent. with the bonus would be nearly equal to the 3½ per cent. in the other case, 47488.—It was evident from the prices realised at the sale of small holdings that the tenants' interest in these was worth from ten to twenty years' purchase, the value of the tenants' interest makes the rent secure, and the Treasury acquired the security of both landlord's and tenant's interest when advancing purchase money, 47499.

Valuation of Grass Lands on the basis of Poor Law Valuation.

It had been suggested that the poor law valuation plus one-third thereof, should be taken as a minimum basis of compensation in the case of grass lands, 47528.—But this would be a false basis, as the valuation was completed in 1857, since when prices had risen and many improvements had been made by landlords, 47528.—The prices of produce and cattle were enhanced since the passing of the Act of 1881, 47530.—This the witness had from a return issued by the Land Commission, 47529.—Ranging from 1886 to 1905—but the Commission had a report stating that prior to 1880, prices were higher than in 1905, 47530, 47533a.—Witness was of opinion that the cost of labour had not increased since 1880, 47531.—For though the wages of labouring men had increased, 47533.—Much labour was done on the farms by the tenants, which cost them nothing, 47532.

Valuation of Grass Lands on Mr. Stuart's Method.

With regard to the estimation of value of grass farms, witness referred to the evidence of Mr. Stuart, Chief Inspector of the Estates Commissioners; Mr. Stuart, in answer to question 17571, suggested the offer of twenty-seven years' purchase on the gross fair rent of grazing lands, 47533a.—This was dangerous for the landlord, since he must depend on the judgment of one or two men as to what is a gross fair rent; witness considered £2,500, £2,000, or any lesser sum, an absurd estimate of gross fair rental in a case where a rental of £3,000 had been paid for a number of years, 47533a.

Actual Case (No. I.).

In a specific case, the rental was (roughly) £3,000 for 3,188 acres, 47533a.—Grass land, 47554.—And the estimated offer was £49,671—this invested at 3½ per cent., and added to half the bonus, would yield an income of £1,855, as compared with a gross income of £3,000, and a net income of £2,503, formerly received—the loss being £648 on net income, 47533a, 47550.—And the offer really amounting to 16½ years' purchase on gross rental, and 21½ on net rental; the landlord who refused such an offer was not unreasonable, 47534.—The income of £3,000 was for several years; how many witness could not say for certain, 47540-1.—Mr. Commissioner Bailey stated that a Western landlord refusing 27½ years' purchase, had referred to the offer as a bad joke; but the 27½ years' purchase was on the estimated rent as fixed by the inspector of the Estates Commissioners, not upon the actual net rental, 47533.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—*continued.*

ANOTHER CASE.

In another case, the landlord was offered £68,000 for his estate, of which sum £62,350 was for permanent tenanted holdings; this offer amounted to 16⅓ years' purchase of the rents on a three years' average, and considering that arrears of rent were included in the sale, and that these amounted to £1,900, the number of years' purchase was reduced by half a year; the rents were mixed, first term, second term, and non-judicial: the full particulars can be obtained from the Commissioners, 47533A.—Witness had seen the papers in reference to these cases, 47534.—These landlords should have received a sum, which invested at 3½ per cent. would not result in a loss, 47551.

REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR LANDLORDS.

Witness could not compare prices given by the Commissioners for grass lands, and ascertain their effect upon a landlord's income, but if their prices resembled the cases given above, the loss to owners must be appalling.—In Volume II., question 17630, Mr. Stuart suggested that the annuity was at least fifteen per cent. below the average fair rent, and if this were so, the landlord was asked to make an improvident bargain, and to involve himself in serious loss, 47553.—Witness did not recognise that to be relieved of mortgaged land would be a benefit, and leave the net income of the owner unaffected; he had no information as to this matter, 47535-6.—And considered the question of mortgage to be one between a man and his creditors, 47556-7.—Witness estimated that the landlord would receive half the bonus, because he was informed that in small estates, the bonus was absorbed by the expenses of the sale, 47508-10, 47509.—While in large estates the expenses amounted to half the bonus, 47508-10, 47537.

STATE SHOULD BEAR LOSS ON LAND WITH WHICH IT DEALS.

If the estates above mentioned were bought to improve the congested holdings, the difference between the market price, at which it is bought, and the price asked of tenants, should fall on the State, 47538, 47560-1.—The Commissioners might be right in exercising circumspection as to price in buying estates, and it was necessary that small holdings should be enlarged, but the loss, if any, should not fall on any particular class, 47539.—For the landlords as taxpayers, already pay their share, 47542.—And no class should be injured in promotion of the common good, 47543-6.—The shopkeepers would be benefited by the resetting of the land, but though some classes might benefit, no class should suffer, 47547-8.—If this was a new principle in the government of Ireland, they were always having new principles, 47549.

POSSIBLE LOSSES OF LANDLORDS ON SALE, AND QUESTION OF ENHANCED BONUS.

Statements by members of Commission, 47503, 47507.—Witness estimated that, on a certain rent and taking the first term at 18½ years, and second term at twenty-one years, allowing half the bonus to clear costs, the loss of the landlord would be £27 10*s.* on every £100 of income, 47508.—Witness had had little experience in sale transactions, 47509.—The larger the sale, the more cheaply it could be done, for with a small estate, the expenses absorbed all the bonus, while in a large one, they amounted to about half the bonus, 47510.—If the problem of congestion were chiefly confined to Connaught, there was reason for the suggestion that an enhanced bonus should be made to landlords in the province, 47510.—Witness withdrew the expression that Connaught landlords were "exposed to attack," by which he meant that they were asked to sell grass lands at a fair price, 47511.—If the enhanced bonus were not given, then the Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board should be directed to go elsewhere in Ireland for some of the land required to satisfy emigrants from Connaught, 47510.—Mr. Doran and Sir A. MacDonnell favoured this plan, 47511.

FIXING OF PRICE OF LAND BY PURCHASER UNSATISFACTORY.

It was unsatisfactory that the purchaser of land should fix the price, and this was in practice, the result of prior dealings, 47511.—The purchaser in this case was generally the Estates Commissioners, 47512.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—*continued.*

INTERVENTION OF THE STATE IN BARGAINS BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT UNAFFECTED BY THE POSITION OF THE STATE AS ADVANCING MONEY.

The owners objected to the intervention of a third party, when they had agreed with their tenants on a price, either for a tenanted holding or for a parcel of grazing land; these bargains were arrested on the ground that they are disadvantageous to the tenant, 47557.—But it was impossible by making a good bargain for the tenant to injure the landlord, 47414, 47557.—Though the question of price was a question between landlord and tenant, in which the State has no concern, 47559.—And the State is only concerned with a question of its own security for money advanced, 47558, 47559.—It should not intervene, because it should be prepared to bear any loss arising from transaction in land for the benefit of congests, 47560.—And the tenant is capable of holding his own in transactions with his landlord, 47562.—And is often as clever as his landlord, 47563.—Though the effect of bad bargains made by the State would be the impoverishment of the whole community, and therefore the State should be prudent about securities, yet witness imagined the system of zones was a sufficient safeguard, 47565.

EXAMPLE OF CASE REQUIRING REVISION.

Referred to the case in County Galway, where an estate was offered under the Ashbourne Act, and the Land Commissioners' Inspectors refused to consider the estate security for eight or nine years' purchase, yet after the Act, the landlord proposed to sell at a price within the zones, representing 24½ years' purchase, and asked whether there should be no revision of a sale of that nature, witness said that it was an extraordinary case, 47565.—And no doubt there was something to be said for the State having a voice in the bargain which was only made possible by its providing the security, 47566.

PROPOSED TRIBUNAL TO FIX THE SELLING PRICE OF LAND.

Witness advocated the formation of a tribunal to fix the value of a landlord's estate, and considered that a tribunal composed of judges of the High Court would be suitable, since the Court should be composed of men, the most impartial and independent in the country, and should hear both sides and fix the price on this evidence, 47513.—The judges were qualified, not by special knowledge, but by judicial minds, 47517-8, 47522.—Though the assessment of land value is a technical subject, the fact of rents having been paid for fifteen or twenty years is evidence of its value, 47519.—And the judges would hear evidence on the matter which would make their want of acquaintance with land values of no moment, 47523.—Witness had no opinion of expert advice on land questions, 47524.—He was not aware that a suit in the Superior Court would be more expensive than before the Estates Commissioners, 47526.—Witness would consider this Court superfluous, if the common basis of net income were recognised as a basis in selling land, 47515.—But in case this were not made an absolute basis, the judges might act as a Court of Appeal, 47520.

Documents put in by Colonel Saunders-Knox-Gore.

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O'HARA, Right Rev. Monsignor.

WITNESS'S SCHEME FOR MIGRATION WITHIN CROSSMOLINA PARISH.

Witness wished to call attention to a scheme for relief of congestion in Ballina Union; there were ten divisions in Ballina Union, scheduled as congested, and of these four were practically in the parish of

O'HARA, Right Rev. Monsignor—*continued.*

Crossmolina, of which witness was parish priest; in these four divisions there were 320 holdings of the value of £5 and under, all of which was miserably bad land, 47572-3, 47576.—While in the uncongested electoral divisions, to the east, and running from north to south, together with a portion of the Deal division which was scheduled, there were nearly 5,540 acres exclusively in grass, formerly occupied by small farmers, 47572.—This was good land, but some of it was deteriorating, having been in grass for fifty or sixty years, and would be more useful if tilled, 47574.—And would be typically good for small holdings, 47574.—If distributed among the uneconomic holders from the scheduled divisions, it would provide twenty-seven acres each, to 200 migrants, or, eighteen acres each to 300 migrants, or, if only 4,000 acres of this land could be acquired by the Congested Districts Board, or the Estates Commissioners, it would afford twenty acres each to 200 migrants, 47572.

Size of New Holdings.

Witness suggested twenty acres, because a family could live on this amount, which was a reasonable amount for a holding, 47574.—But a man of experience, like Mr. Doran, might make other arrangements, 47573.—Witness suggested that the land should be distributed to migrants from the same parish, 47573, 47575.—Who would require all this land, and more, if it were obtainable, 47576.—The land vacated by them might be used to relieve the congestion of the small holders remaining, 47573.

MAUDE, Captain ANTHONY.

Alleged refusal of Lord Arran to sell his estate.

Witness wished to make a statement relating to previous evidence, given by Mr. Corcoran, as to the refusal of landlords to sell their estates, and wished to refute this, on behalf of Lord Arran, who was a large landowner, and was willing to sell lands, including those on his own hands, with the exception of demesne, 47577.—Witness understood Mr. Corcoran to state that Lord Arran had refused to sell, 47579.—But witness himself was negotiating a sale of the estate in North Mayo some years ago, 47579-80.—Which fell through, 47579.—Because the tenants refused to buy unless the estate were handed over to the Estates Commissioners, 47580, 47582, 47585, 47589.—Lord Arran was willing to sell, he had taken an active part in passing the Land Purchase Act of 1903, 47577, 47583.—And asked for the land such a price as, invested at 3½ per cent., would bring in his present income, 47577, 47625, 47627.—For convenience of estimating this, he was willing to allow inspection of his rentals for the last fifteen or eighteen years, in so far as they showed gross rental and estate outgoings, 47577.—Witness was meeting deputations from various parts of the estate, three years ago, and, until the tenants suddenly refused to buy except under these conditions, he thought the terms of sale had been actually arranged, 47580, 47589.—Though only one townland was actually sold, 47581, 47590.—Lord Arran refused to hand over the estate to the Estates Commissioners, 47580.—But witness, on his behalf, proposed that if the tenants could previously agree with him about the price, he would ask Lord Arran to relinquish the estate to the Commissioners, 47580, 47599.—Though Lord Arran and witness felt themselves able to negotiate the sale of both tenanted and untenanted land direct to the tenants, 47589.—They were willing to hand over the untenanted lands to the Estates Commissioners, 47588.—And if the Commissioners to-day would give a sum which, if invested at 3½ per cent., would give Lord Arran his present income, witness would accept it, on behalf of Lord Arran, 47594.—Witness had been approached by only a few tenants, with a view to re-opening negotiations, within the last eight or ten months, 47591-2.—And had replied that he required the names of those tenants who wished to buy, 47593, 47597.—Because it was not worth while surveying a large estate, unless the bulk of the tenants were willing to come to terms, 47593.—This reply was made to Mr. Purdue, of Mullaghafarry, near Killala, 47598.

MAUDE, Captain ANTHONY—*continued.*

Wish of Tenants to have price of Land fixed by the Estates Commissioners.

The tenants, on their side, suggested that the fixing of the price should be left to the Estates Commissioners, and stated their willingness to abide by a price so fixed, 47586.—Witness did not consider this a reasonable attitude, 47587.—Though he was willing to leave them to fix the price of the untenanted land, 47588, 47600, 47601, 47603, 47613.—Because the amount of untenanted land was small, 47602.—Only 640 acres of good land, 47602, 47610.—And unimportant in comparison with the large estate, 47604, 47614.—So that as Lord Arran was anxious to sell, and did not wish to stand in the way of benefits to his tenants, 47616.—Nor think it worth while fighting about £1,000, or so, 47602, 47609.—He was willing to sell it at any price fixed by the Estates Commissioners, 47599, 47613.—He did not think their price equivalent to the value of the land, 47601.—Though naturally he was anxious to obtain the best price possible, 47615.—The full value, 47611-12.—One of the objects of the Act of 1903 was the distribution of grass lands, 47584.—And another was the restoration of the evicted tenants, 47596.—Which was one of the conditions of a general settlement of the Irish Land Question, 47596.—Witness was not aware that Lord Arran, during the last few days, had consistently voted against the Evicted Tenants Bill, but could say on behalf of Lord Arran, that the Estates Commissioners could reinstate evicted tenants, split up grazing lands, or anything else, provided Lord Arran obtained his terms, 47598.

No difficulty would have arisen if Estates Commissioners had adopted the "fair price."

The difficulty with regard to the sale of Lord Arran's Estate would never have arisen if the Estates Commissioners had been in the habit of giving for estates such a sum as, invested at 3½ per cent., would represent the net income of the landlord, and if this were their custom, no compulsory sales would be necessary, 47606.—And there would be a general transfer of land, as much as the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board wished for, though the landlords should retain their demesnes, 47607-8.

Witness's experience in Sale of Land.

Witness had great experience of selling land, having sold over £1,000,000 of property in all parts of Ireland since the passing of the Act of 1903, 47594, 47606.—And in some cases, in demanding a price from the tenants, put forward a standard of net income of the landlord, 47618.—Witness had sold land to the Congested Districts Board, 47617.—Witness had sold a good deal of land in Donegal, on the terms for which he would have sold the Arran and Templemore Estates, 47619-20.—Witness thought he had not sold land in Donegal before the Act of 1903, but possibly had sold part of the Connolly Estate before then, 47620a.

Advantage of land passing to tenants through the Estates Commissioners.

Witness thought the Congested Districts Board had done much good, and made enormous improvements on the estates they had bought, 47621.—There would be no objection, from a landlord's point of view, to the application of remedial processes to land by the Estates Commissioners or other public bodies before the tenants should become tenant purchasers, 47622-3.—And he would approve, if the Congested Districts Board could arrange, after the landlord had agreed with his tenants as to the price of land, to take over the land and improve it, 47624.

Offer to Tenants on behalf of Lord Arran.

In negotiating about Lord Arran's land, witness said he would give a reduction of 4*s.* in the £, 47628.—But he did not think he asked a certain number of years' purchase, 47625.—Witness had many interviews, and could not say positively that he stated to tenants that he must obtain a certain number of years' purchase, so that Lord Arran should retain his net income, 47625-6.—But he positively did say that the terms on which Lord Arran would sell would be such as would preserve for him his present income, 47628.

MAUDE, Captain ANTHONY—*continued.*

Mr. Pratt's case.

Mr. Pratt, in 1899, offered to sell his land at 18 years' purchase, at a time when Land Stock was at 112, and Mr. Pratt's land had not been reduced for a second statutory term, 47629, 47630.—But when again approached by his tenants, in October, 1903, his rents had been reduced on a second stautory term, and if he had obtained 27 years' purchase he would still be getting less than if he had sold in 1899 at 18 years' purchase, 47630.

Refusal of Estates Commissioners to deal with Land.

The Estates Commissioners would now refuse to take over an estate, even if the landlord and tenants had agreed upon terms, 47630.—If the Congested Districts Board would take over estates, their sale would be simplified, 47631.

KEAVENEY, Rev. PATRICK.

Comments on Evidence relating to Lord Arran's Estates.

Witness wished to make a statement referring to Mr. Maude's evidence, and to deny that any deputation of tenants waited on Mr. Maude or Lord Arran, or that the affair of selling the Arran Estate had ever progressed so far, 47632.—The tenants had heard that Lord Arran was prepared to sell his estate, and a meeting of tenants was called at the Boardroom, Ballina, of which the clergy of the district were notified, and which the witness attended, at the tenants' request, 47633.—Delegates were appointed to ascertain the views of tenants, and the meeting was adjourned for a fortnight, and at the third and last meeting, terms were formulated, 47634.—Mr. Maude was not waited upon by a deputation, but attended the meetings like a tenant, 47633.—The third meeting resolved that the district of Shraheen should not be bought direct by the tenants, as it would be useless to them, being cut out into "rundale," two ridges wide, 47634.—There was some rundale at Shraheen and also at Ballycastle, 47635.—It was also resolved that the congested portion of Lord Arran's estate should be purchased through the Congested Districts Board, and the non-congested part through the Estates Commissioners, 47634.—But it was not proposed to hand over the estate as a whole to the Estates Commissioners, or to have offers made by tenants, and the price run up as at an auction, as Mr. Maude demanded, 47634-5.—An auction consisted in buyers bidding against one another, and witness thought that in the sale of land, as of other commodities, the seller should be asked what he will accept, 47637.—Witness heard to-day, for the first time, that the standard of the net income was acceptable, 47637-8.

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN.

Congestion in Kilmore, and action of the Congested Districts Board.

The parish of Kilmore was in Belmullet Union, in the electoral divisions of Brighamstown, North and South, and was entirely in the peninsula of Erris, 47639-42.—The population of the parish was 2,876, and the valuation £3,440; of this, nineteen persons held 10,028 acres, with a valuation of £1,531 9*s.*, about 50 per cent. of the value of the two divisions, 47643, 47671a.—These were almost all non-residential holdings, the best grass land in Mullett, 47643.—There were many small uneconomic holdings, 47644, 47650.—In Fallmore, 47646.—At Ardmore Point, and elsewhere, 47644-5.—And contiguous to them, grazing ranches, which were all tilled before the Famine, and until recently; long after 1846 the population of Mullett was double what it was now, 47648-9.—The Congested Districts Board had bought some islands, 47652.—And the island of Inniskea was sold to them by Mr. Walsh, 47657-8, 47661, 47661a.—This purchase had benefited the islanders, but they were only a few, 47668, 47670.—It was not wise for the Board to purchase this small amount of land, 47663, 47666.—It would have been well to acquire the grass land on the same property, 47668.—There was, in the peninsular, enough grass land to make most of the small holdings economic, 47671a.

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN—*contniued.*

Proposed Compulsory Purchase of Erris.

Erris should be considered as a whole, and bought *en bloc*, by the Board, 47670-3, 47675, 47742, 47746, 47761.—Which should receive compulsory powers, 47670, 47742.

Refusal of Landlords to sell Grass Land.

The landlords refused to sell grass land, 47729, 47734.—For instance, Mr. Charles M'Kyne, 47736.—And Mr. Walsh, who refused to sell his non-residential grazing land near Aughlian, 47664-5, 47735-6.—This witness knew from hearsay, but could also give proofs of, 47737-40.—Landlords refused to sell because their estates were encumbered, and they would not be entitled to bonuses, 47739.—The tenants held meetings, and sent deputations, offering to buy land, 47732.—Most of the tenants in the neighbourhood approached their landlords, 47653.—But there were no direct sales from landlords to tenants for the last twenty years, 47655-6.—And if landlords did not refuse to sell, they asked fabulous prices, 47730.—Twenty-four or twenty-six years' purchase, when tenants could not afford more than twelve or fourteen, 47739.—Prices that the Board would not pay, nor the Estates Commissioners either, 47730.

Delay in Purchase of Grass Land.

Witness disapproved of buying small patches of grass land, 47741-2.—As there was no hope for Erris till the whole of the waste land was acquired, 47675.—And the present plans would take a century, 47670, 47743.—And in the meantime, the young people, unable to live on the small holdings, were emigrating, or going to England as migratory labourers, 47675.—While in non-congested areas where land was unincumbered, five times as many purchases had taken place, 47744.

Drainage, and Migratory Labour.

The whole of Erris when bought, should be drained, 47673-4, 47746, 47748.—More drainage was required in Ballycastle than the remainder of the district, 47746.—There was enough labour to drain the whole barony, 47749.—The young labourers, who usually migrated, would work here for less than they earned in England, 47750, 47760.—For one and sixpence a day, 47751-2, 47760.—Migratory labourers earned the rent for the household and to pay for the Indian meal, which formed much of their diet, 47754, 47758.—They were away in May, June, July, and August, 47755.—And when at home they could not weed the land, 47754.—Or do drainage work, because the land was flooded, 47756.—Witness was not aware that drainage work was always done between September and April, 47757.—Witness's father's farm was not well drained, 47726.—It consisted of twenty acres in a river valley, at the river level, and consequently had no proper outlet, 47724-28.

Temporary Tenancies under the Board.

Witness considered that the small holders would be willing to accept temporary tenancies from the Congested Districts Board, for four or five years, becoming peasant proprietors when the remedial processes were finished, 47759.—For he would see his farm improving, and be paid for the work, 47766-8.—A charge being made on the holding to cover part of the expenditure, 47769.—But nothing less than immediate purchase of the grass lands by the Board would satisfy tenants, 47761, 47763-5.—For they were disgusted at the delay which had occurred already, four years having passed out of 68½, 47761-2.—And reductions of 8*s.* an acre having been made in non-congested areas, 47763.

Parish Grants.

The total amount paid in Mayo in Parish Grants, to March, 1905, was £21,857 4*s.* 3*d.*, of which Swinford Union received £10,806 5*s.* 4*d.*, 47770, 47773-5.—

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Ballina Union, £1,428 4*s.* 6*d.*; Belmullet Union, £1,820 9*s.*; Ballinrobe, £597 7*s.* 6*d.*; Castlebar, £895 12*s.* 6*d.*; Killala, £80 6*s.* 6*d.*; Claremorris, £3,261 10*s.* 7*d.*; Westport, £2,758 1*s.* 1*d.*, 47775.—This money was obtained from Imperial taxes, 47771, 47788.—And it was a grevance that Belmullet, the poorest Union in Mayo, should not get its fair share, 47788.—Belmullet had a grant of £450 for a bridge, 47777, 47779.—And a small grant for lace making, 47779.—And a grant from the Board of Agriculture, 47777.—But no grant could make up for the apparent disproportion, 47780.—Swinford, having no sea-board, had no grants for piers or fisheries, 47772.—There had been no expenditure at Porturlin, Portacloy, or Inver, except small sums, 47781-3.—A parish grant was refused to Belmullet ten years previously, on account of some difference between the chairman and the people, 47784.—And other parishes had been refused on like grounds, 47798.—Witness had no doubt that all the parishes had applied, 47796.—And that some had been refused, 47793.—Among others, Bangor, 47794, 47798.—He did not think it superfluous to apply for a grant, 47786.—Or that the Parish Committee should do work in a proper manner, 47787.—Nor did he see any reason why Erris could not have a parish committee and its share of grants, nor could he say where was the fault that Kilmore should not have its fair share, 47789.—Unless it arose from other localities making more applications, 47790.—Witness lived in Belmullet, but was not sure whether there was a Parish Committee there, 47779-81.—His interest was merely in the relative sums spent in different Unions, and his opinion was that the money should be equally divided between the different districts, 47802.

Fisheries—Lack of Transit Facilities.

Erris should have a source of livelihood in fishing, but, owing to want of transit facilities, it had no market for fish, 47676-7.—The fisheries might be a gold mine; eight to eleven tons of fish had been caught at one time by Scotch fishermen in the locality, but fish had rotted on the shore, at Belderig, to the value of £100 a day, because there was no means for conveying it the forty miles to Ballina, 47677.—There was a boat service to Sligo, but fish could not be sent to Dublin in saleable condition, as the boat did not run in connection with the train, 47679.—At Mr. O'Kelly's request, an extra trip was added; but even then the fish were spoiled when it reached England; it was usually sent to Blackburne, 47680.—When a Mr. Murgatroyd came from Scotland, 47682.—He benefited by the extra service, which entailed the Sligo boat running three times a week, instead of twice, 47685, 47687, 47688-9.—And exceptional arrangements were made on several occasions to suit him, 47705.—He had the fish iced and sent every other day in time for the train, 47686, 47688, 47701.—The vessel, which plied between Belmullet and Dublin, 47691.—Called at Belderig, Porturlin, Portacloy, and Ballycastle, 47694, 47704.—On every trip, weather permitting, according to Murgatroyd's contract, 47698.—But if the weather was bad, it was not possible to call at these stations, and the fish was left, 47698.—If there was a gale, the fish usually taken from Belderig by Murgatroyd, to Sligo, was sent by cart to Killala, and thence, if possible, to Dublin, 47699, 47702.—Without being iced, for there was no ice on shore, 47703.—Murgatroyd iced the fish on board the steamship "Tartar"; he obtained the ice in Dublin, 47690-1.—The extra trip was now discontinued, and, the fishing being over, the boat now only called at Ballycastle and Portacloy on the journey up, unless it carried merchandise, 47695-6.

The Blacksod Railway.

It was proposed that the contemplated Blacksod railway should touch the deep water at Broadhaven Bay, which would be an advantage to the fishing of the whole North coast, if it provided a permanent service, 47709.—It was held that a greater number of people would be served by a railway on the North coast than by one on the Mulranny route, 47712 47715.—The fishing at Broadhaven was better than at Blacksod, 47713.—And the population in that district had increased, 47715.—Witness did not think that a North coast railway would divert trade, 47716.

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

—He would give no opinion as to the best route, for the people of Belmullet had resolved not to confuse the question by advocacy of any particular route, but to leave the route to be fixed by Government, 47710, 47719.—Though he believed the "All Red" route to be the best of the two, 47716.—There was no hope for Belmullet fisheries without a railway, as it was now forty-two English miles from a railway station, 47718.—The people of the district were not prepared to pay for a railway, 47721.—And he believed that there was no question of a tax, the Midland Railway having discussed the matter, 47720.

SCANLAN, Mr. FELIM.

Witness's Holding.

Witness was a tenant farmer, born in Erris, and having a holding between Belmullet and Ballina, at Glencastle, 47803-6.—His holding was valued at £4 5*s.*, 47807, 47904.—The acreage was about fourteen acres of reclaimed cut-away bog, and in addition a few acres of mountain land, 47808-9, 47905.—A good deal of the reclaimed fourteen acres was impossible to till, being too poor; some of it gravel land, which had no soil over it, and would only grow grass in spots, which was not fit for cattle, and was poor feeding for a goat; witness allowed cattle to run on it, 47811-15.—This land amounted to an acre or an acre and a half, and there was another portion of the holding which was tolerable for grazing, but impossible to till, as the surface soil had been torn away by a river, 47817-19.—The remainder, eight or nine acres out of the fourteen, or perhaps ten, could be tilled and meadowed, 47819-20.—His rent was £5, 47906.—Witness had inherited the farm from generations of ancestry, 47923.—Witness would till more land if he had help, 47907.—He considered the meadowland as tillage, because it was necessary to manure it, 47908.—For this purpose he used manure from the farm, and also half a ton or more each year of artificial manure, though it was expensive in the West of Ireland, 47909-10.—Witness was not an exception in this matter, other holders of £4 and £5 valuation using artificial manure; a ton of it was used to-day compared with a hundred-weight thirty years ago, 47911.—Witness worked his holding on a mixed system, treating grass as a rotation crop, 47909, 47921.—Which he forced, and cut for the stock in summer, 47920.—The holding was too small, consequently witness, though sober and industrious, had in eighteen years lost rather than gained on the farm, having lost capital invested in it, 47921-2.

Stock and additional Hired Grazing.

Witness kept nine or ten cattle on the average, 47916-7.—Some milch cows, some two-year-olds, and a few calves, 47920.—He sold his young stock at two or three years old, never so young as six months, 48008.—He sold them to local men or strangers, and was not interested to enquire where the strangers came from, 48013.—Farmers generally sold stock because they were in want of money, rather than because the particular time of sale was the most profitable to them, 48020-1.—To sell at two years old was the most profitable plan, 48022.—His own stock would be more profitable, if he had a few acres of good land upon which to fatten them before sale, 48017-8.—For his grass land would not maintain them without the addition of cut grass, 47920.—He could not keep cattle at all unless he were able to hire extra grass land, 47916-8, 48024-6.—Or would be obliged to sell them much younger, 47126.—It would always be possible to obtain grass land from larger holders, who could not fully stock their farms, 47126.

Action of Congested Districts Board with regard to the Carey Estate—Need for compulsory powers.

Witness knew little of the purchase of land by the Congested Districts Board, except with regard to small patches, 47863A.—The land they had acquired in Erris was in the Union of Auglian, with which witness had small acquaintance, 47864.—Part of the

Carey Estate, recently bought by the Board, was in Rathmill, six miles from Belmullet, to the south; it was near Lisshall, and was called Duyork, 47821, 47823-5.—And was thickly populated, 47821.—The other part was within a quarter of a mile of Belmullet, on the road to Glencastle, 47821-2.—And consists of a patch of grazing land, and one small holding, 47821, 47826.—The Board acquired the land, and enlarged the holding of this tenant by the addition of grazing land, 47821-2, 47827.—And the rest of the land they divided into two tenancies, for which purpose they must build two houses, 47829-30.—Witness did not know where the new tenants were to come from, 47831-4.—If the Board had bought the adjoining townland of Anticollaun, 47821, 47834.—Which was on the Stuart Estate, 47834.—And within half a mile of the grazing land, 47835.—And situated on the road which runs through the grass land, 47821, 47835.—They could have provided for the congests of Anticollaun, with no expense to them, 47821, 47924-5.—Which would have been a great benefit to the tenants, 47821.—And would have saved the expense of building two cottages, 47838, 47844.—Which would amount to £200 or more, 47821.—The only cost of the whole scheme being the purchasing price of the grass land, 47923-4, 47835.—It was more economical to enlarge holdings without disturbing the people, 47838.—And improvements that must be paid for by an annuity system were of little benefit, 47838.—To do this, the Board must have bought the townland of Anticollaun, 47841.—Which would have required compulsory powers, 47821, 47843.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LAND A REMEDY FOR DISTRESS AND MIGRATORY LABOUR.

The acquisition and distribution of grass land by the Congested Districts Board, or some such body, invested with compulsory powers, was the only chance of improvement in the neighbourhood of Erris, 47821, 47843, 47926.—Most of the prevalent distress was due to the smallness of the holdings, for, no matter how industrious the tenant, he could not live on a few acres, 47832.—But was obliged to resort to relief works, 47882.—There were in Belmullet 1,800 holdings of £4 valuation and under, which were too small to allow of modern farming methods, and rotation of crops (in which witness included grass crops), 47861, 47928-30.—Consequently, the land became impoverished and foul with weeds, having been constantly under tillage from time immemorial, 47861.—Even an addition of two acres to a holding might much improve it, 47861.—And if the forty acres of grass land on the Carey Estate had been distributed, it would have benefited the congested tenants of Anticollaun, 47859.—Even one acre, if prime land, would improve a holding, 47883.—Many tenants on the Carey Estate were migratory labourers, who would prefer to remain in Ireland, and an addition of five or six acres of good land would go far to keep at home, at any rate, some of these migrants, who were now compelled to migrate, in order to assist their families, 47846-55.

"ECONOMIC HOLDING," "RUNDALE," MOUNTAIN LAND, ETC.

Witness described as an economic holding, a farm on which a man could live and bring up his family in some measure of respectability, without begging of Government or other persons, 47936.—A holding of £5 might or might not be economic, and to reduce the rent by 50 per cent. might be a great benefit to the tenant, 47937-8.—A farm which could not be worked with horse labour might be economic, if it were sufficiently large, or the annuity sufficiently low, 47933.—Though the difficulty of working these farms was great, for, owing to the situation of the holding, and the character of the soil, the labourers had to carry manure and produce in creels, 47861-2, 47866-7, 47933.—And the land had to be broken with pick and shovel, while the farmer with a level farm could do four times as much work with a plough, 47861.—This should be considered in fixing fair rents or purchase annuities for mountain farms, 47934.—A man might have as much as twenty-eight acres of "rundale" in different patches, and yet be extremely poor, since stock fed on rundale required watching, 47863.

DRAINAGE, RECLAIMING AND LIMING.

The Congested Districts Board should assist in reclaiming, draining and liming mountain land adjacent to small holdings, thereby much increasing the value of the holdings, 47821, 47968.—The use of lime on a properly drained soil was beneficial, 47869.—And witness suggested that the Congested Districts Board should build a lime-kiln at a small cost, and continue quarrying and burning the lime, which was plentiful in Erris, selling it to the tenant farmers at a small or nominal price, 47869-70.—Or, failing that, should approach the landlord of the Atkinson estate (who now forbade the quarrying of lime at Glencastle), and purchase the right to do so, 47869-70.—The land generally was deficient in lime, except where it had been treated with sea-manure, and consequently diseases such as "Finger-and-toe" were prevalent, and turnip and other crops could not be grown, 47871-2.

AFFORESTATION AND TREE-PLANTING AS RELIEF WORK.

The Government should undertake the afforestation of large mountain tracts in the West; this plan would benefit Erris, 47889.—Witness would suggest planting, twenty, thirty, or 100 acres of mountain land in 1,000, 47893.—Informed that no profitable return could be expected from planting less than 1,000 acres in a block, 47894-6.—Witness thought that very little interference with grazing would accrue from reasonable planting, either to inhabitants, stock, or grazing, but no objection would be made to planting thousand-acre blocks, 47897, 47903.—There was little good grazing on the mountains, 47897-8.—Shelter belts would be less desirable than planting on a large scale—afforestation would provide work in times of distress, which would be better than the ordinary forms of relief works, 47888.—Relief works are resorted to by the smallest holders, but where there are several grown men in one family it is possible for some to remain at home, and some work on relief works; this is seldom done by the larger holders, 47885-7.

SUBSTITUTES FOR POTATOES—GRAIN GROWING, MILLS, ETC.

Witness thought that the building of a cornmill by Government would encourage the cultivation of grain, 47875.—The present year was likely to be a bad one for potatoes, as, despite extensive spraying operations, the potato was attacked by a new disease (Ball Bân or White Spot), which attacked the stalk, and was more injurious even than blight, owing to the wet weather, 47872-5.—If the potato crop continued to be insufficient, the people must look for a substitute, 47875.—Many now subsisted on Indian meal, without milk, 47861-47876.—And if there were a possibility of getting it ground, farmers would try to grow Indian corn, which would be a good food for man and beast, 47876.—Witness considered grain a better substitute for potatoes than parsnips or other root crops, 47877.—And believed that was possible for the small holder to grow spring wheat, in selected spots, in Belmullet, 47875, 47939, 47942.—Witness had been in America, where spring and winter wheat was grown, 47914-5, 47941.—And thought the Belmullet climate not unsu[illegible]ble, on account of its prevalent sea-breezes, 47878, 47942.—The wind did sometimes injure the grain crops, but risks must be taken, 47878. Witness did not remember the existence of cornmills in Belmullet in former times, 47880.—Father O'Hara had opposed this scheme when witness had suggested it four years previously to six members of the Congested Districts Board, 47875, 47939.—Father O'Hara had, at the time, convinced witness of the unwisdom of building a mill, stating that mills which ten or fifteen years before were working satisfactorily were at that time useless, but since then things had changed again, and Indian corn had risen four or five shillings, 47876.—The cultivation of small patches of grain would not keep a mill going, but in time it was hoped that two or three thousand farmers would each grow from half an acre to an acre or more of wheat, oats, barley, rye, etc., which would keep a mill working—no one now grew wheat, owing to lack of means for grinding it, but witness

SCANLAN, Mr. FELIM—*continued.*

believed this was the only reason, and would himself grow wheat if a mill were erected, 47943-47.—Witness considered the cost of building a mill to be a question for an expert, 47881.

Temporary Tenancies—Advantages and Disadvantages.

Witness believed that tenants would strongly object to remaining tenants of the Congested Districts Board for a term of four or five years, while their holdings were being improved; he himself would object strongly, 47952.—For he believed that the tenant would eventually be obliged to repay large sums of money, 47953, 47962, 47965, 47995, 47997.—This would saddle the tenant with a responsibility he might find it hard to support, for if £30 or £40 were spent on improvements, the repayment might handicap the tenant for life, 47965, 47990.—Witness had heard of the Dillon estate, and, rather than have the same method tried in Erris, would prefer that the tenant should have immediate ownership, and improve his land himself, 47954-6, 47962, 47972, 47979.—Improvements in Erris would take a considerable time, as it needed reconstruction from end to end, 47949, 47957-8.—Witness thought a few years would be sufficient, 47950.—And strongly objected to the Board holding land for more than five or six years, 47974.—With plenty of labour, two years would be enough for drainage and large improvements, 47974-6.—Witness knew of no place where sufficient labour for drainage works had been lacking, 47976-7.—If it was perfectly clear to witness that the reconstruction of the barony of Erris would take three, four, or five years, witness would not complain of their holding land for three years, 47978.—In the case of large arterial drainage schemes, the Government should appoint engineers and hire labour, and this could be done when the land was occupied, 47964, 47981.—There were very necessary works, such as arterial drainage, main fences, main roads, and reconstruction of holdings, which must be done, 47988.—And which a tenant cannot undertake for himself, 47967-8.—Also the Government must reclaim mountain land, where the local farmers were unaccustomed to and uninformed about reclamation, 47968.—And the sale of "rundale" direct to tenants, without restriping, was impossible, 47927, 47983-4.—But where the tenant was himself able to undertake the improvements, possession was an incentive to industry, 47956, 47963, 47987.—And possession should be given as soon as possible, 47979.—Witness considered that schemes of arterial drainage, etc., should not be charged to the improved area, 47982.—But they are expensive, and the Congested Districts Board must not hamper its efforts in other directions by incurring undue expense; they must recoup themselves to some extent, and if immediate possession were given to the holder, the Board must increase his annuity, 47996.—The value of the land would be augmented, 47997.

Temporary Tenancies advantageous to the Tenant.

The alternative plan would be for the Board to retain possession of the land for a term of years, collecting the rents (old or reduced), and spend them on the property, 47991-6.—This would be a more favourable plan for the tenant, who could have no increased annuity to pay in the future, 47996, 48001, 48008.—This plan the witness preferred to an increased annuity, 48000, 48004-6.

Parish Improvements in Erris.

Witness wished to state that the Congested Districts Board could point to no irregularity in the administration of the Parish Improvement Scheme in Erris, for nine or ten years a grant of £100 was received by Belmullet, of which a small part sometimes remained unexpended, owing to applications being withdrawn; this money should be granted to other applicants, and the fact of its being unexpended was no argument that the £100 was more than was needed, for £300 could, with advantage, be expended in the district, 47968, 47970.

HEGARTY, Rev. J. J.

Area, Population, Valuation, etc., of Erris.

The Union had an area of 179,245 acres, 48027.—There were 2,297 holdings in Erris, of which 1,862 were under £4, 272 between £4 and £8, 76 between £8 and £10, 25 between £15 and £20, and 62 over £20, 48034.—The population was 13,835, and the poor law valuation per head 15*s.* 10*d.*, and if the valuation (£1,378) of grazing lands in Erris were deducted, the valuation per head of the population was only 13*s.* 9*d.*, 48027.—Which was the lowest valuation in Ireland for a whole Union, though individual electoral districts might be lower; the land was extremely poor, but there was sufficient land in Erris to give 15½ acres to every person; the coast line of the barony of Erris was 336 miles, and the whole barony was larger by forty-six square miles than County Louth, and by 10,000 acres than County Carlow; the population was agricultural, or along the sea-board a mixed fishing and farming population; there were 512 houses in Erris with only one room, 1,086 with two, and 91 with three rooms, 41 with four and 100 with five rooms, 48028.—Witness considered that valuation and population were a test of poverty, the people having to live on the land, 48029.—If a revaluation were to take place some land would have increased in value, having been reclaimed since Griffith's valuation, and some, having gone out of cultivation, would now be of less value, 48031.—However, valuation was the readiest, and in many cases, the only possible test to apply, 48033-4.—Since 1878 there had been seven acute seasons of distress in Erris, in which relief works had been established by Government to enable the people to live, 48034-5.

Price of Land before, and since, Act of 1903.

Before 1903, only a few small properties were purchased, there were then two cases of property purchased by one landlord from another, the first was valued at £120, and bought for £450 at four years' purchase, 48036, 48039.—The second at 9½ years' purchase, was bought through the Landed Estates Court, witness could not say whether 9½ years' purchase of the valuation or the rent, 48036, 48039.—The Congested Districts Board also bought two properties in witness's parish, one at ten and the other at 10¼ years' purchase on the rental, 48036, 48040.—There were other properties offered for sale, but not sold (witness was informed), because the Commissioners did not consider them sufficient security for an advance of ten years' purchase money, 48036, 48041, 48044, 48049.—This was a property near Bangor, known as the Blacker property, and afterwards bought it at 19½ years' purchase, 48042, 48045.—Directly by the tenants, with the game reserved, 48045.—At the same rents, which were all first term rents, 48046-7, 48058-9.—The Board had recently bought two other properties, for the cheapest of which they had given 17 years' purchase; witness had approached all the landlords who owned land in the parish, 48060.—Most of them had been approached constantly by tenants, 48111.—Most stated that they were willing to sell, some did not state a price; a few asked to have a price offered, 48060.—Prices could not be arranged when the landlord did not specify price, 48061.

Rise of Land Prices Explained.

This was bad business from the point of view of the State, 48048.—He could not account for the rise in land by a rise in farm produce, which had, in fact, fallen in price, 48052.—Land Stock at that time was not up to 114, and the difference was not thus explainable, 48050.—Witness considered that the intrinsic value of land had fallen since 1903, and could only think that the advance in price was the result of the change in the new Act of 1903 with regard to annuities; the present Act provided for 10*s.* sinking fund as against £1 5*s.* previously, 48051.—Comparing the difference between ten years under the old Act and ten years under the new, ten nine-sixteenth years under the old Act was the same as thirteen under the present; it produced an identical initial annuity, excluding bonus, assuming that Land Stock was at par, and the payment was in cash, 48053-4, 48056.—But if Land Stock was at thirteen per cent. premium there would be an addition, 48055.—And looked at from the point of view of the tenant, who pays the annuity, the property was worth ten years' purchase, 48506.

MR. CARTER'S LAND.

One landlord, Mr. Carter, asked 26 years' purchase, 48060, 48070, 48077-8, 48081, 48115, 48117.—The same price he was asking for lands in Westmeath—this landlord would have been as well off as at present, if he had obtained 18 years' purchase, 48067, 48075, 48080.—And invested the money at 3¾ per cent., 48076.—He was solvent, 48090.—But the land was fully mortgaged, 48069, 48075, 48088.—To the extent of £40,000, 46068.—If it had not been mortgaged it would not have been sold at the price, 48071.—A mortgaged estate could be sold cheaper than one unmortgaged, 48070.—Witness, in estimating that 18 years' purchase would compensate the landlord, had allowed liberally for the expenses of sale, 48075, 48085.—And for paying off all mortgages out of purchase money, 48091.—These calculations had not been based on absolutely authoritative evidence, 48093.—Witness, however, was certain the landlord's books would not prove that 26 years' purchase would be required, if he was to retain his net income after the sale, 48092.—If the books should show this, witness would say, as he had in all cases of purchase, that the price given should produce for the landlord his net income, 48094.—Witness had seen it stated that landlords were willing to settle on this basis, 48086.—But this was not his experience of them, 48087.—And Mr. Carter's terms show that he would not be satisfied with it, 48084.—26 years' purchase, with the addition of the bonus of £3 12*s.*, is equal to 29 years' purchase, 48082.—And he would get cash instead of depreciated stock, 48083.—Witness and the tenants accompanying him did not actually make an offer to Mr. Carter, as there was no chance of coming to an agreement, 48095, 48117.—But replied that he would be fortunate if he obtained 20 years' purchase, 48079, 48116.—Mr. Carter gave the same terms to the District Council, 48116.—Witness was not aware whether Mr. Carter afterwards approached the Congested Districts Board, but all replies given by landlords were sent on to the Board, and witness believed that the Board asked every landlord to send on the usual application, 48119-20-1.—The Board wrote, stating they had received this letter from the District Council, which was sent to every landlord in Erris, 48122.—The rent on the estate was a first term rental, and if it were properly revised to the equivalent of 18 years' purchase, it would stand at 21 years' purchase, and would repay him, 48071.—Most of the rents in Erris were still standing as first term rents, 48072.—And were unrevised, because tenants were too poor to take the case into Court, 48073-4.—Witness did not consider it good policy to enforce a system by which any class, whether landlords or tenants, should suffer, 48096.—Therefore, if the land were required for re-settlement the landlord must receive his net income, 48097.—And the State should bear any loss, 48098.—The State, by establishing the bonus, had adopted the responsibility of supplying any deficiency, 48104.—But in the case of the Carter Estate there would be no loss, 48100.

"FAIR PRICE" OF LAND.

Witness would not expect a landlord to sell if he were to suffer by the sale, 48062-3.—But the landlords, though expecting to benefit by the prices offered, held out for higher prices, 48065-6.—Why should the landlord get more than at present? 48101.—If the landlord's net income were likely to decrease in the immediate future, that should be taken into account by the State, in making good any deficiency in the price he obtained for land, 48103.—The landlord should receive his net income on second term rents, or their equivalent, 48106.—This should be calculated by deducting from the gross rental all legitimate outgoings in connection with the working of the property, 48107.—This deduction varied according to the nature of the property, and in Erris was sometimes 50 per cent., 48108.—But 20 per cent. certainly should be deducted, 48109.—Landlords' books should be open to inspection by representatives of purchasing tenants, 48110.

SALES DIRECT FROM LANDLORD TO TENANT.

Negotiations between landlords and tenants had not resulted in sales, because the landlords, besides asking exorbitant prices, were not willing to sell to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board, wished to make bargains direct with tenants, 48812.—Irrespective of the advice of the Board or Commissioners, and of the interests of the locality, 48813.—Between landlord and tenant, there was no free market in land, 48171.

THE O'HARA ESTATE.

Mr. Carter and Mr. O'Hara were two typical landlords, 48114.—Mr. O'Hara stated that he would make no greater reduction that 4*s.* in the £—24½ years' purchase on first term and non-judicial rents; the valuation per head on that estate was 7*s.* 4½*d.*; subsequently tenants went into Court and got reductions varying from 4*s.* to 5*s.*, and averaging 4*s.* 6*d.*, 48122.

THE O'DONEL AND WILLIAM BURN'S ESTATES.

The tenants on the Burn's estate had judicial tenancies, 48122, 48124.—Were asked, fifteen years previously, to give permission to have their land striped, with a view to its sale to them; they consented, and some of them are not yet restored to their tenancies, but are paying, in many cases, their old rents on new holdings, and were "con-acre" tenants, 48122.—Or tenants who had no interest in the property, so that the landlord could sell the tenant's interest as well as the landlord's interest, 48123.—The principal mortgagee was trying to sell the land, stating that it was more valuable, because the tenants were not judicial but con-acre tenants, 48122.—The tenants ceased to be judicial tenants on the understanding that it should be to their interests, and at a request on behalf of Judge Ross's Court, 48125.—The O'Donel estate had been offered to the Congested Districts Board and to the Land Commission, and had been valued and revalued, but no sale resulted, as the Land Judge asked more than its value; in bad years these tenants were the first to need relief, 48127.—Witness considered this a hardship inflicted by the Court, 48126.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAND STOCK.

Witness considered that, owing to the discount at which Land Stock was issued, the transfer of land was too costly to the State; £100 cash paid on behalf of tenants, now cost £136 11*s.* 8*d.*, which was more than the price of a perpetuity at 3 per cent.; taking Land Stock at 82, there was a discount of 18 in the stock thus issued; the discount was £21 19*s.* and the bonus of 12 per cent. £14 12*s.* 8*d.*; witness suggested that the interest on Land Stock should be increased to 3 per cent., thus enhancing the value of the Stock, 48142-3.—(Leaving the sinking fund at 10*s.*), and that landlords should get two-thirds of their purchase money in Land Stock, 48128.—This alteration would affect the farmer's annuity to the extent of 5*s.* in the £100, 48130.—Farmers would not then give so many years' purchase, 48131.—A four per cent, annuity would disincline farmers to purchase, twenty-five years' purchase would represent the gross rental, 48132.—Witness considered that prices were lower under previous Acts, because they had a four per cent. payment, 48131.—There would have been more land sold in Erris if the Act of 1903 had not come into force; landlords then willing to sell at fourteen or fifteen years' purchase, now asked 23, 48133.—If a bonus of three to five years' purchase were added to the Ashbourne Act, and the Act of 1903 not enforced, it would increase sales immensely, 48134, 48136.—Especially in the poorer districts where the landlords expected to make their fortunes by sales, 48135.—If a bonus had been added to the Ashbourne Act, there would have been no need in congested districts for the Act of 1903, 48137-8.—Sales were taking place until the last, under the old Acts, 48139-40.—Witness knew it was stated by Government that further inducements must be offered to persuade solvent landlords to sell, 48142

IMPROVEMENTS—DRAINAGE, STRIPING, ETC.

The state of agriculture in Erris was backward, much of the land being in rundale, which required striping, fencing, and some reclamation; while this was progressing, the people would be gaining agricultural knowledge, 48144, 48149.—This could not be done by the tenant, nor could arterial drainage, 48149-50.—Which was necessary before other drainage could be begun, and must be completed before the land was handed over to tenants, when one unreasonable person might prevent a drainage scheme, which was to the advantage of himself as well as his neighbours; those remedial processes should be done so as to be a model to farmers, 48151.—While the land was retained by the Board for a term of years, three or five, according to the work to be done, 48148, 48155.—Witness knew of a plot of this kind, which had cost the Board a good deal, 48151.—It had been sold, but the annuity was not increased, so as to recoup the expenditure, 48152-3.—Tenants objected to increased annuities, but witness considered it desirable that improvements should be made, and an addition made to the annuity, for these improvements, if wisely done, paid for themselves, 48154-5.—There would still remain the improvement of houses, 48150.—And much that the tenant could do for himself, for the land, being poor, would require labour to keep it in condition, and the tenant and his son, though capable of earning more elsewhere, would be best employed in improving or reclaiming their lands, 48156-9.—For this gave them constant interest and employment, 48163.—And it was improving to a family to work for its conjoint ends, 48158-9, 48162.

MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE, AND DETERIORATION OF HOLDINGS.

The maintenance of arterial drainage should be the care of the people benefited, 48164.—The Congested Districts Board should have power to enforce this, 48165.—If a tenant allowed his farm to deteriorate, and was obliged to sell it, the Congested Districts Board should have no power of pre-emption, for the tenant was sufficiently punished by his ill-success, 48166-7.—The Board should keep an agricultural instructor in each neighbourhood, to encourage maintenance of the improvements, 48172.—But should not have special powers in case of waste and neglect by tenants, for landlords were not dispossessed, except in extreme cases, 48173.

CONSOLIDATION AND SUB-DIVISION OF HOLDINGS.

Other tenants should be allowed to buy holdings relinquished by unsuccessful farmers, unless the adjoining holdings were very large, 48168.—The purchasing owner should have a free market, 48169.—Witness had not considered the question, but thought the tenant purchaser should have a free market, 48170.—Freer than at present, 48171.—Consolidation of holdings (if too small) was a great benefit, 48175.—But might be a great evil, 48175.—It would be well that the State should pay the full market price for a holding relinquished through the improvidence of its owner, or other reasons, and hand it over to a new tenant, 48176, 48180.—Thus preventing unwise consolidation or sub-divison, 48176-9.—As was done in Germany, 48176.—Sub-division of holdings was an evil in the case of small holdings, 48174, 48179.—There was an unfortunate tendency to sub-divide, in small holders, 48194.—In holdings above £10 valuation this was not apparent, 48195.—The tendency was greater in the case of holdings inherited than of holdings purchased, 48027.—Witness expected, when he had more experience of purchased holdings, to find that the spirit of ownership would counteract the tendency to sub-divide, 48028-9.—And the payment of the annuity to the State further discouraged subdivision, 48209.—So that even in 68½ years, when nothing remained to pay, the owner would still be disinclined to sub-divide, 48210.—If the land were not to be indefinitely sub-divided, the sons of farmers must take to some other occupation, 48194.—They would either buy a business or a holding or emigrate, 48195, 48201.—An economic holding was one which could support the owner and his wife and family until the family grew up, 48201.—A holding not capable of supporting a wife and young family was uneconomic, 48200.—But not if it would not support indefinitely, an indefinitely large family, 48199.—Just as a business was economic, even though it would not support the whole grown-up family of the owner, 48197.—Witness did not contemplate the entire family living permanently on the soil, 48196.—In every county some of the grown sons adopted other callings, 48198, 48203.—Just as shopkeepers' sons did, 48202, 48206.—If there were lands available for agriculture, they should get them, rather than turn to employments for which they were unsuited, 48205.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS.

There was a considerable amount of grass land available for the relief of congestion, which should be split up and given to the local holders; about 200 new holdings could be made from the grass lands in Erris, as a basis of £5 to £7 a holding, 48184.—This would still leave a number of uneconomic holders in Erris—even if no land were given to the fishermen, 48187-8.—Who would not migrate in any circumstances, 48186.

MIGRATORY LABOURERS.

The new farms of £5 to £7 would give employment enough, without resorting to migratory labour, if it was mixed land, 48191.—Most of the holdings included bog, 48192.—If the holding were half bog, it would provide sufficient employment, 48193.—But if all clay, a £10 holding would be necessary, 48193.—As a consequence of improvement some persons formerly migratory labourers had become permanent residents, but witness could not say definitely that this was due to the action of the Board in increasing holdings, 48190.—The tenantry had been considerably improved, 48189.—It was absolutely necessary that migratory labourers should return once a year to their homes, 48161.—And boys acquired bad habits, or lost their health, after working for three, four, or five years in England or Scotland; it was unusual that they turned out respectable men, 48161.—Though for a time they might earn considerable wages, 48160.

LIVE STOCK.

Since the live stock schemes passed from the Congested Districts Board Erris had suffered considerably, 48180.—The horse-breeding scheme was unsuccessful, the class of hackneys sent not being suitable to Erris. 48145-7.—So that horses in Erris were worse than before, 48144.—And in the case of shorthorns, the Department supplied animals too highly bred, highly fed, and high-priced for bog lands, whereas an animal from one-third to one-tenth the price would be more suitable, it being better to raise the price of 1,000 calves by 5*s.* than 100 by £1 a head, 48180. —Farmers said they had suffered to the extent of £1 a calf for the change, 48184.—The calves were too tender and unsuited to the country, 48181-2.—There was only one cross-bred bull in witness's parish, which had been there six months, whereas there used to be four or five, 48184.—The 76 cross-bred bulls in Mayo were not in Erris, 48183.—The Congested District Board had supplied hardy cross-bred animals, and a good number of them, 48180.

EVIDENCE OF THE O'CONOR DON.

Witness wished, with reference to The O'Conor Don's statement, that Geesala population was sea-supported, to say it was the one seaboard population of Erris which did not fish; also, though he had said Erris was not congested, it was one of the most congested districts in Ireland, 48239.—The O'Conor Don had a small property in the Mullett which might have been sold, 48240.

FACILITIES FOR FISHERIES IN ERRIS.

There was a large fishing population in Erris, probably twice the number of persons mentioned in Mr. Green's return; about 300 currachs were not returned at all, not being registered with the Coastguards; there were about 100 yawls in Erris, 48210.—Their tonnage was about 2 tons, and they were the largest boats used in Erris, 48212-3.—No large boats of the Zulu type existed in Erris, and it would be desirable to have some larger boats in which the fishermen could follow the fish out to sea, 48210.—And get larger hauls, like the Scotch boat, which in these waters had made a fortune in two seasons, 48229.—The canvas boats could be run up on the strand in bad weather, when the boats could not land at piers, 48227.—The harbour and pier accommodation was poor; in the rough weather there was no shelter, 48210.—And the piers were very small; the piers built by the Board at Porturlin, Portacloy, and Inver were too small for even yawls to approach in rough weather, 48217.—Some more piers should be built, 48210.—The Congested Districts Board had brought the fishing industry in Erris to its present relatively developed position. Within witness's memory it had been only one-third as important, 48214.—It had supplied loans for the purchase of boats and gear, and made piers and slips in a few cases, 48215.—There were seven or eight fishing stations, where the Board used to buy and cure fish, and where now merchants bought fish in good seasons, 48210.—With the exception of Broadhaven the harbours were exposed to northerly winds, 48218.—Broadhaven was near enough for large boats, both from witness's parish and Belmullet, and, unlike Porturlin and Portacloy, would not need a large expenditure to fit it for large boats, 48219-20.—There was as good fish at Broadhaven as elsewhere, 48228.—It would be better to create a fishing industry in Broadhaven than to create along the coast a number of persons, half fishermen and half farmers, 48221.—The industry admitted of development; all the year round there were some fish to be had; the supply of mackerel was very good; there was no market for herrings, 48227.—The lobster and crab industry was considerable, and was not confined to Erris, but owing to want of transit, the market was bad, 48232-4.—The long line fishing for cod and ling had been practically abandoned; witness thought the fish were less numerous and the appliances unsuitable, 48227, 48236.—But the cod and ling stations were still in workable condition, 48235.—Witness did not consider that mackerel and herring had displaced the larger fish, 48230-1.

Fishing Instructors.

The Congested Districts Board used to supply experienced fishermen from other parts of Ireland and from Scotland, to teach long line fishing, who resided in the district during the fishing year, and went out with the crews; at one time there were six of these instructors, 48223-4.—They were withdrawn when the long line fishing failed, owing to temporary disappearance of the fish, 48225.

Railway Facilities and Fisheries.

Railway accommodation was necessary for improvement of fisheries, 48210, 48222.—A coast railway would be better than one coming from Mullaranny for the general population, and the only convenient route for the fishing population, 48237.—It would be advantageous to link Erris with Sligo and that district, 48238.—And if the All Red Route came into existence, it would benefit the agricultural population of Erris to supply the large boats with provisions, 48238.

Industry.

The crochet industry, as established by the Congested Districts Board had been very successful, 48240.

Unsatisfactory Action of the County Committee in Erris.

Erris had been neglected by the Department, both from an industrial and agricultural point of view, 48240, 48289.—It was practically unrepresented on the County Committee, since the five members did not attend on account of the cost of travelling to Castlebar and hotel expenses there, which, at £2 10*s.* a head, would amount to £150 a year—an unreasonable sum to spend in obtaining a possible grant of £100; they would also lose three days each every time they attended a meeting, of which there were twelve per annum, 48240, 48282.—This was due not alone to the want of transit facilities, but to the system of work of the Department, which entailed too many meetings, on account of constant reference of the business to Dublin, 48241.—With a consequent waste of time and money, 48241.—The Sub-Committee wasted its time, having no voice in the framing of the scheme, or the distribution of money, 48242.—It was unable to obtain information, and had passed frequent resolutions calling upon Mr. Carolan to furnish witness with details and information of the expenditure of the Department during its operations in Erris, 48242, 48245.—This Mr. Carolan refused point blank, giving as a reason the purpose for which witness required the information (to use in evidence before this Commission), 48243-4, 48247.—This was a gross dereliction of duty, 48245.—Witness had not with him a copy of Carolan's letter, 48246.—Witness had attended the first meeting of the Sub-Committee, hoping to prevent its establishment; he had heard of no result of any subsequent meetings of the Sub-Committee, nor of any advice taken from it, 48287.—It had no income, 48288.—An agricultural scheme should be framed by persons knowing the congested district, 48241.—The scheme of the Committee, 48240, 48248.—Was unsuitable for Erris, which received no share of the £290 voted for shows, nor the £205 for horticulture, since it was not a district for fruit-growing; it had some help from the £300 for butter-making and £10 grant for planting ten shelter belts of trees; witness adduced this as evidence of the unsatisfactory working of the County Committee in Erris, 48248.—The district did better under the Congested Districts Board, 48249.—One Committee for the whole county was unsatisfactory; the active voting members of the Committee all came from uncongested districts or from uncongested portions of congested districts, 48280-4.—For example, Mr. Corcoran, of Killala, 48285.—There was only one scheduled district in Killala, though there might be as much congestion in Killala as in Claremorris or Swinford, 48206.

Scheme of Witness for Agricultural Instruction.

Witness proposed that the improvement of agriculture in Erris should be undertaken by the Parish Committees, 48249.—Erris required special treatment, 48265.—Witness's plan was the formation of a central body, consisting of two members from each Parish Committee, 48249, 48266.—With the addition of the County Councillors eligible under the rules of the Parish Committee; the County Council would continue to levy the rates, as at present, and would hand over the rates for the congested districts to this Central Body to administer, 48252-3.—Instead of to the County Committee as at present, 48252.—The income of the Central Body would consist of the proceeds of the penny rate (£45 in Erris), 48251, 48254.—And of the grant for the special fund for congested districts, which could easily be adjusted, 48250, 48252.—The Parish Committee would provide no funds, 48268.—And the surplus which would be needed must be obtained from the provision for special treatment of congested districts, 48268.—The Central Body would provide each Parish Committee with £100, together with the grant from the Board for agricultural purposes, 48249, 48269-70.—There were four parishes in Erris besides Belmullet, 48275.—All with Parish Committees, Bangor and Kilmore having two each, 48276.—The differences in extent and population could be adjusted by the local Committee, 48271.—The Parish Committee would select twenty farmers, subject to the report of the local expert as to their capacity and industry, 48257.—Each of these men would become a kind of unpaid instructor to the district, 48274.—The same men, if suitable, should be selected for five consecutive years, 48249, 48272.—And their holdings would, under the advice of the instructor, become models for the neighbourhood, 48248, 48272-3.—Each of the twenty men selected would be expected to raise crops, and contribute a certain amount of money to the working of his own plot, 48255-6.—And would receive as a subsidy £5 in seed and manure, etc., and something on the advice of the instructor for the special labour, 48249.—This would be a sufficient inducement to follow the instruction of the Parish Committee, given through the local expert instructor, 48249.—The work of the present agricultural instructors was wasted, 48262, 48278.—As they had no definite work, but only gave advice when asked; under the new system, each would report on the twenty holdings in his district, stating what improvements were needed, and what they would cost, 48249.

HEGARTY, Rev. J. J.—*continued.*

ADVANTAGES OF SCHEME.

By this plan, the scheme for Erris would be framed in Erris, 48249.—And the agricultural instruction would be under a body that knew local wants, 48263. —The Committee members would obtain information as to the best methods, when they met on the Central Body in Erris, and would report this in their own parishes, and get the new plans tried by the agricultural expert, on the land of the most intelligent men of the parish, 48263, 48267.—Witness would rely rather on associated local effort for improvement of the neighbourhood than on a system maintained by paid officials, 48277-8.—He would have one paid official, but not, as at present, also a paid supervisor, and a secretary with a nominal salary, 48277.

RELATION TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.

The schemes could be worked either directly by the Department or, preferably, through the County Committee, 48250.—The Parish Councils would remain under the Congested Districts Board, but, conjointly with the present Committee work, would carry on this agricultural instruction, 48259-61.

BINGHAM, Mr. DENIS G. B.

WITNESS'S LAND; PRICES OFFERED FOR IT, ETC.

Witness owned 13,606 acres in the barony of Erris, 48291.—The greater part was tenanted, 48291, 48374. —He had some grass land in his own hands, which was profitable, 48291.—And was willing to sell his land, tenanted or untenanted, at a price which would give him the same income as at present (less estate outgoings), if invested in reasonable securities, 48292, 48302.—He had been in negotiation for selling his land, most of which was in Judge Ross's Court, and had been offered twelve years' purchase, 48388, 48390.—By an agent of the Court, 48388.—But the offer being insufficient, the matter dropped, 48387-8.—If he had taken twelve years' purchase, and invested the purchase money at 3½ per cent., he would have lost from 20 to 30 per cent. at least, 48391.—Roughly, a loss of 25 per cent., 48398.—He could not tell the exact loss, but it would be much more than 25 per cent., 48402.—The offer made to witness was about four years short of what would return his net income, 48399.—The bonus would be three years, 48397.—The bonus would one and a half years, 48403.—The bonus would much of it disappear in costs, 48401.—The actual offer of twelve years, with bonus, came to fifteen years, 48397.—Witness did not think sixteen years would return his net income, 48400.—If he accepted twelve years, he would lose 50 per cent., 48405.—These calculations allowed 10 per cent. for outgoings, 48391, 48405.—He would prefer to sell his whole estate and buy back the demesne, 48404.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRAZING LANDS AN INJURY TO SMALL HOLDERS.

The division of grazing lands into small holdings would probably be unwise; grazing was the chief industry of Erris; even the small tenants found grazing paid better than tillage; great numbers of store beasts were grown on the mountain and moor land, 48292.—If the large farms were sold the small tenant would suffer, 48303, 48308, 48347.

TRADE IN CATTLE.

This was because he depended on selling his cattle to persons with larger holdings, 48292, 48293, 48305, 48307, 48332.—Witness himself bought them as yearlings, 48293, 48295.—Many farmers sold young calves, 48304, 48337, 48341, 48342.—The larger holders, like witness, kept them till they were three year olds, 48292-3.—And then sold them to farmers who kept them till they were ready for stall-feeding, when they were again sold, 48292-3, 48309.—Some of the small holders had, as well as the mountain land, strips of better pasture, which much improved cattle, 48292.—And could keep their stock till two years old, as did witness, 48297-8.—Cattle did better on a large range of grass, 48299.—When maturing it was necessary to them, 48360-3.—Small holders hired grazing from witness and others, 48297, 48299.—If the small owners had their holdings enlarged, it would answer the same purpose, if they treated their land wisely, 48300.—But small owners would tend to over-stock their land, 48301, 48304, 48357-9.—If they had more land they would purchase more cattle, 48304-5, 48332, 48341.—And there would be an increased number of producers, 48345.—These men would have no market for their cattle if all the grass farms were cut up, 48305, 48332.—Even if some of them were distributed, there would be less competition to buy the small holder's cattle, 48293, 48355-6.—The division of grass lands would increase the production of cattle, and decrease the power of maturing them, 48345.—There would be an increase in supply and no more buyers so that the stock would have to be sold as young as before, 48346.—The buyers from Meath and Queen's County did not buy very young cattle, 48334.—But if a tenant had a farm of a reasonable size he could keep his stock till two years old and sell them to these Meath dealers, 48339.—The cattle are sold in September or October, for winter feeding, as was now the custom, 48334.—By the more prosperous farmers, 48335, 48337. —And this might not dislocate the trade, 48334.

TRANSIT FACILITIES AFFECTING CATTLE TRADE.

The want of competition depended on the lack of railway facilities, 48357.—If there were a railway to take fat cattle to market and bring in feeding stuffs, 48309-10.—Stall-feeding might pay, 48316-7.—The cattle might be fattened earlier, 48324, 28326.—Under the present system stall-feeding would not pay the witness, 48309.—Since there was only a small market in Belmullet, 48310.—And it was not usual to ship fat beasts to Sligo, 48311-2.—Though store cattle were walked to Ballina, sent by rail to Dublin, and thence shipped to Liverpool to the sellers' agents, 48314.—It would entail more buildings, 48318.—And growing more grass and roots, 48319.—And more labour, 48320.—Which would be easily obtainable and cheap, 48320-8.—The present system of cattle-farming, which was peculiar to Ireland, 48324.—Was a waste of time, and might be simplified by better transit facilities, which would open a better market, and raise prices, 48324-6.—But sending cattle to distant markets would entail greater expense in carriage, and introduce competition with other districts, 48327. —The land in Erris was less suitable for fattening than lands in the east of Ireland, 48322.—Fat cattle were injured by railways journeys, 48328.—But at present they had also a long journey by road, 48328.—Witness was not sure that under an artificial system of fattening, he would keep his stock a year less, he now kept them about fifteen months, 48329.—He had not himself tried to fatten cattle, 48324.—Cattle might be killed and the meat sent away by boat, but witness did not know how it was to be done, meat that he had sent to London had gone bad in transit, 48364.—The meat could be insured, but witness did not think the export of meat would pay Erris farmers under present conditions, 48365.

EVIDENCE OF MR. DORAN AND MR. FINUCANE.

Witness did not agree with Mr. Doran that the land now in the hands of graziers would carry more cattle if it were divided among small farmers, 48350. —He understood that Mr. Doran contemplated something like the Belgian system, 48378.—There would be more tillage under that system, and less room for beasts, 48351.—And there would be no competition to buy cattle, and therefore lower prices, 48356. —Also referring to Mr. Doran's evidence, witness believed his plan of fixing the price of land was fair, and Mr. Finucane's method of making the landlord fix the price was unreasonable and unjust, 48365.—Witness based this statement on Mr. Finucane's evidence before the Commission, 48368.

TWO-FOLD INTEREST OF OWNERS.

Witness thought it advisable, if the State adopted the policy of acquiring grass lands, that the owner's two-fold interest in the land should be recognised, and compensation given accordingly; tenant-rights in Erris were saleable at a high price, as much as twenty-two years' purchase, 48365.

TURBARY AND KELP INDUSTRIES, ETC., AND TRANSIT FACILITIES.

It was unfortunate that in the West of Ireland all classes were dependent upon the land, and all ameliorative efforts were concentrated upon the land; in Erris there were thousands of acres of turbary bog, and now fuel was getting scarce, it was strange no Government had taken up the matter; the deep black turf of the neighbourhood was only second to the best coal, and it was untouched for miles around; roads should be made into the bogs, good drainage carried out, and facilities for sale of turbary introduced, 48370.—Germany was able to send peat-moss litter to Dublin, 48371.—The industry of kelp-raising had declined of late years; it was said, owing to a "ring" of buyers which had reduced prices and been disastrous to the dwellers on the coast, 48370, 48382.—At one time, 300 or 400 tons of kelp were made on the coast of Erris in the year, 48379.—And seven years previously the price was £6 a ton, while now it was £2 10s. to £3 a ton, 48381.—Kelp was used to make iodine, which could now be more cheaply obtained from saltpetre, etc., 48383.—If some industries suitable to the district were financed the people would be able to live in comfort; work would be available for the young people, and agitation would cease, 48370.—Witness, questioned as to whether his own tenants were driven to agitation by his practice of charging them one-third profit on the kelp they gathered, replied that this was only charged for kelp gathered on lands in his own hands, and not in the occupation of tenants, 48377.—He meant to allude to agrarian agitation, 48373.—Which he thought would cease if landlords and tenants came to terms about land purchase, 48374.—There were large quantities of drift weed and growing sea-weed along the coast, which would be a valuable manure for inland tillage if there were means of transit; the land on the coast was surfeited with weed manure, 48385.

LIMING AND TRANSIT FACILITIES.

There was no limestone in the turbary, and bog was with difficulty reclaimed without lime, lime was abundant in Tyrawley, and could be imported if there were a railway, and large areas of cut-away bog and unproductive land made profitable, 48385.—There would be no improvement in Erris unless a railway were made to open up trade between Erris and other localities; the Government, if it financed a railway, would do more to assist the people than had been done before by all its predecessors; the barony was forty-two miles from the nearest important town; a railway thither would increase the value of cattle by twenty per cent., 48386.

SANDHILLS.

Witness thought it undesirable to sell land in the Mullett which largely consisted of sandhills, 48409.—To the tenantry, who would not preserve the grass which had been preserved by graziers, to keep the sand from blowing and the land from deterioration, 48410.—For the last ten years this had been neglected, though the preservation of grass was to the interest of tenants, and some means should be found of preventing it, 48411.—And preserving the land to the men who had improved it, 48410.

LABOUR EMPLOYED BY WITNESS.

Witness employed eighteen men as labourers, 48396, 48406.—And if he were deprived of his living these men would lose their employment, 45394.—Some of them were his own tenants, and some tenants of adjoining landlords, 48407, 48409.

CASE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness knew of case in which an arrangement was made between the landlord of an evicted tenant and the Estates Commissioners, that the tenant should be re-instated at sixteen years' purchase, with one year's rent; this was inconvenient to the landlord, since he wished to sell the whole estate, in which this was one holding out of forty; he agreed, and when preliminary arrangements were made, the Commissioners brought the negotiations to an end on the plea that the holding was uneconomic, though their own inspector had agreed to the price, 48386.

GALLAGHER, Mr. JOHN.

THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ITS TENANTS.

Witness believed that improvements were better done by the Congested Districts Board than by the tenant, 48413.—But the Board should hold the land for a limited term, 48416.—The land should be transferred as quickly as possible, to set the Board free for further purchases in the district, 48419.—It was exasperating for tenants paying full rents to see the tenants of the Board for a number of years practically paying no rents, owing to the reductions made, but deriving an income from game and fishing rights, 48416.—Which was bought from them by Mr. O'Brien for a lump sum, paid to each tenant yearly, 48417-8.—This occurred in a townland called the O'Hara Dease Estate, once worthless, and transformed by the Board into the most comfortable townland in the whole district, 48413.—Witness believed, but did not know absolutely that this was bought at 10¼ years' purchase, 48414.—The rents had never been regularly paid, which might account for the small price, 48414-5.

GAME RIGHTS.

Witness considered, in the event of a transfer of property, that the game rights should be vested in the tenant, 48428.—It was now jointly preserved by the landlord and tenant, 48428.—The landlord never had full game rights, 48431.—Witness was aware that if the tenant exercised game rights, it would, by the Land Act of 1881, enable the landlord to take the tenant-right of his holding; but in another section the tenant was protected against trespass, 48432.—By the law of the land, the game might belong to the landlord, but by the law of nature, it was the tenants, 48431.—In the event of a sale, the landlords' right might be held, 48428.—Disputes about game caused endless troubles, 48428.—Much damage was done by persons in search of game and fishing, throwing down fences, 48428, 48433.—And if the tenants were peasant proprietors the land would be more valuable to them if no one else had rights over it, 48428, 48433.—The question of game entered into bargains between landlord and tenants, 48435.—And if the game passed to the tenant, he paid for it, 48436.—The terms varied, 48437.—Witness thought that if the landlord were deprived of game rights, the State should pay him, 48434.—Not the tenant, 48430.—The law should be so amended that the tenant could not be left without game rights, 48438-9.—Commissioner O'Brien had refused to sanction the sale of the Dillon Estate, because the tenant was not to have the rights, and had said that when a man became a tenant purchaser, no one should be allowed to come on to his land, 48438.—The matter could be arranged, by vesting the game rights in a public authority, 48840.—Or a committee of the tenants, 48841.—It was not so important to make a profit to the tenants as to prevent people coming over their land, which would be a matter of agreement, 48442-3.

LIME.

Witness was glad to hear from Mr. Scanlan that there was lime in the district; there was also excellent limestone in the eastern part of Erris, along the Owenmore river, three miles east of Bangor; witness had recommended that funds to the credit of congested districts should be spent in testing these quarries; this had been adopted by the County Committee, but was not sanctioned by the Department of Agriculture, 48419.—Witness thought it strange that a unanimous suggestion of the County Committee should be disregarded, and hoped that the Commissioners would make it incumbent on any authority remodelling estates, and re-distributing holdings, to make provision for obtaining lime, 48419-20, 48422.—Witness

GALLAGHER, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

had approached the Congested Districts Board on the matter, but believed that they had replied that the matter was transferred to the Department of Agriculture; in every case, the reports of the Agricultural Instruction in Ireland had dwelt on the necessity for lime, 48422.

Mr. Bingham's Evidence on Distribution of Grass Lands and Cattle Prices.

Witness disagreed with Mr. Bingham's statement, that multiplication of the number of tenants would lower the price of store-cattle; if every acre of Erris were occupied (as it ought to be) by tenants on economic holdings, the price of cattle would be unaffected, for the cattle reared in Erris was a negligible proportion of the whole supply, 48423.—The same process would, no doubt, go on all over Ireland, but if it had tended to affect the price of cattle, that effect would be already observable, 48423.—The same thing would not be likely to happen throughout Ireland, but even so, every grass holding sub-divided and sub-let would carry not only more cattle, but more inhabitants; this was supported by figures collected by witness, as to the population, and number of cattle on his own townland, compared to townlands under grazing, 48424.

Division of Grass Lands and Migration.

If the grass lands were distributed, the thing should be put on a broad basis, and people should be restored to the lands from which they had been driven to wet and barren districts; witness had heard that people from Erris would be unwilling to migrate to Roscommon; this was untrue; he himself was willing to go; people from Erris went much further afield; those who were not too old, or specially incapable, would go, if there were a definite migration scheme to put before them, 48425.

Agricultural Banks.

Witness, in his own experience, as Secretary of an Agricultural Bank, knew them to be a great benefit, but he thought they should be put on a sounder basis, by being attached to a system of land purchase, 48425.—They were now really governed by the Irish Organisation Society, which was subsidised by the Department of Agriculture, 48425.—The business was now carried on in a school-house, by a Secretary with a nominal salary (witness himself did not draw his salary); if the Bank were directly subsidised by the Congested Districts Board, and a house hired, and Secretary paid by that body, depositors would have more confidence, 48427.—The Board might advance money for people to repay their annuities, 48427-8.

M'HALE, Mr. JOHN.

Acreage, Population, Valuation of Westport Union.

Westport Union contained 347,819 acres; the population was 34,672; poor law valuation, £45,069; in twenty years the population decreased by 3,593; in fifty years the number of houses by 8,012; this was chiefly due to the Marquis of Sligo, Sir Richard Annesley O'Donel, and the Earl of Lucan; their tenants, though the majority owed nothing, were replaced by English and Scotch settlers; great distress prevailed amongst the evicted tenants during Famine and after, 48444.

Land held by a few Graziers.

Hence arose land monopoly; sixty-six graziers held 98,790 acres, and thirteen landlords held in fee 52,145 acres for grazing alone; all these graziers were non-residential; there were 4,089 occupiers, whose valuation ranged from £1 5*s.* to £8; about 52,000 acres were held by graziers on the eleven months system; according to statement made by Assistant Clerk of the Union in 1902, the valuation within its area was about £1 per head; were the land rightly distributed each person would receive ten acres; one grazier alone, Mr. Houston Boswell, an Englishman, occupied 24,763 acres within the Union; this land, at the Killeries, was partly arable, and a great deal was mountain and bog; Mr. Boswell bought bullocks and grazed them here; he lived in London, and only came to Ireland occasionally to visit his stock; he had held most of the land about thirty years as tenant of Lord Sligo, probably under lease, 48444-55.

M'HALE, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

General Poverty.

The average at Carrowbawn was ten and a half acres amongst twenty-three tenants, and the average valuation was £2 12*s.*; at Carnalurgan the average was nine acres amongst eight tenants, and the average valuation was £1 6*s.*; the same system prevailed on the Sligo Estate, *e.g.*, at Lettermaghera, Shramore electoral division (Westport Union), where forty families existed on a valuation of £60—an average of £1 10*s.* per family—the system was rundale: one man valued at 14*s.*, had patches of land in sixteen places; Lord Sligo held most of the cattle-ranch of nearly 12,000 acres, 48455-60.

Migratory Labour.

There were, in all, in Westport Union, 4,089 occupiers rated at or under £8; these, out of 5,322 families, *i.e.*, about 20,000 persons, had holdings below subsistence point; they were consequently dependent on relatives in America, or on annual migrations to England and Scotland, where they worked as labourers; cheap trains and boats were run for this purpose, 48448.

Emigration.

The flower of the population emigrated to America; since 1851 probably over 30,000 families had left the union, 48448.

Stoney Estate.

About seven years ago the Congested Districts Board bought the Stoney Estate at a reasonable price, 16½ years' purchase; six or seven years later this, including 2,000 acres of mountain land, had been re-sold to Mr. Stoney at a nominal price; this caused distress to tenants, as the Board had allowed them to graze their cattle there at a nominal price; the tenants were very poor, and had fully availed themselves of this privilege, 48461.—The quality of the mountain was bad, but sometimes, for months, mountain grazing was as good as arable for fattening purposes, and it seemed as though the position of this land, running parallel to the tenants' holdings all the way, might have permanently accommodated the people if allowed for three months of the year; the mountain was now used as a game preserve, but Mr. Stoney let some of the tenants graze cattle there, 48461-77, 48496-7, 48536-9.

Sale of Rossyvera Arable Farm.

When the Board sold the 2,000 acres of mountain, it bought from Mr. Stoney an arable farm of 200 acres, called Rossyvera; the Board agreed to pay an enormous price; witness admitted it was usual for the Board to sell a mountain for £600, in order to get arable land for about £7,300; Rossyvera might not have been paid for at once, but if not, was now in course of being paid for; the Board might or might not have it on their hands now; operations had been begun on it immediately; but these had been suspended after twelve months, as the title to the farm had been disputed by Mr. Stoney, in the interests of his brother, Colonel Stoney; the farm was now being used for grazing by the people of the district; the land was good and would greatly benefit the people if secured to them, but it need not have been bought so high; opinions differed as to whether the Board had done wisely in the transaction with Mr. Stoney, 48479-93, 48498-9.

Suspicious Circumstances in Connection with Sale.

The transaction appeared to have been made in Mr. Stoney's interest; Mr. Stoney might have made the re-selling of the mountain a condition of the Board's getting Rossyvera, but witness thought this could not have been enforced; Mr. Jones, the head landlord, had said he would be glad to sell the farm, and he regarded Mr. Stoney simply as a middleman;

it was a suspicious circumstance that a former steward of Mr. Stoney's should have been appointed Assistant Land Commissioner for the Board; witness believed he made a report and measured the place, and though this had been done with his chief's (Mr. Doran's) consent, that he had greatly favoured Mr. Stoney; witness admitted that this was only an impression, 48488, 48501-14, 48526.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS NEEDED.

Small owners would be chiefly benefited by adding good land to their holdings; a number should be migrated to better lands within the Union. There was enough grass land to supply both local needs and the wants of many outside the Union, 48527-32.—Part of the land was good, part intersected with rivers; much was rough mountain land, only needing a little reclamation, 48533-4.

NEWPORT WORKHOUSE.

Newport Workhouse, a modern building, erected at cost of £13,000, was bought at public auction by the Congested Districts Board for about £600; Newport and Wesport Unions had been amalgamated, owing to the high rates prevailing, and the building had consequently become useless, 48539.—The people thought it might now be used for some reproductive purpose, *e.g.*, a bacon or woollen factory, 48554.—It was near a quay, a railway, and a powerful waterfall; there was a large enough population for mill purposes, although the fever hospital and such like buildings were being pulled down to improve farms and utilise the stone. It was a matter of opinion whether this factory scheme would pay, 48558.—There was little or no private enterprise in Ireland, but the Board had the plan under consideration, 48559-73.

WORK OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

The Congested Districts Board had done little for Westport Union beyond purchasing a few hundred acres; these were bought too high, and it was doubtful whether the tenants would ever be able to meet the instalments, 48461.

SUGGESTIONS FOR RE-CONSTITUTING BOARD.

The Board should be made more representative, and some of its members should be elected from public bodies, *e.g.*, County, District, or Urban Councils, with compulsory powers for acquiring land for the relief of congestion. The members lived chiefly in Dublin, and did not sufficiently know the country's needs; the County Council would know them; each county should have at least three or four members to represent the people accurately; there were three electoral divisions in Achill Island, Achill, Duagh, and Slievemore; of these Mr. Lavelle, now in Dundrum Asylum, was the principal representative on the Rural District Council; even two representatives on the Congested Districts Board would be an improvement, admitting that more might hinder consecutive knowledge and discussion; the Chairman of each County Council should nominate the members, with power to replace them should they fail to secure advantages for their own localities; counties like Donegal and Mayo, which were represented on the Board, were better looked after than other counties, 48617-37.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

The fishing industry along the western coast was neglected for want of proper pier and harbour accommodation; the piers at Lecanavey, Mulranny, etc., were useless, because not built far enough out to sea; extra piers at Achill, Dooega, Rossnewrevagh and other places, and the utilisation of Mulroy as a harbour for fishing boats, would probably encourage and improve the industry; witness did not think the Government had taken any action in regard to Mulroy Harbour, 48580, 48582-4.—A siding might be made near Mulroy Pier by the Midland Great Western Company; at present fish had to be carted as many as four or six miles to Achill Sound Station; in order to develop the industry round Achill, boats were needed for deep-sea fishing; a loan might be advanced at a limited rate of interest and repayment to buy these, also gear and carts; the people were a fine, hardy race, and, granted facilities, would make a good fishery; the safest place of anchorage would be Roigh Harbour, 48581, 48585-9.

RAILWAY AND THE FISHERY.

A railway was necessary for the development of a fishery, but that to Achill Sound had not succeeded well in this respect, owing to the people migrating when the mackerel fishing ceased. The people were poor, and the coast fishing was not good, 48592-7.

LOBSTER FISHING INDUSTRY.

There was a plentiful supply of lobsters, but it was not thoroughly fished; it was a "small boat" business, requiring no capital, and witness thought the railway had increased the industry; the lobster fishing was not as good at Achill as at the Island of Inniskea, and the Achill people were not so well trained; if they had instruction they would be more energetic, 48603-16.

ACT OF 1903 COMPARED WITH ASHBOURNE ACT.

The Act of 1903 had done no good to tenants in the Union, owing to the exorbitant prices demanded by landlords, whereas before, when the Ashbourne Act was in force, prices had been comparatively reasonable; Colonel C. H. Knox, Creagh, Ballinrobe, had then offered to sell a part of his estate to his tenants at eighteen years' purchase; Mrs. M. A. T. O'Donel had offered to sell at sixteen, and the late Victor C. Kennedy at thirteen years' purchase; Mr. M'Donald, of Dublin, had bought the Symes Estate at twelve years' purchase, but none of these offers had been accepted by tenants; Lord Sligo had offered to sell at eighteen years' purchase; the Congested Districts Board, after selling the estate, had offered to buy at sixteen years' purchase, and the sale had fallen through; it was unlikely that Lord Sligo, under the new Act, would now sell at less than 24½ years' purchase, 48637-45.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

The only method of settling the Land Question in the West of Ireland was by compulsory purchase, and by an Act of Parliament forcing a landlord to sell at a reasonable price; his net income, after deducting the usual outgoings, might be taken as regulating the price he should receive, 48645-7.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

Agricultural produce had greatly fallen in price within the last few years; the potato crop had lately been entirely lost; cattle rearing might pay the tenant farmer; but the average holding in the Union was worth so little, because of its smallness, that a man could not live on it even rent free; the average valuation was about £2 or £2 10*s.* a holding, and there were holdings on the Stoney property rated as low as 14*s.* 6*d.*, 48639, 48648-52.

WALSH, Mr. JOHN.

WESTPORT UNION—POPULATION, VALUATION, AND ACREAGE; GENERAL POVERTY.

Westport Union, although called congested, was really very sparsely populated; the Land Acts had produced no great improvement in the condition of the agricultural population, as the landlords had already cleared the tillers of the soil off all the good land; the Union had a population of 37,381, and a valuation of £43,961, being at the rate of a little over £1 per head; its superficial area equal 347,819 acres, making nearly ten acres per head; of a total of 5,322 rated occupiers, 3,041 were under £4 valuation, and 1,048 more were rated from £4 to £8; of the remaining 1,233 occupiers, 500 were barely removed by one degree of poverty above the others; out of 5,322 families there were 4,089, *i.e.*, about 20,000 persons, who were only kept from starvation by the earnings of relatives in America, or by annual migrations to England and Scotland, 48656, 48677, 48682.

WALSH, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Migration and Emigration.

Special cheap trains and boats were run to assist the annual migration of men to work on farms and in mines and iron-works, 48682.—The total emigration from this county since 1851—the emigrants being almost exclusively young people from fifteen to thirty-five—had been 164,589; and from this Union alone the emigration had exceeded 30,000 in fifty-six years, 48682.

Deterioration of Land owing to Depopulation.

The result of this depopulation was to deprive tillage-plots of the care of almost all the male agriculturists; rotation of crops was neglected and land becoming more and more incapable of proper cultivation; potatoes, their staple crop, only yielded an average of 2·83 ton per acre in 1900, as against 6·05 tons in England; potato famines had only been averted the last few years by the invention of the Bordelaise spraying-mixture, which involved an addition to the cost of cultivation that in many cases absorbed the reductions of rent obtained by small holders in the Land Courts, 48684.

Land held by Graziers.

In 1901, cereals and green crops were only cultivated on 93,681 acres in a county of 1,327,000 acres, while 644,463 acres were devoted to cattle; only 15,000 of the 347,000 acres in Westport Union were used to raise food for the people; 150,935 acres, chiefly evicted land, were monopolised by graziers, 48684.

Land held by Landlords.

It was important to note the amount of land held by landlords in the district—Marquis of Sligo, 27,402 acres; Earl of Lucan, 382; Sir Roger Palmer, 218; W. C. Kennedy (London), 3,439; R. V. Stoney, 4,223; Thomas O'Donel, 2,495; Mrs. Cline, 288; Bellingham, 8,955; Pat O'Dowd, 305; Mary Pike, 1,533; Agnes M'Donnell, 1,530; F. C. Garvey, 284; Gibbings, 1,091, 48685.—Witness admitted that these lands were partly untenanted, containing rough mountain and bog; there was not much bog in Union as a whole; there was more rough than arable land; but there was much good land about Newport to Westport, 48686-90.

Scheduled areas of good Land

The following good land was scheduled:—Robert Gibbons, Westport, 221 acres; W. Hobson, Westport, 374; Exham Morony, Belcarra, 734; Hawkshaw, Ayle, 315; W. P. O'Malley, Louisburgh, 353; A. H. Boswell, London, 24,763 acres of land; this last was a mountain, principally grass, but there was good arable land here and there; also in Durma district about Louisburgh; Lady Wilbraham, 572 acres; Patrick Joyce, 262; A. M. O'Malley, 286; Robert Powell, 106; T. F. Joyce, 2,373; Pat Fahey, 1,194; James Hawkshaw, 81; E. King, 134; Thomas Bourke, 306; James Action, 65; F. Mulholland, 429; Captain Laprimandaye, London, 10,064; most of this last might not be arable, but the graziers had always had the pick of the land; in the list given there was some coarse, but most was arable; witness had only the valuation of the whole *in globo*, 48690-4.

Enlargement of Holdings and provision of Land for Sons of Farmers needed.

The operations of the Congested Districts Board were beneficial, but too slow; they seemed unable to provide holdings for young people, sons of tenant-farmers who were forced to go to other countries, although there was sufficient land for at least most of them within the Union, 48656-61, 48687.—It was more important to first enlarge uneconomic holdings; even in fairly good years the normal condition of farmers was one of poverty; they should be made owners of the good lands, and then their sheep, cattle, and pigs would consume their crops, and thus fed, would fetch prices in the open markets which could not be beaten by the grass-fed importations of other countries, 48662-3.

WALSH, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

Compulsory Acquisition of Waste Lands advocated.

The enormous tracts of waste lands consisting of bog and sometimes grass in the Union should be compulsorily acquired (through companies or otherwise) and turned into arable land for the benefit of farmers; this had been recommended by the Devon Commission in 1845, and by Select Committees of the House of Commons from 1810 down to time of Devon Commission; the work of reclamation would profitably employ the labourers and small farmers of Ireland for the next twenty-five years, while providing a permanent means of existence for at least three times the present agricultural population; agriculturists should have the right to serve notice claiming land used for pasture for the more important industry of agriculture, while the Land Commission should have the power to stake out from grazing-ranches so much land as the claimants could farm as agricultural holdings, for landlords would not sell unless compelled, 48663-5, 48696.

Fishing Industry—Lack of Piers and Harbours.

Westport Union lay along almost forty miles of seaboard, but the fishing industry was not worked to advantage for want of proper piers and harbours; there was not even sufficient fish brought in for the people of the coast; these in winter relied chiefly on inferior Scotch herrings; in certain seasons fishing was impossible, 48665.

Inadequate Pier Accommodation at Clare Island.

Three years ago seed potatoes had been sent to Clare Island; the boat had gone within a hundred yards of the pier, but had been forced by a rough sea to come back eighteen miles to anchor; when she had returned later, the people had been obliged to wade thirty or forty yards into the water to fetch the potatoes; witness had not much personal knowledge of Clare Island; the situation there seemed to have greatly improved since its acquisition by the Congested Districts Board; the people sent their stock to the mainland in one of the Board's steamers; they could not get stores on or off the steamers by going alongside the pier, except at high water, 48665-76.

GREALEY, Very Rev. Canon.

Land held by Graziers in Newport West, Newport East, and Shramore Electoral Division.

The grass ranches in Newport West, held by a few graziers, exceeded in value by £165 12*s.* all the land and other hereditaments held by 260 tenants, 48701.—In Newport East, valued at £786 15*s*, the grass ranches held by a few exceeded in value by £313 14*s.* all the land, etc., owned by 195 tenants, 48703.—In Shramore Electoral Division (where no agricultural tenant was valued as high as £10), the ranches exceeded in value all lands, etc., of agricultural tenants by £315 6*s.*, 48705.

Land of Congested Districts Board in Chancery.

The Congested Districts Board had about 1,200 acres of untenanted land, but 600 acres had been in Chancery for twenty years past, 48883.

Former Times Contrasted.

The grass lands of these districts were fast deteriorating from lack of cultivation; in Newport East, for want of drainage, etc., agricultural holdings were flooded, and so unfit for crops; in most large tracts of the best land not even a vegetable garden was under cultivation; large landholders should be compelled to keep a proportion of land in tillage, and all from deterioration, 48701-5.—There was as good land for corn, wheat, and oats in Ireland as anywhere; once hardly any bread-stuff had been imported in Mayo; every householder had had his own meal, linen, wool, and plot of flax, and the people had manufactured their own clothes—friezes, flannels, tweeds, towels, sheeting, and shirts, 48735-6.

Evictions—Shramore, Newport, and Islands of Clew Bay.

The tenants of Lettermoghera (Shramore), though not owing a shilling's rent, had been evicted by Lord Sligo, who wanted their fine pasture and arable lands for game; in Newport parish the natives had been cruelly and systematically evicted from the good land; they had been deprived of from ten to twelve miles of mountain, mostly fine pasture, and had been driven from the Islands of Clew Bay into marsh, bog, and mountain; the islands produced a rich crop of sea-weed (a fertilising manure), and were also good for grazing, while parts had once been cultivated by the people; they would be excellent for the enlargement of holdings on the mainland, 48705, 48720, 48723-31.

General Poverty—Neglect by Public Boards.

There was great poverty in all three divisions; in one district Lord Sligo had eighty tenants with an average valuation of £2 5*s.*; in Lettermoghera he had forty tenants whose valuation, everything included, was £60—taking land alone, probably about £1 per head; a man from there had stated his as 10*s.*, and his one acre was in fourteen places; in another village of Lord Sligo's each holding was valued at £2; Shramore was congested, neglected, and inaccessible; roads, bridges, and drainage were needed, but public boards did nothing for its relief, 48701-7, 48720, 48722.—The natives of Newport parish generally lived miserably by hard toil, or died of disease and hunger; flax, oats, and wheat had been grown there extensively, but the land of the evicted tenants was too poor for wheat or flax, and oats had deteriorated, and were now for the most part only fit for cattle fodder, whereas once 2,000 tons of oats had been exported annually from Newport-quay—the natives being first fully supplied with excellent meal for their own food; now oats was often brought from Glasgow to feed the few remaining horses, 48731.

Migratory Labour.

Most of the men of Newport East, Newport West, and Shramore were forced from lack of employment to migrate to other countries for support of their families; children of nine and ten, instead of going to school, were made to help pick potatoes in Scotland; people of Inniskea, Connemara, and Clifden went as far as Leitrim and Sligo lobster fishing, and were from home all summer, 48701-5, 48778, 48889.

Emigration—Dilatoriness of Board.

During the last twenty-four years 168 families had left for America; for fifteen years there had been no emigration of whole families from the parish; their expectation of getting new and better land being disappointed owing to the dilatoriness of the Congested Districts Board, they had had during the last three years to emigrate; most of these families had been well off, one man, an evicted tenant, leaving with £500, made by herding and by picking periwinkles on the shore; an intelligent, well-educated family like his should have been helped by the Board to stay in the country; his money should not have debarred him from a free holding, 48743-58.—The exorbitant prices given by the Board for small holdings encouraged emigration; Myles Kilcoyne, valued at 17*s.*, had received £22 for his interest; some emigrants left their land to relatives, stipulating to get it back if they returned in three years; certainly small holdings fetched big prices, but no one would buy 17*s.* worth of land, except to add to another holding, and for that he would give four or five pounds; emigrants returning with money would offer as much as sixty years' purchase of land, but only for reasons of sentiment; there was a house on Kilcoyne's holding, but £5 or £6 would have been too high a price—it would not have fetched more in open market; another tenant in Murrivaugh had paid £11 for interest in a holding for which, without improvements, the Board had given him £52; the rent was £3 10*s.*; but rent was no test of land value; some of Mr. Stoney's tenants paid from £9 to £10, and land once worth £12 was now £3, with the reductions under the Land Act, 48796-8.

No Reduction in Rents of Certain Tenants of the Board.

In 1898 or 1899 the Board bought (under Ashbourne Act) the tenants' lands on Mr. Stoney's Rosturk Estate at 12½, and the Islands (on same estate), untenanted, at 15½ years' purchase; till now the tenants had had to pay the old rents; they had the improvements, for making which they had been paid, but other tenants, *e.g.*, Lord Dillon's, had been given 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound reduction, when the Board bought his estate, 48800-09.

Stoney Estate—Suspicion of Underhand Influences.

The Board gave £800 for 2,500 acres of untenanted mountain on the Stoney Estate, and in 1905 re-sold 2,000 acres (the best part) of this to Mr. Stoney for £600; the congested tenants had 500 acres of bare rock for enlargement of their uneconomic holdings at £200; considering Mr. Stoney's portion was good pasture, and theirs the reverse—considering, too, the inflation in the price of land under the Wyndham Act, the Board should have got £1,200 for the 2,000 acres; these had been as valuable to the tenants as all their eleven holdings put together, and should not have been re-sold at any price; sheep could be reared there producing sufficient wool to clothe the people; witness believed the Board had allowed sheep and cattle grazing there at 18*d.* per head, and had heard this was more than had been charged before, when a part had been grazed; the people complained, and it was thought free grazing would not have been a great concession; witness believed Mrs. Pike, of Achill, charged 1*s.* per head; from 1891 to 1894 the total amount paid by tenants to the Board for grazing was £35; perhaps the people had not used the mountain much; some had no cattle or sheep, but these often let their holdings for a year or two until their families could earn money, and they became prosperous afterwards, 48809-20, 48840-1.—It was not true that it had been necessary to re-sell the mountain to get land elsewhere from Mr. Stoney; as lessee, he had no right to sell without the landlord, Mr. Jones; and both long before had expressed willingness to sell this land to the Board at a fair price; the valuation was £131, the price paid £3,973.—Over thirty years' purchase; witness did not know the valuation of the mountain, but the people would rather have given £3,000 for it (especially considering its convenient position) than for the 150 acres exchanged, 48834-9, 48842-7.—The Board had wasted money by paying in part for fencing the mountain; the law compelling two tenants to divide expense of bounding their properties should in this case have been disregarded; witness was not sure if the whole mountain had been fenced, but only its re-sale had made any fencing necessary, 48821-33.—It was thought that underhand influences guided Board's operations; one of their agents, Mr. Vereker, had been agent for Mr. Stoney's and for several other estates in the district; his social relations with the landlords caused his impartiality in land transactions to be questioned; possibly Mr. Doran, and not he, had been responsible for the Stoney Estate transaction, but there had been much confusion since his appointment; for example, the Board had been given the right of way through Sir Roger Palmer's property by Mr. Stoney, and had been stopped by the latter's brother (claiming the tenant-right) and Sir Roger's agent, 48847, 48886-8.

Prices Given by Board for Land.

The Board bought the Kilbride farm (valued at £87) for £1,800, *i.e.*, twenty-seven years of the valuation plus the bonus, but this was fair, as the land was good, untenanted, and well placed. Mr. Curran's Estate, bought in 1888 for £1,500 (valuation £117), was bought by the Board in 1905 for £4,000, *i.e.*, 35 years' price on the valuation. The new tenants could not be expected to pay the annuities required to meet principal and interest; landlords might have refused to sell other grass lands of the district cheaper, but it was better not to buy at all than give such prices; Mr. Doran had bought the tenant-right of some lands at a moderate price on advice of witness, but lately had not consulted him, 48847, 48854-8.

GREALEY, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

NEWPORT WORKHOUSE—SUGGESTION FOR MAKING INTO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The costly Newport Workhouse, now neglected, should be utilised by the Congested Districts Board, or by the "Department." The demolition of the dead-house, fever annexe, and certain out-houses would not interfere with the main building; adjoining it were 400 acres of land, and there were a railway siding and pier at Newport; an Agricultural College, with experimental farm, might be made—the rest of the land used to extend holdings; the College could be attached to some of the National Schools, and one skilled teacher might teach six or seven parishes, giving each one full day a week; men could only learn agriculture when young, 48868-77, 48884-5.

FISHING INDUSTRY—PROPOSED NEW HARBOUR.

Many of the piers built had been proved worthless; little piers might be built at Doobeg, Murrivaigh, and Killeen, for fishing, seaweed and turf supply to the islands and coast villages; though a harbour was essential to the development of Clew Bay fishing, the proposed expenditure of £100,000 on Innislyre seemed too great; apparently that project had been abandoned; the proximity of a railway made Roigh the best place for a harbour, 48877-83, 48883.

PICKING SHELL-FISH A REMUNERATIVE INDUSTRY.

Some of the poorest people had, unassisted by Government, become wealthy by selling shell-fish from 1*s.* to 15*d.* a stone; a family could soon pick a cwt., but only at the high spring tides; the fish were sent to Manchester, Liverpool, and London in cart-loads; the railway had greatly developed the industry, 48772-7.—Rocks, seaweed, and a not too rough sea were necessary to a good lobster supply; these conditions did not prevail at Achill, but people came from a distance to fish there, 48777-8.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND ACQUISITION OF LAND ADVOCATED—REFUSAL OF LORD SLIGO TO SELL TO TENANTS.

There should be compulsory acquisition of land; twenty years before Captain Laprimandaye had offered to give land to the Lethermoghera tenants, without compensation, at the rent he as lessee paid Lord Sligo, and the latter had not consented to the sale; Captain Laprimandaye had asked the Congested Districts Board to dispose of his interest, but, even since the Act of 1903, Lord Sligo gave various pretexts for not selling; eighteen years ago the Shramore tenants had tried to buy their holdings at ten years' purchase from Mr. Simes' representatives, and Lord Sligo had refused to sell his interest, and, therefore, the Land Commission had not been able to advance money; a Mr. Stanuell, of Dublin, had bought the estate very cheap; the Mayo landlords and great territorialists were equally unwilling to sell; from time to time there were tenants' interests for sale, but the landlord had a veto, 48705-20, 48759-63.—Good land should be given the people, and the Congested Districts Board should build mills for the corn grown on it, 48731-5.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED IN CONSTITUTION OF BOARD.

The Congested Districts Board was composed largely of strangers, and was too much in the hands of paid officials, who had not the confidence of the people; the Congested Districts should send as members natives conversant with their needs; the Board sessions should be held in these counties, time and place of meetings published beforehand, and members of County and District Councils invited to come and advise. There should also be an advisory Board in every congested county, *e.g.*, the District or County Council, who would send their views to the Secretary for consideration; whole counties, like Galway and Mayo, should not be left in the hands of a few officials; were the people consulted there would be no need for coercion and so forth, 48856, 48859-67.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY.

See also pp. 1, 410, 611, *and* 623.

STONEY ESTATE; JUSTIFICATION OF TRANSACTION.

Witness alone was responsible for the transactions of the Congested Districts Board with Mr. Stoney; when Mr. Vereker had been made assistant agent to the Board, it had been arranged that he should have nothing to do with any negotiations concerning estates for which he had once been agent; the statement that he had not been discharged by the Land Judge as receiver, on entering the Board's service, and had not had payment of any kind for his receivership when discharged in 1905, referred to the O'Donel Estate, not yet bought; no part of the Stoney Estate had ever been in the Land Court, and Canon Greeley might have informed himself accurately, 48891-5.—On the Stoney Estate, bought by the Board, was a mountain; Mr. Stoney had formerly put stock on it for four shillings at a time, and anyone could graze an animal on it for so much a month, but the tenants as a body had had no grazing rights there; the Board had let them graze it at a nominal rent, but witness thought the largest number of stock put on it at any time had been about thirty, and the average rents about £8 to £15 a year, for the four years the Board had had it; very few tenants had stock, and though in some cases the Board had offered loans to buy this, they said they had too much rough land already; the mountain could only be used three months in the year; and more arable land was needed in order to feed the stock in winter; the Board thought this reasonable, and at length induced Mr. Stoney to sell an arable farm, which he had hitherto refused to do, chiefly because his farming operations would be too contracted; he had sold only on condition that the mountain should be re-sold him for a game park; it might have been well to keep the mountain had the tenants had it free, but the Board did not give land for less than they paid for it, 48898-918, 48933-4.—The Board had paid £600 for the mountain, and had received for it—less 300 acres—the same sum in cash, refusing to have the sale through the Land Act; the £800 mentioned by Canon Grealey referred to a sum including other holdings, 48918-21, 48946.—The Board had only paid for half the fencing of the mountain on the south side, and had had nothing to do with Mr. Stoney's building of the fence to the summit, 48947-8.

EMIGRATION; REPLY TO CHARGE THAT EMIGRATION WAS ENCOURAGED BY DILATORINESS OF BOARD IN DISPOSING OF LAND.

The reason for the Board's delay in disposing of land was well-know to tenants, most of whom did not complain; they had not lost a single opportunity of buying land in Canon Greeley's parish since the purchase of the Stoney Estate; here there had been 170 tenants, the valuation of whose holdings was £1 6*s.* 8*d.*—a holding of 30*s.* might be held in twenty patches; the Board thought if the people had these holdings free, their position would not be substantially improved, and that the only remedy was to get more land and as near as possible; the Board had bought the tenant-right in comparatively large grass farms on the O'Donel Estate, in anticipation of buying the fee-simple of the estate; some people complained that one of these, Derrylahan, should have been in the Board's hands seven or eight years, but they knew that the Board, as a judicial tenant, could not stripe up these lands till they had become owners of them in fee; they had approached Mr. Stoney at different times, in hope of getting the fee for his grass farm near Rosturk Castle, 48897-8.

AMOUNT GIVEN FOR THE KILCOYNE HOLDINGS JUSTIFIED.

It was not true, as stated, that the Board had been responsible for the emigration of either Miles or Patrick Kilcoyne; the former had lived with his wife, son, and daughter-in-law, on a holding of which the rent (exclusive of the house) was 31*s.*; the son was delicate, and under medical advice had decided to go to America, where a brother and three sisters were living; the old couple resolved to go too, and wished to sell the interest on their holding; the Board, knowing this, offered Kilcoyne £22—a reasonable price for four acres with bog attached and right of commonage

DORAN, Mr. HENRY—*continued.*

on the mountains; the holding, being in thirteen divisions, could be given to adjoining occupiers, and witness considered the purchase a wise precedent on the Board's part; no pressure had been put on Kilcoyne, except the offer of £22, 48922-32.—The case of Patrick Kilcoyne was as follows: John Kilcoyne had bought the interest of a holding for £11, with £6 10*s.*, and £4 for an adjacent cabin, arrears of rent, from a gamekeeper, Purvis, who had been glad to be rid of it; the Board could not take advantage of Kilcoyne's luck, and offered him £52 for his interest in the holding, considering this, *i.e.*, about fifteen years' purchase on a rent of £3 10*s.*—a fair price; only £13 had actually been paid, for they had stopped the rent due; Kilcoyne had bought another holding from an uncle, Patrick Kilcoyne, who had emigrated, but the Board had had no dealings with the latter, 48944-5.

Consulting Local Opinion.

The agents had to work regardless of outside opinion but witness was always ready to hear the views of anyone interested in the districts concerned; personally, he had not intended to ignore Canon Grealey of late years. Doubtless, Mr. Vereker's self-respect had made him do so, considering the Canon's attitude towards him, 48936-8.

"Agitators."

An agitator was a person who spent most of his time creating disturbance in the sphere in which he moved—as a rule for personal ends; Canon Grealey was not in this category, but there were a good many agitators in Mayo, 48897, 48939-42.

O'DONEL, Mr. E. THOMAS.

Condition of Island of Achill.

Rents had been well and punctually paid on the Achill Mission Estate during the several years of witness' agency up to 1880; the population had increased in recent years, 48950.

Migration and Enlargement of Holdings Unpracticable.

Achill, composed almost entirely of mountain and bog, was not suitable for migration purposes or for the enlargement of small holdings; it would be beneficial to the community if some of its members would migrate to better holdings elsewhere, 48950, 48953-4.—Witness did not think there had been much emigration from the island, but there was emigration to England and Scotland, 48951-2.

Development of Fisheries and Extension of Railway Advocated.

The fishing industry had developed, and more people had been engaged in it since the building of the railway by Mr. Balfour; the Congested Districts Board, too, had largely encouraged the industry; the railway line should be extended from Cleggan Ferry to Belmullet, as that large and important district was now cut off from railway communication; the number of boats seemed to have increased, because there was now a flourishing lobster trade with England which had been made possible by improved means of transit; this trade might also be further developed, 48954-8.

Mrs. O'Donel's Estate—Inaccurate Statement made by Mr. M'Hale.

Mrs. O'Donel was ready to sell a fair-sized estate, including a substantial area of good grass land, at a price which, when expenses of proving title, etc., had been paid, would, invested at 3½ per cent., yield her present income; it was not true (as stated by Mr. M'Hale) that witness had offered his wife's property for sixteen years' purchase, and it was unlikely that negotiations had passed between the tenants and his predecessor without his knowledge, 48958-60, 49049-53.

O'DONEL, Mr. E. THOMAS—*continued.*

Security for Advances in case of Sales within the Zones.

When landlords and tenants agreed on a sale within the zones, the bargain itself should be sufficient security for the State; there was only occasional failure on the tenant's part to meet obligations, and it was most unlikely that a man would contract so improvident a bargain that the State would ultimately suffer; a judicial rent and the terms of sale being within the zones sufficiently protected the State and made the advance of money secure; the Act of 1903, confirming any sale of which the price fell within the zones, was not against the interests of the State, because landlord and tenant together were the best judges of the value of property; there was no need to consult the taxpayers, even though they were ultimately responsible; witness had heard nothing about the offer of the Blake-Forster Estate, under the Ashbourne Act, but could not see why, in a case described by the Commissioners, an estate should not now be passed if it came within the zones; probably the Land Commissioners had been mistaken when, after inspection, they had decided the land was not security for twelve years' purchase; it was true that at that time the landlord had been paid in stock (then at a premium), and that since then the annuity due from the tenant had been changed from 4 to 3½ per cent., so that rents might have fallen since the offer was made, but witness could not draw general deductions from a case of which he did not know the circumstances, 48960.—Witness had not known that under the Act of 1903 the zones did not apply in the case of purchase when the Congested Districts Board bought an estate; the sale of a grass farm by witness to the Board was probably the only instance of a direct sale between landlord and tenant in Westport Union under the Act of 1903, but a great many sales had taken place throughout the country; on many of these estates there were non-judicial tenants, and therefore inspection, and these might have been cases where the sales had fallen through because inspectors did not think the security sufficient, 48995-9003.

Sale of Grass Lands should be made conditional on Sale of Tenanted Land.

The general opinion amongst Mayo landlords seemed to be that offers to sell grass lands should be made conditional on the tenanted land being bought simultaneously; that might or might not be the tenants' view, but they would probably be very glad to get the grass lands, and most landlords were willing to hand over the two sorts together to a purchasing authority; the case of the Crahagh farm seemed to be an exception, but witness knew nothing about it; the landlady might, or might not, have been entitled to what she proposed to ask for the land, 49004-24.

Tribunal to fix Price of Land—Estates Commissioners not an Independent Tribunal.

All prices in regard to sales of land should be fixed by an impartial tribunal; it was most objectionable to have the price determined in every instance by the purchaser, *i.e.*, the Estates Commissioners; a landowner in Mayo had consented to sell them grass land from which he had drawn £3,000 a year; after inspection they had offered a price which would have reduced his income by £500; apparently they had fixed a price to suit themselves; the landlord might ask too much, but at least he should be able to refuse the price fixed by the Land Commission; in this case there had been as yet no tenants, so the Commissioners were virtually the purchasers; they meant to be fair, but they could not really be just; witness' distrust of them was based on the single case cited; the Congested Districts Board, being more experienced, would probably be better judges, 49024-49.—Almost all Mayo owners would sell tenanted and untenanted land on the basis of getting their incomes at 3½ per cent.; to ask them to sell for less seemed nothing short of confiscation, 49049.

SWEENEY, Mr. PATRICK.

General Poverty and Congestion in Achill—Failure of Potato Crop.

The condition of the people of Achill was very bad; a family of six or seven often had to live on two or three acres of bog, the produce of which could not support them; there was no more congested corner than Achill, 49056, 49102.—Nearly every year there was a cry for relief, which was demoralising, and this year would probably be exceptionally bad, as the potato crop was almost a total failure, 49076.

Purchase and Redistribution of whole Island of Achill by Congested Districts Board Advocated.

The Achill people would probably not migrate; it would be well if the Congested Districts Board would buy the good farms available for the enlargement of holdings; there were two large tracts of cut-away bog, resting on clay, which could be reclaimed, 49077-83.—Though a certain number would object, the majority of the owners of grass lands would probably be glad if the Board bought the whole island, striped and re-distributed it; Clare Island, where there had once been coercion, had been prosperous since its purchase by the Board; witness believed the land there to be better than that of Achill, 49102-7.

Migratory Labour—Home Industries Advocated for Women.

Girls of twelve, who should have been at school, had to go to Scotland; about 1,000 men went to England, and about 1,100 boys and women—about a third of whom were women—left Achill every year, 49056, 49059-60.—About 700 travelled by steamer to Glasgow; the rest, bound for Scotland, went by rail from Achill Sound to Dublin, and then by boat to Glasgow, 49061.—The men in England, granted a fair harvest, made from £12 to £15; some returned with £5; if there was a good hay season they had to come home at the end of four weeks, but a wet season prolonged the work and brought them more money; some could not support themselves in England till the grain harvest began, 49064-6.—Very few migrated to the Scotch coal-mines; the majority acted as gangers to the women digging potatoes, etc., in Scotland; this was cruelly hard work for women, and they had to put the potatoes into hampers and sacks sometimes weighing over 2 cwt. and carry them on their backs; at home, when the men were away, they generally did the sowing, as they did not leave till June, returning in October, 49057-8.—A handy woman or girl brought back on an average from £8-£10, 49063.—They did not go in much for weeding potatoes, and none went for fish cleaning and curing in Scotland, 49071-2.—It would be a real charity to start some home-industry, *i.e.*, hosiery or lace-making, to keep these women at home; about six months before, some Sisters of Mercy had successfully started a small branch of lace-making at the Convent, 49071, 49073.

Fishing Industry.

The fishing had rather increased lately; ten years before there had been no "nobbies," *i.e.*, large fishing boats; now there were eight, bought from the Congested Districts Board, on the five years system; the time might well be extended to ten years, for the men were honest, and had already paid off one year's instalments, but though one season had been good, two had been against them; the Board had given thousands of pounds in Achill; witness had never known a civil bill process to be given to any man there, 49084-7, 49102.

Piers and Harbours Accommodation Needed.

Achill was badly off for pier accommodation; a pier at Darby's Point, Achillbeg Island (where the fish were landed from the nobbies), should be extended 200 feet, and then boats of 100 tons could probaby float at half tide or less; a harbour of refuge was needed at Ballycurraun, near Mallaranny; natural conditions were favourable, and were a few thousands spent on a pier, any boat could save itself by going there in rough weather instead of, as now, to Westport; a few hundred pounds should be spent on the removal of some rocks opposite the Coastguard Station; the Board had spent five or six thousand pounds on a fine pier at Keel, but this had never been of any use, because a bar had always choked the entrance to the harbour, 49088-96.—The building of the Cleggan Station railway was essential; it would open up the district, greatly benefit the people, and give employment; the Directors of the Midland Great Western had said they would work it if built, 49096-7.

Dredging of Channel from Achill Sound to Darby's Point.

The Channel from Achill Sound to Darby's Point should be dredged; it had been choked with sand since the bridge was built, and fishing boats were now blocked; eventually the people of Achill would probably have to depend solely on the fishing, which seemed the only industry likely to succeed; rates were already too high for the County Council to make any further grants, 49096-8.

Dovega Bridge.

A bridge built by Mr. Balfour's private generosity for the congested village of Dovega had been swept away, so that communication was cut off between the two sides of the village, 49097.

High Rates—Enforced Expenditure by County Council.

Rates were now about the same as before the establishment of County Councils, but there was much complaint of the rates on buildings. Witness thought the rate was 6*s.* 8*d.* on buildings and 3*s.* 4*d.* on land; he knew the increase had been progressive owing to the County Council being obliged to provide money for the lunatic asylum and for matters outside the province of the Grand Jury, *e.g.*, sheep-dipping, besides pensions for old officials, 49102.

COLLERAN, Rev. MARTIN.

Possibilities of Developing Achill by Reclamation and Drainage.

Witness had not been long in Achill, but saw there great possibilities of development, both in land and sea, by a paternal Government; patches of tilled land—rich meadow—lying in the most barren part, showed what (given proper assistance), might be done by the active, industrious population; if lands, now flooded, were drained, more farms could be conveniently drained, and crops could be produced where it was now impossible to grow them; doubtless, the people were employed somehow from November to May; the men almost certainly worked their own farms.

Home Industries advocated for Women.

It would be well if some industries, *e.g.*, stitching, knitting, or spinning, were started as winter employment for the women; the six or seven thousand now in Achill apparently formed little over half of our increasing population, 49108-12, 49114.

Migratory Labour.

The rest of the people (including boys and girls, who should have been at school), were in Scotland; the migrants earned enough in summer to keep them in winter, which accounted for there being so little migration from Achill; there were more migrants—girls especially—in Achill than in Galway, Mayo, or Roscommon, 49108, 49113, 49115-7.

Failure of Potato Crop.

The potato crop, and to some extent the oats, had been destroyed by rain; it would probably be necessary to support the people during the winter, as both winter and spring promised to be very bad, 49117.

O'DONNELL, Mr. PATRICK.

Protest against Mr. Doran's remarks concerning "Agitators."

The men whom Mr. Doran had referred to as "agitators" were the elected representatives of the people, and knew the needs of the district better than any paid official of the Congested Districts Board could do; they were only too glad to co-operate with the Board, 49118.

Action of Congested Districts Board in regard to the Stoney and other Estates; Local Opinion ignored.

The Board had done a very great deal for the country, and should be added to and strengthened, but some few of their operations had been great failures; the re-sale of the mountain to Mr. Stoney had been, to say the least, a grievous mistake; they should have consulted Canon Grealey, by whose advice the O'Donel farms, near Newport, had been bought at 7½ years' purchase, while Mr. Doran had bought the tenants' interests on inferior land on the Stoney Estate at twenty-six years' purchase; it was time they were now collecting the rents and spending them on improvements in the interests of tenants, but the land had not been striped—could not be as yet—and one of the tenants (who had a holding from Mr. Doran), had said he would refuse a holding when offered one on it, 49119-29.

Fisheries.

Along the sea-board of the Westport Union, running from the Killeries to Blacksod Bay, the fishing industry was chiefly carried on in small boats and curraghs, and for want of larger boats and proper harbour accommodation, the fishermen were unable to reap the rich harvest awaiting them; the principal fish were herring and mackerel, but there was an abundant supply of cod, ling, plaice, sole, turbot, haddock and lobsters, 49129.—The fishermen worked with great energy, some having gone as far as Downing's Bay in Donegal, and been fairly successful; some did not come home until Christmas, 49139.—There seemed to be a great future for Achill fisheries, 49138.—The principal fishermen of Currane (Achill) had got some large fishing boats from the Congested Districts Board, but said they must return them if the time allowed for payment of instalments were not extended from five to ten year, 49129.—The Congested Districts Board should thoroughly clean and deepen the harbour at Clogher (Currane), so that fishermen could enter in all weathers, 49136.

Waste of Public Money on Useless Piers.

Much public money had been wasted by building useless piers; in Westport Union alone probably fully £50,000 had been thus squandered by the Board of Works, *e.g.*, on Lecamry pier, costing £7,500; on the useless pier at Mallaranny; at Keel, where the entrance was almost too narrow for a row boat, and was filled with rocks and boulders; piers had been built at Duport costing £1,832, and in the valley of Achill (this last, however, had not been built by the Congested Districts Board), where there was no fishing population; certainly, fishermen from other places, *e.g.*, Inniskea, came in occasionally; these last coming principally from Achill Sound to sell lobsters, 49130-7.—The people on the coast between Newport and Mallaranny were excellent fishermen, but Mallaranny Pier was becoming useless, except as a shelter in case of storm, 49178.

Development of Home Industries Advocated.

The Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction had sent a crochet teacher to Achill for six months, who had said she had not met more intelligent or industrious girls than in Mayo. Some, after three months' training, had earned from 5*s.* to 7*s.* a week by crochet, without neglecting home duties; if the Congested Districts Board would send three crochet teachers to Achill during the winter they might eventually stop the demoralising annual migration of the girls to Scotland, 49138.—The nuns managed a lace school, 49139.

O'DONNELL, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Sale of Land to Evicted Tenants—Increased Rental of Island.

There were four or five good farms—one owned by Mrs. M'Donnell, of the Valley, another by Mr. Sweeney (senior) and Mr. Sweeney (junior); the last would not object to selling at a fair price; in 1846 or 1847 all these lands had belonged to the tenants; the rental of Achill had been £800, but by 1879 (when the Land League had been started) it had risen to £5,000, 49139.

M'GOVERN, Mr. JOHN.

Slight Inaccuracy in Canon Grealey's Evidence.

Witness fully agreed with Canon Grealey's evidence, except that he believed Conway, the herd, had got most of his money from two daughters and a son in Colorado, 49140.

Particulars as to Estate of Mr. Stoney.

It was not true that Mr. Stoney had made the sale of arable land conditional on getting back the mountain, 49140.—On the 9th November, 1903, witness had been on a deputation to Mr. Jones, the head landlord, who had said he was most anxious to sell the land. Immediately afterwards Mr. Stoney (a lessee witness thought) had stated that he had no objection to sell at a fair price; this he had probably received; in March, 1905, the Stoney part of the estate, and in June, 1905, the entire Jones Estate, had been vested in the Congested Districts Board; the Stoneys being only middlemen, the Board was bound to get the land with or without their consent, 49140-1, 49143-4.—Mr. Doran's statement that Mr. Stoney had at first refused to sell, because that would upset his farming arrangements, could not be true, because, though a part of the farm (Rockfield) had been grazed by Pat Moran and others on the eleven months' system, he himself had never farmed, 49141-3. —The tenants had said they would not need any land outside their own, provided the land were striped, and they were given a part of the lands on the estate and their former rights to the mountain; apparently the tenants had had a right previously, because two years before, at a seed distribution in Westport Union, John Loftus, of Bunhowna, had been charged for five bags of potatoes—three bags as a valuation of 2*s.* for the mountain, the rest as a valuation of £1 5*s.* of his holding; he would surely not have been rated for the mountain if he had no right to it, 49161-3.—That day witness had met two tenants who seemed very sore over the re-sale, 49165. —In December, 1906, a notice in a local paper had stated that Mr. Stoney had poisoned the estate sold by him in 1900 to the Congested Districts Board, for the destruction of vermin; this seemed to show that he had the right of game on all the mountains and islands of the estate (No. I.), as specified in the notice; witness admitted that the Board would probably not put the notices in, and that it might only appear to the public as if they had been inserted on Mr. Stoney's authority, 49165-75.—Ten or twelve years before, the Stoney tenants had been prosecuted for cutting seaweed on the estate, but Mr. Horne, then Resident Magistrate, had dismissed the case in their favour; since the purchase of the estate by the Congested Districts Board, Mr. Stoney had again prosecuted, and this time convicted them, because the Board had not bought the seaweed, *i.e.*, the foreshore, with the estate, 49175-8. —It appears that Mr. Stoney had given the Congested Districts Board a right of way on the property of Sir Roger Palmer, whose agent had stopped their finishing a road they had begun; they had also opened up a quarry, building a shed for a powder magazine, and Mr. Jones had interfered, because they had neglected to buy the mineral rights of the Stoney No. I. Estate, though vested in the Board, 49144-7.

Jones Estate.

The valuations on the Jones Estate might be a little more than those on the Stoney Estate, though in some instances they were less, but the same remedies were applicable to the two cases; the estate had cost

M'GOVERN, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

about 21½ years' purchase, though the representatives of the former owner, the late Victor E. Kennedy, had offered it to the tenants for about eleven years' purchase, and been refused, on the ground that the land, if given gratis, would be useless to them, 49178.

POVERTY OF STONEY ESTATE TENANTS—DEPENDENT ON PICKING SEAWEED.

The holdings on Stoney No. I. Estate, with an average valuation of £1 10*s.*, could not support the tenants; some people spent their week gathering cockles, etc., leaving home at nine or ten at night, carrying the shell-fish on their backs to Castlebar, and not reaching home again till daylight of the second morning following; seven years before, a case of great hardship had occurred; witness had seen the mother of a large family resting by the roadside at three on a summer's morning; she had two donkeys, and beside her a basket of cockles she had been carrying on her back; she had walked to and from Castlebar, a distance of forty miles, and the next day had given birth to a child; the men of these families migrated to England, the girls to Scotland; what applied to Achill concerning migration applied equally to this estate, 49147.

HIGH PRICES GIVEN FOR LAND BY BOARD ENCOURAGED EMIGRATION.

Certainly the Congested Districts Board should do their best to enlarge these poor holdings as soon as possible, but they should not bribe tenants to emigrate by offering exceptional prices for their land; as this was against the Board's interests, they were probably not responsible for the actions of their officials; it was desirable if the Kilcoynes would have found another purchaser than the Board; they and certain others had intended to emigrate, but witness knew all the local people, and thought that some at least would not have emigrated if the Board had fulfilled their expectations of enlarging holdings, 49148-60.

LOCAL SUPPORT OF THE BOARD—EFFORTS TO INDUCE TENANTS TO BUY THROUGH THE BOARD.

The officials of the Board received as much local support as was possible; tenants had even been prevented buying direct through Judge Ross's Court, as the agent, Mr. Delandre, could testify, and a solicitor in Dublin had been instructed to appear on their behalf; about a month ago they had decided not to buy through the Board, unless consulted as to price, 49152-3.

MASTERSON, Mr. MICHAEL.

EVICTIONS IN ACHILL; HARDSHIPS OF TENANTS.

Forty or fifty years ago, Mr. Pike's tenants in Achill had been evicted from the grazing lands, now occupied by Mr. Sweeney, and sent on to the shaking bogs and rough land, which they had to redeem and clear. The landlord had taken part of the mountain from them, and fenced it for himself, 49181-2.

INCREASE OF RENTS; UNFAIR TREATMENT OF TENANTS BY LANDLORD.

The townlands had been striped, and three tenants put on each stripe, everyone of whom, witness understood, had at first paid ten shillings, and had since been rack-rented up to £4, 49181-2. An Act of Parliament had reduced the rent by five shillings in the pound, and there had been another reduction on the second statutory term, but some tenants, being too poor to go into Court, had made a written agreement with the landlord; some who had no cattle, got a reduction of three shillings in the pound; more, who had cattle, got free grazing, but no reduction in rent; the landlord had virtually charged for the right to the mountain by adding a shilling to the rent, though this land had not been mentioned in the agreement, 49182-8.

EXTENSION OF PIER AT DARBY'S POINT ADVOCATED.

The Congested Districts Board had greatly improved the pier at Darby's Point, and an expenditure of half as much again would be an everlasting benefit to the people, especially the fishermen, of Achill; were the pier ertended by about half its present length, any ship coming into Clew Bay could bring a cargo there, 49188-9.

MIGRATORY LABOUR.

Girls of twelve, instead of going to school, had to earn their living in Scotland, where they had to sleep in cold barns and endure many privations, 49189.

CORRIGAN, Mr. E. J.

ACREAGE AND VALUATION OF BALLYCROY; LAND IN HANDS OF LANDLORD.

Ballycroy North and South contained 52,168 acres; the valuation on agricultural land, excluding game, was £1,284, 49190.—40,000 acres were in the hands of three landlords; on two estates the game was the most valuable asset; on one of these, the Busby Estate, the tenants had the grazing, but on the larger one of 29,160 acres tenants had no grazing rights outside the ambit of their holdings; excluding the demesne, about 600 acres, the landlord grazed 16,500 acres of the best grazing mountain in Ballycroy; eighty-four tenants held 5,548 acres—average valuation £3 16*s.*, *i.e.*, 6*d.* each tenant.—Ninety-three tenants held 7,505 acres—average valuation, £6 or £7; the landlord held 17,017 acres, with a valuation of £348 11*s.*, 49190, 49193.

LAND WOULD WELL REPAY COST OF RECLAMATION; REFUSAL OF BOARD TO BUY GENERAL CLYDE'S ESTATE OWING TO LACK OF FUNDS.

The majority of these large grass ranches were reclaimable, fit for tree-planting on the mountain side; witness's experience made him certain that a great deal of land would well repay the expenditure of intelligently applied labour and defray the cost of reclamation; he had been working steward for eight years on General Clyde's estate, where there was splendid soil for reclamation; the landlord and another gentleman had spent double the rent they received on draining, reclamation and road-making, and had been repaid for their expenditure; rents had been reduced and there was no expense for labour; General Clyde had offered to sell to the Congested Districts Board, but they were not able to buy at present owing to lack of funds, 49191-200.

OPERATIONS ON GENERAL CLYDE'S ESTATE DISCONTINUED SINCE PASSING OF ACT OF 1881.

Since the passing of the Act of 1881 land operations had been dropped and no employment given on General Clyde's Estate; the Board had bought an estate of 11,000 acres, and had given much needed employment, 41190, 49192-3.

WORK OF PARISH COMMITTEE, ETC.

The condition of the people had been improved by the building of out-houses, the removal of cattle, and so forth, through the Parish Committee; the Congested Districts Board should get more funds for these purposes, and for the reclamation and draining of mountains, the drainage of which would make the climate healthier; the Board inspired more confidence in Ballycroy than did other Boards, because Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell and Father O'Hara were on it, 49200.

CORRIGAN, Mr. E. J.—*continued.*

Fishing Industry—Pier at Fahy needed.

Witness had been told that there were sixty-seven boats in the parish of Ballycroy, and had there been a pier at Fahy, near Donagh, the people would certainly have been better employed fishing than in going to England and Scotland; disasters in 1838 and 1840 had stopped the fishing, 49200.

Need for Extension of Board of Works Loan System.

Out of 297 tenants only twenty, *i.e.*, those of £7 valuation, were entitled to Board of Works loans; it would be beneficial if those who owned thirty acres of land could get loans spread over several years, 49200.

Enlargement of Economic Holdings Advocated.

There was no chance of improving conditions in Ballycroy district unless even economic holdings of reclaimable land were made large enough to be worked with a plough, 49200-1.

RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS.

Value of Mayo Estates as Security.

Witness appeared on hehalf of County Mayo branch of Irish Landowners' Convention, 49202.—An opinion prevailed in Mayo that Mayo estates were not high-class security nor as sound a security as estates in other counties; in opposition to this opinion witness called attention to tables 69 and 71, pages 72 and 74 in Report of Irish Land Commission for period ended 31st March, 1906, dealing with judicial rents fixed under Land Law Acts for first and second statutory term from 1st August in 1881 to 31st March in 1906, and from commencement of second statutory term to same date; witness also called attention to concluding paragraph in section 8, sub-section 1 of Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, dealing with applications to Land Court to fix fair rent; which stated that the gentlemen appointed to fix fair rents "after hearing the parties and having regard to the interests of the landlord and tenant respectively, and considering all the circumstances of the case, holding, and district, may determine what is such fair rent," 49204, 49212.

Average Reduction in respect to First Term Rents.

Properties in Mayo must have been let on more reasonable terms than those in other Irish counties, as the tables showed the average reduction for all Ireland in respect to first term rents was 20·7 and for Co. Mayo only 19·1, 49204.—Average reduction in Province of Munster was 22·1; in Leinster, 20·1; in Ulster, 19·7; in Connaught, 21·0; the only counties with a less average reduction than Mayo, were in Leinster, County Kildare, 17·5; King's County, 18·4; Westmeath, 17·8; Meath, 18·9; and in Ulster there was Antrim, 18·7; Down, 19; Fermanagh, 18·4; Londonderry, 18·6, 49205-8.—Witness's argument assumed there was a fixed and settled principle of valuation of land, but he admitted that the evidence was that there had been no fixed principle of valuation, 49209-11.—He assumed that in fixing fair rents account had been taken of all the circumstances of difference between a rich and poor district, 49212-3.—In fixing fair rents in Mayo, some of the rents had been put on reclamation made by tenants; much reclamation had been done on the poorer land, 49214-5, 49217-8.—The first term rents were perhaps about equal to the Government valuation of Mayo, which was supposed to be very low, 49216, 49219, 49221.

Average Reduction for Second Term Rents.

Average reduction for second term rents fixed under Land Law Acts down to March 31st in 1906 was 19·7 for Ireland, and for Mayo it was only 15·5; in Province of Munster average reduction was 18·1; in Province of Connaught, 17·5; in Provincee of Leinster, 16·8; in Province of Ulster, 22·7, 49218, 49222.

RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

—The only counties with a less average reduction than Mayo were Kildare, 14·1; King's, 14·7; Meath, 13·9, 49218, 49222.—The reduction being less than elsewhere, showed the land was originally let cheaper, and in consequence for the money now advanced that land would form a better security than it would have afforded if the original rents had been too high, 49224.—In witness's opinion rents in Mayo had always been paid punctually, 49225.—Landlord's rent was as secure now as formerly, 49230.—The smaller the holding the greater the number of years' purchase for tenant right, 49231.—There was great demand for the small holdings, 49232-3.—Witness handed in a return dealing with sales of tenancies in Mayo County, and showing high prices given for occupation interest of tenants on different estates as illustrating the security of rents in Mayo and the ease with which the security could be realised, 49225-6, 49235, 49249-52.

Prices of Tenancies in Mayo.

The first case was of 92 years' purchase given for a future tenancy on a rent of £23 3*s.* 6*d.*; the second 19 years' purchase on a rent of £5 in respect of a future tenancy; these tenancies were determinable at the landlord's will subject to a notice to quit, and the tenants were entitled to compensation for improvements, 49225-9.—The third case was 19 years' purchase of a judicial tenancy on a rent of £6 15*s.*; the fourth case 26½ years' purchase of a judicial first term tenancy on a rent of £3 13*s.*; the fifth 40 years' purchase of a first term judicial rent of £1 9*s.* 4*d.*; the sixth 36 years' purchase of a first term judicial rent of £10 16*s.* 6*d.*, fetching £395 exclusive of auctioneer's commission; the seventh was 13 years' purchase of a first term rent of £2 10*s.*; the eighth 102½ years' purchase of a tenancy from year to year at a rent of £2, being £205 in addition to auctioneer's commission, 49230, 49233.—This last case was a holding without any building, but adjoining purchaser's holding; it showed the competition and market value of the land as apart from its true value, 49238-9, 49243.—Purchaser had 9 acres 31 perches, and bought 9 acres, 49245-6.—This was a cash transaction, 49248.—The ninth case was 83½ years' purchase for a tenancy determinable at will; witness thought purchaser was not actuated by other considerations than intrinsic value of the property, 49240-1.—It was near purchaser's holding and half a mile from the town, 49243.—The purchaser paid with his own money, 49244.—The two last cases were of ordinary small holdings, 49242.

Present Security—Six Estates in Mayo.

On the question of present security, witness handed in a return dealing with six estates in congested districts; there were 1,215 tenants; the average gross yearly rent on the aggregate for ten years was £6,313 4*s.* 7*d.*, being just over £5 per tenant per year; the average collection for the ten years was £6,357 2*s.* 11*d.*, including arrears, 49252-3.—Arrears were still being paid off; the punctual payment of rent on these estates as shown by a return showed the integrity of the tenants, which was itself excellent security, 49268-9.—In estate No. 1 arrears on 1st November, 1905, were £225 8*s.* 10*d.*; average rental of this estate for ten years was £1,097 2*s.* 5*d.*, and the average collection £1,100 12*s.* 5*d.*; average rent from each tenant was under £4 per year; on estate No. 2 average rental was £1,475 3*s.* 2*d.*, collection during ten years £1,477 17*s.* 10*d.*, 49254.—Three-fourths of tenants on these estates were migratory labourers; 90 per cent. of the rents were paid in gold which must have come from England, 49255-7.—These tenants retained their holdings merely as residences, 49258.—On No. 3 estate average rental for ten years was £651 1*s.* 3*d.*; tenants paid £670 17*s.* 5*d.*, 49265.

Terms of Purchase offered by Landlords.

Witness handed in a return taken from a Blue Book dealing with untenanted lands on estates of which he was agent and whose landlords were willing to dispose of them as well as of the tenanted lands belonging to the same owners; for these lands the

RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

owners would accept a capital sum, which after transaction was completed and all expenses paid, would, if invested at 3½ per cent., yield the landlord the net income he had before the sale, 49269-75. —This sum would not be in addition to a bonus, 49276.—Witness had sold a few estates, and in so doing had endeavoured to arrive at a price that would secure the landlord his net income, 49277-8.—Landlords would have no objection to submitting their books to Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, 49279-82.—This would not be the same as giving an account of the net income under which the Income Tax was paid; Income Tax should be assessed on the Government valuation less one-eighth deducted under the Finance Acts, 49283.—In the case of mortgages, when the interest on the mortgage was more than 3½ per cent., the price put down to secure the net income would not include deduction of interest on the mortgage; mortgages were a personal matter between the landlord and his creditors, 49284.—If the interest on mortgages were taken into the calculation there would be danger of injustice to the remainder man in the case of mortgages on life estates, 49285-6.—In the case of the mortgage of the fee of an estate, it was true that where a man was paying five per cent. interest on a mortgage and agreed to pay off that mortgage he saved on the five per cent. interest, and if the 3½ per cent. interest were calculated without taking this fact into consideration, the actual net receipt would be over-estimated by the difference between 3½ per cent. and the amount paid on the mortgage, 49286.—Arrears of rent were a personal debt; if the landlord were tenant for life of the estate the arrears must either be paid or be added to the purchase money, 49288.—Witness did not see much difficulty about arrears, 49290.—Witness had never added nor heard of the addition of more than a year or two to the purchase money, 49291-2.—In arriving at net income the landlord would have to show the average receipts of rent within a term of years, 49294.—The arrears therefore would really disappear as the net income would be considered as far as it had been collected; this was so far as getting at the capital sum was concerned, but the arrears would still be the landlords, 49295.—The net income of the landlord would be calculated as the gross income less the expenses of collection, 49313-8.—By net income witness meant the profits of the lands for the owners in ordinary cases after allowing for poor rate and for head rent as well as tithe rent-charge and other Government charges together with expenses of management; to pay off those charges the landlord must receive a capital sum out of the purchase money, 49322.—As a rule the landlord would have only a life interest in his estate; if uncollected rents were not included in calculating the net income of an estate the rights of the remainder-man would be infringed, 49308, 49315-7.—Arrears must be settled for before the signature of the purchase agreement; after the signature the Act of Parliament cancelled them; as long as the purchase agreement was pending the landlord could never sue the tenant for rent, 49319-22.—In disposing of untenanted lands landlords were disposing of their valuable occupation interest and receiving nothing for it; if they turned these lands into tenancies they would receive large sums for occupation rights, 49322, 49325-6.—If the Department decided to let grass lands at a less figure than would recoup the expenditure in acquiring those lands the State must bridge the difference; the bonus did not do this and was eaten into by legal expenses, 49322-4, 49335.—In estates with which witness was concerned there was no difficulty in proving a landlord's net income from untenanted land; in some other cases there would be difficulty, 49327-8.—On grass lands divided into holdings by the owner the holders would be that owner's tenants, 49329.—Witness had known instances since 1881 of owners thus breaking up grass lands and letting them in small divisions to adjoining tenants, 49331-3.—Witness did not contemplate this being done on a large scale; it was a great mistake it had not been done, 49334-5.

Compulsory Purchase Unnecessary.

Congestion problems in Mayo could be solved without compulsion if landlords received for their land a sum which invested at 3½ per cent. would give them their net income, 49381-5, 49389.—Compulsion generally produced dissatisfaction, 49385-9.

Congested Districts Board.

Witness thought Congested Districts Board should meet more frequently, 49335-40, 49346, 49359-60.—Witness had done business with Board, 49357.—He had knowledge of Board's work, 49370.—He had seen work of Estates Commissioners on Clanmorris Estate, 49371.—He thought Board should continue their work because of their previous success, 49372-3. —Board should consist partly of members representative of each county, 49342, 49361-3.—There might be sub-committees of Board dealing with each county, 49344.—The principle of nominating members should be retained and Board's powers extended, 49349-50.—Board might act through a Committee of their own body, 49351-2.—Board should continue and act independently of all parties; it was at present independent of the Estates and Land Commissions, 49352A-4. —Board should be paid, 49355.—An elective system would probably not result as was suggested in removal of members of Board after a couple of years' work, 49364-6.—Board should have more money placed at its disposal by the Exchequer, 49366, 49367.

Drainage.

Government should undertake a large scheme of arterial drainage in County Mayo, 49366.—A good drainage system would improve the yield of very small farms but not necessarily to the benefit of the workers, as tillage on a large scale had failed in Mayo, 49374-80.—Sea fisheries should be further assisted by railway extension and building of more piers, 49366.

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LYONS, Very Rev. Canon.

Distrust of Royal Commissions.

Royal Commissions did not command confidence, as the reports of several had remained without results; however, the present Commission should have a fair chance, 49397-400.

Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board might have done splendid work, but it had been poorly financed and had not satisfied the people; in witness's parish eighty new houses had been built on untenanted land cut up; but outside their mearings were people in a state of congestion looking on and dissatisfied; congestion about Castlebar was very bad, 49401.—On this estate Board had been draining as well as building houses, etc., for two years; some of the tenants had their patches in twenty places; £3 was the average rental, and tenants went to England to earn money, 49402.—The land was not striped; Board had not done their work thoroughly, 49403-4. —40,000 people had left the country since Commission began its sittings; 120,000 would be gone before legislation was effected; the country was bleeding to death, 49405.

Urgent Need for Purchase of Land in Connaught.

Congested Districts Board should purchase and distribute land promptly before despair had driven people from the country; if Board had power and money congestion could be dealt with in a few years, LYONS, Very Rev. Canon—*continued.*

49424-9.—If some authority bought out all Connaught, that would give the people hope, and they would be content to wait till the work of division was completed, 49430, 49443, 49450, 49478-82.—The whole province of Connaught should be scheduled, and every district where there were twenty families living on uneconomic holdings should be considered congested, and the holdings augmented from the nearest land available, 49447-9.—It was too late to stop the young men and women from emigrating, but if holdings of twenty-five or thirty acres were provided a tenant could educate his children, give the land to one son, and scrape a fortune for his daughter; the rest of the family would emigrate, 49431-3.—Owing to the price of produce, the land could not support all the children unless Free Trade were abolished; decline in Ireland's population was due to lack of good government and to Free Trade; Ireland should govern herself or be governed as a Crown Colony, 49434.—Witness's parish contained congested estates, without untenanted land, and estates with tenanted and untenanted land, but the landlord would not sell; Sir Henry Lynch Blosse had an estate in the parish containing three thousand to four thousand acres of grazing land which he would sell to the Board, 49406, 49408.—Sir Henry was negotiating with Board, but there was a difficulty over money, 49407-7A.—It would be a great pity if Board, whose work had had such good results, did not buy this estate and use the untenanted land for migration purposes, 49409-11.—Whoever undertook the migration work, the Agricultural Department should have a voice in the matter, because the time at which land was transferred from landlord to tenants was the appropriate moment for starting agricultural schools, 49412.—In regard to purchase of this estate the tenants should be consulted, but this would be better done privately than at a public meeting, 49413-20, 49422, 49456-9.—A simple form of transfer of land was desirable; landlords should be compelled to sell and be given their net income, but of this the tenant should be called on to pay only what he was able, the State supplying the rest out of the £3,000,000 a year of overtaxation, 49422.—Grass land, 3,000 acres in extent, existed in Mayo Abbey, most of it being in Castleknockan parish; there was less in Turlough parish, but a large tract lay close to that parish; Turlough parish was not congested; the Board had works in Mullagh, but there they had brought in people from Partry, which had displeased the local congested people, 49436-7.—In Kilmaine barony there was a great deal of grass land; most of the Mayo parishes had sufficient grass land to relieve congestion, 49439.—Migrants should be placed on land with whose character they were acquainted, 49440.—Achill people would not do very well in Mayo, 49444-5.—All uneconomic holdings should be enlarged before the sons of tenants were provided for, 49451-5.

ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Congested Districts Board should buy untenanted land in preference to Estates Commissioners; the latter should buy in counties where there was no congestion; Estates Commissioners had done nothing on the Clanmorris Estate, 49423-4, 49461-5.—Witness did not reflect on Estates Commissioners, 49460.—Congested Districts Board built houses, etc., on estates they purchased; Estates Commissioners merely marked out the land and paid the tenants to do the work on it, 49466-77.

HIGGINS, Mr. PATRICK.

STATUS OF WITNESS.

Witness was Chairman of Castlebar Rural District Council, 49483.—His evidence was derived from personal experience, 49532, 49536.—As Chairman of the District Council he was generally consulted by the tenants, 49533-5.

CONGESTION IN CASTLEBAR RURAL DISTRICT.

Castlebar Rural District contained 140,640 acres, the valuation being £42,598; population was 23,335, rated at £1 13s. per person; 4,424 of the holdings were under £5 valuation; 367 of the holdings had a valuation over £15, and occupied 36,502 acres, giving an average of 100 acres each; in 1841 the population of the Union was 61,043, and in 1891 it was 28,921, 49486.—The holdings under £5 could not support a family in comfort; the average stock on such a holding was one cow and two calves, not exceeding a year old, as well as a couple of pigs and a donkey, 49486-93.—All able-bodied men and boys migrated to England, where they earned about £7 each per annum; women and children worked the farms; one man had a family of nine to support on a holding of an acre of arable land and three of cut-away bog; non-scheduled divisions in this district were often worse than scheduled ones; for instance, on the Brabazon Estate, in Ballyhean division, eleven families lived on a valuation of £29, whilst in the same division twenty persons owned 2,032 acres; Brabazon tenants had to travel five miles for turf and five miles to sow conacre potatoes, 49495.

RUNDALE SYSTEM.

The rundale system was greatly responsible for failures of crops; in rundale estates the same stripes had to be tilled for a lifetime; in Clonfert village fifteen holdings were held in rundale, one of them consisting of 3 acres 20 perches, in seventeen divisions, and another of 3 acres 2 roods, in thirteen divisions, while a third holding of six acres was in twenty-three divisions, 49493.—The Brabazon Estate was not scheduled because of the high valuation of the grazing land, 49495-8.—It was in Ballyhady electoral division, 49500.—Clonfert village was in Clonkeen electoral division, which was scheduled, 49494-5, 49498.—Clonkeen contained 118 holdings under £4 valuation, 49499.—The rent of these rundale estates had been in most cases fixed by the Sub-Commissioners, who pointed out the different stripes, 49501-2.—Within witness's knowledge, the land had always been under rundale management; in some cases the landlord never saw the estate, 49503-4.—If the estates were re-arranged they would be unlikely to return to rundale, as the people now recognised the difficulty of the system, 49505-6.—Parish Committees' work in congested areas was hampered by tenants' unwillingness to make improvements pending sale of rundale estates; the removal of a dung-heap from the near neighbourhood of a house was rendered difficult by the small amount of ground immediately attached to the house, 49509-12.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Few sales under Land Purchase Acts had taken place in Castlebar Rural District, landlords generally demanding such prices as 24 years' purchase on first and 26 years' on second term rents; properties for which 26 years' purchase were asked were similar in character to the Fitzallan-Hope property, which was sold under Ashbourne Act in 1900 for 16 years' purchase; there had been no single failure to meet the annuities on the Fitzallan-Hope Estate, 49509.—In some cases landlords refused to sell these estates at any price, so that compulsory powers would be necessary to effect purchase, 49513-5.—Tenants should not pay higher prices than they could afford, and the rest of the sum required to secure the landlord against loss should be made up by the State, 49526-31.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage was a crying need in Castlebar Rural District owing to the floods; but Congested Districts Board had done good work there regarding arterial drainage, 49506-7.—The Arterial Drainage Commission had held no sitting in the district, nor examined witnesses on behalf of any of the tenants there, though they sent some evidence from Mayo, 49507-9.

STALL-FEEDING CATTLE ON SMALL HOLDINGS.

Witness was a practical farmer, holding about 100 acres, with valuation of £45, and rent about the same, 49484-6.—He tilled eight or nine acres of his farm, but not the same part every year, and he observed a rotation of crops, 49537-42.—The system of cultivation among small farmers could be improved by drainage and by liming the soil, and so forth, 49543.—Lime abounded in the district, 49546.—£5 holders usually disposed of their cattle to graziers, 49547-9.—On improved holdings the cattle could be kept till ready for fattening by the Leinster men, as, with more tilling, more stall-feeding would be possible; thus the need for the grazier as a middleman would be done away with, 49550, 49561-2, 49580-3.—Such small holders as still remained when the grazing land had been divided could pass on their cattle to their better-off neighbours instead of to a grazier, 49552-60.—When grazing lands were broken up a new market would arise, and dealings be direct with Englishmen, 49617-8.—At present witness dealt chiefly with Scotch buyers, 49619-20.—Witness, on his 100-acre farm, with 50 acres in grass, could fatten most of his cattle himself, 49563-7.—He had twenty-three or twenty-five head of cattle on his holding, about five being bred on the holding in the year, and the rest bought, 49563-7, 49569-72.—His cattle were stall-fed in winter, a system which would be greatly followed if the people had the grazing lands, 49568.—Fattening on the grazing lands was not generally possible in County Mayo, 49573-5.—Witness kept his cattle three years and then put them in the stall to fatten; this system paid him, 49576-9.—On £10 holdings a few beasts could be fattened every year at a greater profit than selling stores could bring, and the system would improve the land, 49591-5.—On an average a £10 holding on ordinary land would represent about five acres of tillage, supporting ten beasts and fattening two or three, 49597-600, 49616.—Holders of £10 farms sometimes stall-fed cattle, but such £10 economic holdings were rare in Castlebar district, 49614-5.—100 acres of grazing land carried thirty or forty cattle; broken up into farms of five acres, under a system of mixed farming, they would carry 50 per cent. more, 49610-3.—Witness lived entirely by his holding, 49606.—He grew a good deal of wheat and used it for fattening cattle, 49608.—If grass lands were used as he used his holding new occupiers could earn a fair livelihood out of the land, 49609.

SALES OF TENANTS' INTERESTS.

Small holders in Castlebar Rural District were generally in debt to shops, 49584-90.—Extravagant prices mentioned by Mr. Rutledge as given for occupation interest were not paid by persons whose income was exclusively derived from land, but by returned emigrants or pensioners or shopkeepers; within the last ten years, on a property for which Mr. Rutledge was agent, two tenants' interests had been sold, one to witness for 4½ years' purchase of the rental, and another for a fraction over six, 49704-7.—A holding purchased by witness adjoined his own farm, and was bought to enlarge the farm, 49708-10.

M'DONALD, Rev. MICHAEL.

WESTPORT PARISH.

Witness attended on behalf of Westport Rural District Council; he was the Archbishop's administrator in Westport, and represented him for that district; witness's remarks mainly applied to Wesport parish of which he was in charge, and also applied to surrounding parishes; Westport parish contained 622 agricultural tenants, who paid a total rent of £3,321 0*s.* 3*d.*; and had a total valuation of £3,150 8*s.* 5*d.* ; and had a total valuation of £3,150 8*s.* *d.* ; land in Westport parish was generally wet and cold and unproductive; some of the tenants were too poor to effect improvements, even with the aid of Parish Committees' grants, but were said to be very regular in paying their rents; in a single year £6,898 19*s.* were received by the 622 families from 1,343 of their members, who were abroad; neighbouring parishes were in a condition similar to that of Westport, 49621-2, 49624.—Witness's figures were obtained from personal enquiry of parishioners, 49623-4.—Enlargement of holdings and migration on the one hand, and on the other the development of fisheries were what was needed, 49629.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD'S NEGLECT OF LOCAL SUGGESTIONS.

There should be some one on Congested Districts Board with special knowledge of the vast and poor area between Slyne Head in Galway and Belmullet in North Mayo, which was at present neglected because no one on the Board understood its needs, 49626-7, 49630-43.—Board might in certain cases adopt local suggestion; in erecting houses on the Bingham Estate at Gloshpatrick, convenient to the sea at Clew Bay, Board had refused to add to each house an extra large room for letting purposes, which would have assisted the development of the neighbourhood as a seaside resort, 49643 5, 49663.—If Board had built an extra room, and added cost of that room to annuity, the case might have been met, 49655.—A slip built by the Board in the island of Aran, at a spot other than that suggested by the local people, had been swept away by what in Aran was called a slight breeze, 49664-7.—Natives from their knowledge of currents were better able to judge of a site for a pier than a visiting engineer, 49668-9.

HARBOUR NEEDED IN CLEW BAY.

Between Belmullet in Mayo and Cleggan in Galway, there was no safe harbour for fishing boats in bad weather; there should be one in Clew Bay, 49670.—Collapse of the Inislyre project was attributed by newspapers to the refusal of the Midland Great Western Railway to contribute the requisite quota, 49671.—Money for the marine grant had been earmarked for Inislyre, 49674.—Mayo County Council agreed to assist by a rate for a couple of years, 49676.—Congested Districts Board was giving one-tenth of the expenditure, 49677.—The project should be taken up by some sympathetic Board, 49678.—Witness thought Government was not in earnest about the Inislyre project, 49679.

CLARE ISLAND'S NEED OF A TELEGRAPH.

In Clare Island, which had for years been the property of Congested Districts Board, lack of telegraphic communication often prevented the islanders from disposing of their fish when caught, 49679, 49689.—The distance from Clare Island to the mainland was three miles, 49681.—The Post Office had been approached on the subject of a cable to Clare Island, but without result, 49682-3.—Congested Districts Board had helped with the cable to Aran, 49684.—A good landing place in Clare Island would be very expensive, 49686.—If there were a telegraph to Clare Island, and no landing place, the small boats from Clare Island could take fish to meet the large boats from Westport, etc., and the large boats could take the fish to the railways, 49690, 49701-3.—Much had been already done for Clare Island, but Congested Districts Board having stood sponsor for it should supply this crying need for a telegraph, 49692-7.—Witness had no connection with the island beyond being in its neighbourhood, 49698.—There was good land in Clare Island, but the fishing was necessary to enable the islanders to live, 49699.—The land round the island was proverbially good fishing ground, 49700.

M'NAMARA, Mr. A.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness was a district Councillor and Vice-President of the United Irish League, 49711.—He was a farmer holding about thirty-four Irish acres, with rent and valuation about £12 8*s.* each, 49743-7.—Part of his farm was on the shore and part was island, 49748.

KILLEEN PARISH.

The half-parish of Killeen was very congested and large part of the tenanted portion was held in rundale; in some of the townlands valuation was less than £2 per holding; most of the tenants were dependent on extraneous assistance, mostly from relatives in America, 49711.—Tenants of the small holdings generally went to England for the harvest, 49712-5.—Marquis of Sligo was the principal landowner; in 1901 the Marquis offered this and other property to Congested Districts Board at eighteen years' purchase, which Board thought too high; after passing of Land Act of 1903 he was requested to sell to Board by Westport District Council, but did not do so, 49415-6.—Houston grazing ranch, containing 24,762 acres, adjoined this congested district, and four years ago Board purchased the best portion of this ranch from the Earl of Lucan; Board had been several times requested by the District Council and United Irish League to begin distributing land; Board did not answer till two months ago, when they said the land was leased last summer, 49716-20.—If Board had made repeated ineffectual offers to the lessee of this land, that fact would strengthen the case for compulsion, 49722-3.—Only 16,000 acres of the ranch were purchased by Board; the Marquis of Sligo held the rest on eleven months' system, 49723-4.—The Marquis's portion contained some excellent tillage land in the Louisburgh district, south of Westport, 49726-7.—Most of the evictions from this land took place in 1848, 49728.

KELP INDUSTRY ON MARQUIS OF SLIGO'S ESTATE.

Kelp industry brought considerable earnings to tenants till 1907, when the price of kelp fell from £4 10*s.* to £3 10*s.*, one-fifth of the price was claimed by the Marquis; this claim was unjust, because the seaweed did not grow on the foreshore, but drifted in from the Atlantic; the Marquis's claim was probably derived from the fact that the weed was collected on the foreshore; the seaweed was valueless unless manufactured into kelp within four or five days of landing, 49728-31.—Witness believed the Marquis had a definite right to the foreshore, 49732-4.—The land was rented down to high water mark, and tenants not owning land near the shore had to pay the Marquis for a place on which to dry the seaweed; carting to the kelp store cost 5*s.* per ton; after deducting carriage and royalty the tenant made only £2 11*s.*; at this price the industry would probably die out; the amount of kelp made in 1907 was only half that made in 1906, 49734-5.—At one time kelp fetched £7 a ton; up to last year it fetched £6 10*s.*, 49736.—If a pier were built at Bunlough Point, kelp could be shopped to Ronagh, instead of being carted seven miles to a kelp-store, 49748-51.—Kelp was taken to Glasgow or London by steamer from Ronagh, 49752-3.—The seaweed was shipped half-burned, 49724.

FISHING ON MAYO COAST.

A pier for fishing and for landing cattle was needed at Bunlough Point, and would enable the people to earn a good deal by fishing; Congested Districts Board had been several times memorialised on this subject, 49736, 49741.—There was excellent lobster and mackerel fishing ground on Mayo coast, and lobsters were taken thence by Connemara boats and landed at Connemara and Achill, 49736-9.

CASES OF TENANTS OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD NOT BENEFITED BY IMPROVEMENTS.

On estates purchased by Congested Districts Board the old rent was charged till the estate was re-settled; this was so on the Jones's Estate and part of the Lucan Estate, 49753, 49755, 49760-1, 49763.—Where the Board gave the tenant no other advantages he should receive a reduction of rent, 49758-9.—It would be the same thing if he had some advantages on the occasion of the sale, 49762.—It was sometimes six or seven years before an estate purchased by Board was sold to the tenants; tenants should get an immediate reduction in proportion to the annuities they would have to pay if they bought direct through the Land Commission; when purchases were made direct through Land Commission the immediate reduction was 8*s.* in the £, 49764-8.—These arguments referred to the better-off tenants who might have preferred to purchase through the Land Commission but had given the poor tenant an opportunity to obtain an enlargement to his holding, 49769.—Twenty-five years ago the Marquis of Sligo offered the Killeen estate to the tenants at eighteen years' purchase, but it was agreed at a meeting that this arrangement would leave most of the people as badly off as ever, and the better-off tenants agreed to let the sale run out until the grazing land was distributed, 49770.—Better-off tenants were not always benefited even by such works as arterial drainage, which did not give any advantage to high-lying lands, 49772-4.

KENNY, Mr. P. D.

SCIENTIFIC RECLAMATION OF BOG-LAND.

Witness had a tract of cutaway bog in County Mayo in which, in 1906, he grew heath, and rushes, and bog cotton; in 1907 he grew two good crops of clover and rye-grass hay, 49776, 49781.—The under stratum was an alluvial drift under the bog which afterwards was once a soil before the bog super-accumulated, 49777.—Witness, when a child, saw about ten feet of peat cut off the bog for fuel, 49779.—There was an average of probably eighteen inches of the bog surface left between the surface of the ground and the sub-soil, 49779A.—In raising these crops of clover and rye-grass hay the cost of fertilising and seed was more than paid by the first year's hay, and the land was reclaimed in addition, 49779A-80.—Vast tracts of mountain land in congested districts could be reclaimed in this way with little labour; in some places however drains would be necessary, but in the larger tracts these would be less expensive than witness had found them, 49781-2, 49789.—It was not necessary to reclaim before getting the first clover crop; reclaiming was chiefly a question of chemistry of the soil, 49783.—Lime phosphates and potash were the chief manures employed by witness before putting in the seed; in planting clover he treated it with tritro-culture which freed nitrogen from the atmosphere and increased the vitality and volume of the plant; leguminous crops depended little on nitrogen in the soil and legumes especially clover were the most valuable crops that could be grown by these inexpensive substances while putting into the soil the expensive substances that made complete manuring; nitrogen was worth £14 a ton, and the lime phosphates and potash £4 a ton, 49784, 49787.—Fertilising cost about 30*s.* a statute acre, 49790.—Clover, except white clovers, would live on ordinary land not more than three or four years; it was not a perennial, but the process left behind a botanical habitat for other clovers that were permanent and good pasture, 49785.—Witness used the legumes only as a means of reclaiming; they were exhaustive of the inexpensive and increased the expensive substances of fertility, 49787.—They rendered the land fit to grow other crops, 49788.—The plants growing on a bog would show what was underneath; sorrel and heather and sedge would grow only where there were vegetable acids in the soil; these acids prevented the life of the more valuable organisms and prevented the decomposition of vegetable organisms natural to the habitat; where there was enough water bog was produced by accumulating insufficiently decomposed vegetable fibre, often rich in nitrogenous substances, if an alkali were applied to neutralise the acids the result would be that the plants dependent on the acids would be stopped in their growth and the undecomposed matter would be set free to decompose, and so set free the nitrogenous matter it held; witness had found the mixture of phosphates of lime and potash the best alkali for this purpose; six or seven cwt. of the mixture were needed per statute acre, 49788, 49790, 49821-2.—The manures sold in the West of Ireland were the wrong kind, and had prejudiced the people against artificial manures, 49823.—The alkali should be applied in October or November, and there should be a little scatter of something else to enable the seeding to fasten a little on to its footing, this would mean a cost of about 10*s.* per acre, 49824-5.—Witness had used stuff dug out of the foundations of an outhouse; if broken up turf dug from the ground itself were used it would be liable to get suddenly wet and dry and the seed might be destroyed, 49826.—The bluish clay stuff found under bog would be excellent for this scattering, 49828.—The heath should be left till the following autumn, when it would be brittle before the scythe, 49826.—Seed should be sown in April to July; if sown in April the crop could be mown off with last year's heather, 49831.—The missing element of fertility in the soil which now have been made up and farmyard dung, which would not previously have been of much use, could now be added, and would produce a larger crop, 49841A-3.—The land could then be ploughed, but would be better kept in meadow for a few years, as it took time to decompose the mass of half decomposed matter underneath the land; in this process the fertility travelled downwards an inch or two per year, and ploughing should be reserved till there were six or seven inches of fertility, 49791, 49844.—Alternate cropping could then commence if the land were dry enough, 49845.—Land in congested districts at present practically useless could be made to produce at a profit more than the whole existing production of the land worked; with greater intelligence land at present cropped in congested districts could easily produce double without additional labour, 49793-8.

Economic Holdings.

An economic holding was not a geographical measurement; it was a holding held by an economic tenant, that it, a man who treated efficiently the land under his control, 49829, 49832-3.—There was a limit to this statement's application, but witness could point to cases in Mayo where a man with ten acres enjoyed a higher standard of living than a neighbour with 100 acres, 49836-41.

Want of Scientific Training in Mayo.

Improved methods of cultivating such as those just described were regarded with suspicion in Mayo; there was a tendency to discredit facts; if the public mind were educated and an industrial atmosphere and an industrial public opinion created the present incapacity at industry would disappear; witness's object in making agricultural experiments was to benefit his neighbours, but they seemed incapable of profiting by the object lesson; privileged opinion, that is, the opinion of persons in prominent positions, was the only thing that would have an effect on the people, 49845-9.—A want of scientific education prevented the people from making the most of the work of Congested Districts Board; for this reason no use had been made of the Board's excellent drainage work in Roscommon, near Ballaghadereen, 49850-5.—The Irish were naturally as capable as any people in the world, 49856.

Cattle on Small Farms.

There would be less need for enlargement of holdings if efficiency in working them were increased, 49799.—Large holdings were not needed for raising cattle; in Belgium four full-grown cows could be kept on the equivalent of an Irish acre, 49800.—In Belgium the food was obtained by the quick succession of summer crops, 49802.—Weather in Ireland was more favourable to growth of green crops than in Belgium; it was less favourable to the saving of dry grass crops, 49803.—Growth in Ireland began earlier and continued later in the year than in Belgium, and vegetable life in Ireland never in a state of nature fell to so low a level as in Belgium; these facts compensated for the more variable summer, which seldom was severe enough to prevent growth, though it had done so in 1907; 1907 was the first year in which this had happened in the six years witness had been in Ireland, 49809.—The milder Irish winter would not make the difficulty of keeping down weeds insuperable if ploughing were done properly in autumn, 49810-1.—Cattle could be fed in summer on green stuff instead of grazing; some land, notably friable land, in West of Ireland could produce four times as much summer feeding from an acre under cultivated green stuffs for feeding in the byre than from an acre of grazing, 49802.—Witness could grow four crops of clover per year in Mayo in a bad year, 49804.—Lucerne was the best crop for continuous summer cutting, but was not grown in Ireland; if it were, one acre would supply for green feeding in summer as much as three or four acres of the same land laid out in a dry season in bad pasture with bad seeds, 49808.—Lucerne where it was grown was a success in Ireland; it also got all its nitrogen from the air, 49813.—Witness thought the Department of Agriculture were making experiments with lucerne in 1907; three crops of rye-grass could be grown per year on fairly poor land, 49814.—There was too much of allowing cattle to run in Ireland, 49815.—Mr. Boyd's suggestion that 100 cattle would do better on a 100-acre farm than 100 cattle on the same land divided into four 25-acre farms might be correct, but in stall-feeding with green stuffs specially grown for the purpose the animals got purer food than they would find roaming at will over 100 acres, where there would be inferior food growing, 49816-7.—On a system of mixed tillage farms should carry twice the number of cattle supported under the grazing system, 49818-20.

Clerical Interference with Migration Schemes.

Officials of Congested Districts Board generally had complained to witness that the Board's migration schemes were hampered by the clergy, who prevented the people from leaving their own parishes, 49857, 49867-8, 49872-8.—Cases had occurred in County Mayo, 49867-6.—One case occurred in the townland of Cultrasna, within a mile of Kiltimagh, where the Board had settled all the tenants on the mere equivalent of the land they had before; none of them could work the plough owing to the nature of the land; these tenants continued to go to England for a living; in one instance the Board had built a new house on an estate of 15*s.* annual value, thus perpetuating its congestion; this Cultrasna land had been striped by straight stone walls; all the tenants whom witness interviewed there intimated their willingness to move to better holdings, except one, who said the parish priest must first be consulted, 49881-5, 49912.—Witness afterwards repeated this man's statement to other Cultrasna tenants, some of whom said the priest objected to their leaving, and they thought it was because they were worth so much per household per year to the parish collection, 49891-3, 49898-901.—There was land within twenty-five miles which might be made available for these tenants; some of it was in Board's possession, 49904-7.—Witness had never been informed that these men had been offered the opportunity of migrating, but he assumed it was the Board's duty to find land for them; finding them fixed on impossible holdings he asked would they go if they got land, and was told first they would not, and then that they were willing to go, and then he discussed the reasons why they did not go, 49913-4.

Compulsory Acquisition of Land.

The use made of land and the capacity to make use of it were more important questions than compulsory acquisition, 49918A.—Witness would agree to compulsion if it resulted in land being held by the capable, but he saw no reason to suppose that the Board would only give land to the capable, 49921-2.—Irishmen were comparatively incapable in industrial matters though not from their own fault; in matters of industry and economics they were far behind other nations, and would remain so as long as they were told they were not to blame for it, 49923-4.—Witness objected to compulsion in any form; the analogy of railways was defective, as everyone wished to travel, but only a class could hold land; the community's interests were concerned in the land question, and whatever conduced to the land's being turned to the best account should be encouraged; usually interference with freedom in such matters operated against careful use of the land and its resources, 49925-7, 49934-7.—The interests of the community in Ireland were mainly agricultural but not entirely so, 49928-32.—In Queensland, where the State had resumed large tracts of grazing land, property in the land was being individualised, 49938.—Ethically the land should be the nation's property, but the ownership of the land was not one-fifteenth as much as the production of the land under intelligent treatment, 49940-1.

Statement Corroborating Evidence of Witness at Castlebar.

Witness put in a document relating to evidence previously given by him, which had been questioned, 51552.—Containing a statement by Mr. Jordan, of Kiltimagh, Petty Sessions clerk, 51553, 51555.—It was volunteered by Mr. Jordan as a verbal statement, and put in writing at the request of witness, 51555, 51568-9.—This was given to witness after he

KENNY, Mr. P. D.—*continued.*

had given his evidence before the Commission, 51555-6.—This evidence was called in question, which did not surprise witness, as it was extraordinary evidence, 51555.—And was presented to the Commission on account of the criticism of the Chairman of Commission, 51544.—Mr. Jordan was willing to make an affidavit if necessary, 51555, 51557.—Mr. Jordan was not present, but would attend if he were asked, 51660.—And the valuation had not been changed since, 51557-8.—Witness was not free to give the names of persons who had told him of facts stated in his evidence, 51553, 51559.—And therefore wished for corroboration by a direct statement, 51559.—Witness remembered having said in evidence that he knew twelve men who had perjured themselves, 51562.—Witness asked (when told that the Commissioners had been informed that these men had spoken the truth, and that witness had suggested other statements to them) whether this referred to the same twelve men, 51563.—Witness considered this inquiry irrelevant, 51564.—As also the question as to the time and place of the alleged perjury, 51565-6.—But would repeat his statement as to the perjury, 51564.—A serious reflection had been made, but only on twelve fishermen, 51567.—The statement by Mr. Jordan set forth that on the estate of Lady Larpent, at Waterdale, tenants were some of the poorest and most highly rented Mr. Jordan had known; and that when he was preparing the estate for sale the parish priest, Father Commins stated that he was opposed to the Congested Districts Board having anything to do with the purchase of the estate, and that he would oppose the migration of his parishioners, 51552.

TAYLOR, Mr. GEORGE.

Marquis of Sligo's Estate.

Witness was agent to the Marquis of Sligo, and spoke to correct Mr. M'Namara's statement; in 1897 the Congested Districts Board negotiated with the fourth Marquis of Sligo for purchase of Kilteever containing 53,000 acres; conditions were eighteen years' purchase in 1899 of tenanted land 70 per cent. of which was first term rents, and thirty-two years' purchase for the grazing land, and fifteen years' purchase of kelp; witness thought Board offered about sixteen years' and thirty for grazing land and ten for kelp; in 1900, Lord Sligo asked if the Board would finish the matter, and was told the Board had no money; in 1901, Board asked if he would take less, and was told he would not; in October, 1903, after the Land Act, Board asked the Marquis to come to terms on account of the bonus, but he was then ill, and would have no more to do with the matter; the fourth Marquis died in November, 1903, and up to August, 1907, the new Marquis had not completed taking out his title to the estate, 49943.—Lord Sligo was not prepared to take eighteen years' purchase for the tenanted land unless he got thirty-two years' purchase for his grazing land and fifteen years for the kelp, and he stated that about the year 1883 the third Marquis offered Kilteever, but then 70 per cent. of the rents were not reduced, as the Land Act had no effect, 49944.—There were some cases in which terms offered by the Marquis were rejected as the tenants wished the smaller holders to get additions to their land, 49945.

MOCLAIR, Mr. THOMAS.

Congestion in County Mayo.

Witness was a journalist, and lived in a congested district in the centre of Kilmaine Estate, near Castlebar, where he assisted in managing a holding; all County Mayo should be scheduled as congested, and Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers to acquire lands, 49947.

Kilmaine Estate.

Nearly two years ago Board purchased Kilmaine Estate, which comprised 2,055 statute acres and contained 93 tenants with a gross rental of £532, a poor

MOCLAIR, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

law valuation of £545, and a population of about 635 persons; valuation of the majority of the tenants was under £5, and of none over £10; the land was very poor, most of the arable being cut-away bog and reclaimed mountain; many holdings contained only three or four acres, and much of the land was rundale; in one townland six families held between them 28 acres, divided into 65 plots, on which forty people lived; one of these tenants, with three acres of land, paid £19 a year for five acres of grazing land in the vicinity, and kept six cows and made a fairly good living; he was an eleven months' tenant who had acquired the tenant's interest and let the grazing to four or five tenants; he kept his home land in tillage, and kept his cows on the five acres in summer, hand-feeding them with green food in winter; the high price of the grazing land was due to its scarcity, 49947, 49949.—In a neighbouring townland a widow had 14 acres, about four of which were marsh; she rented six acres of grazing for £25; she kept twelve cows, and had brought up a family of fourteen, some of whom filled good positions, 49947, 49951.—Other tenants with large families lived on three or four acres of cut-away bog, their live-stock consisting of one or two cows each; only five tenants kept a horse; 112 men and youths from the district went annually to England, and saved between them £1,200 a season; the men generally left early in the year, and the women and children worked the farm; for years no one in the district had received out-door relief; Board could do little to improve the conditions; over forty of these Kilmaine tenants had once lived on 927 acres in the townland of Derryharriff and were evicted in a single day, in 1848, when Derryharriff was converted into a grazing ranch; Board had now acquired this ranch, which had deteriorated from neglect, and could provide only six new holdings and sixteen plots for additions to holdings; Board had acquired another ranch which could supply additions to other holdings, but 53 tenants must still remain unassisted unless Board had compulsory powers to purchase other grazing lands in the vicinity, 49951-2.

Compulsory Powers.

The only attempt in Mayo at dividing grass lands into holdings was in the case of an estate about to be sold to Estates Commissioners when the landlord tried to get double the interest in the estate by striping up the land at first, and then selling the tenant-right of the holdings at eight or ten years' purchase, and then selling the whole thing over again to the Estates Commissioners, but the attempt was checked at once, 49965.

Board's Unwillingness to Give High Prices.

Board sometimes lost a chance of purchasing land from unwillingness to give the price demanded, even though the tenants were willing to pay the corresponding annuity; a case had occurred recently on the Kilmaine Estate, 49956-63, 49966-70.

Industry of Population.

Sherabeen was a very poor mountainous property between the mearing of Castlebar and Westport Unions; neither oats nor rye could be grown there; here extensive drainage and fencing works had been undertaken by Board, and the people worked for wages of 9*s.* a week, in a manner sufficient to demonstrate the inaccuracy of the description of West of Ireland men as lazy and thriftless, 49953.—The people's industry was also shown by the fact that on a mountain part of the Kilmaine Estate holders had been engaged in sprouting potatoes years before the system was popular elsewhere in Ireland, 49963.—Others had had the enterprise to send milk daily to Dublin, but had to give this up because they could not afford to wait for the cheques which did not arrive promptly, 49965.

Congested Districts Board preferred to Estates Commissioners—Compulsory Powers.

Congested Districts Board was more trusted by the people of Castlebar Union than were the Estates Commissioners; Board's officials were sometimes hampered by a tenant's refusal to migrate, and Board should have compulsory powers to remove such tenants, 49953-4.

MOCLAIR, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

RECREATION GROUNDS.

Board should have powers to establish recreation grounds in closely populated neighbourhoods to keep the youths from public-houses, 49954-5.

LARMINIE, Mr. ALEXANDER.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness approved of Congested Districts Board's work as far as his experience went, and preferred to see congestion dealt with by Board rather than any other body, 49971, 49975-6, 49980.—Its funds and powers should be enlarged, 49981.—Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board occasionally overlapped; in one instance at a meeting of tenants there was contention as to whether purchase should be through Commissioners or Board, 50009-10.—All Connaught and a few of northern and southern counties should be entirely under Board, 50009.—Witness objected to compulsion causing landlords to sell at a loss to themselves, 49972-4.

FISHERIES.

Fishing was the greatest source of wealth for Ireland and should receive more attention; piers and harbours and loans for purchase of nets and gear were needed along west coast, 50010.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Agricultural education was at present almost in its infancy, and Agricultural Department's work was not very practical, 49978-9, 50010.—Improved agricultural education would enable more of the people in congested districts to get a living, but emigration from Ireland could not be dispensed with under existing circumstances, 49977, 49982.—Agriculture did not pay owing to bad prices of agricultural produce, 49983, 49996.—Potatoes were the only crop that could be cultivated in Ireland with profit, 49996.—Small occupiers could support themselves by their work, but it would not pay them to employ labour, 49984.

EMIGRATION AND INTENSIVE TILLAGE SYSTEM.

Proper tillage would improve the land and increase its productiveness, but it was doubtful if it would repay the labour, 49987.—Emigration of the redundant members of families would probably continue even with better education and intensive cultivation, 49977, 49988-91, 49995-6.—Emigration was a necessary evil, the emigrants' great misfortune being that they were sent away poorly educated, 49992-3.—Cattle were not nearly as profitable in 1907 as twenty years before, 49997.—Though in other countries labourers could be profitably employed in the work of raising foodstuffs for stall-fed cattle there was no prospect of this being so in Ireland, 49997-9.—Speaking principally of the West of Ireland and from long practical experience, witness thought tillage not a practical outlook except on small farms, 49999-50001.—Witness had been under-agent for Lord Lucan for the past forty years, 50002.

RUNDALE HOLDINGS.

Rundale holdings originated from holdings once held in common by two or three families, which in time became thirty or forty families; under the old arrangement the landlord could not prevent the subdivision between these families, because where leases were granted they contained no restrictive clauses; a hundred years ago, when the leases were granted, it was probably not realised how important such clauses were, 50003-5.—These leases continued on an average fifty years without change of rent, 50006-7.

LORD LUCAN'S EXPERIMENT IN BREAKING UP A LARGE AREA.

Lord Lucan had successfully broken up a large area into small holdings in the manner followed by Congested Districts Board, but he did not undertake great improvements, 50009.

LARMINIE, Mr. ALEXANDER—*continued.*

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GALLAGHER, Mr. THOMAS.

CONGESTION IN CARNACON PARISH.

Witness farmed nine Irish acres; his valuation was £8 7*s.* and his rent £9; he represented the Carnacon and Ballyglass Branch of the United Irish League; Carnacon parish contained about 150 tenants, nine being economic, or having over £15 valuation; the rest occupied holdings of from two to eight acres and lived on their earnings as labourers in England and on money sent them from America; these small tenants did not care to purchase their holdings as their condition would not thereby be greatly improved, 50011-3.—The small patches had been constantly worked till they were worn out and liable to potato disease; the smallness of the holdings forced tenants to take conacre from graziers and landlords at from £3 to £4 per acre a year, 50013, 50022-3.—These tenants could be assisted only by additions to their holdings from untenanted land, 1,400 acres of which were at hand, but could only, it was said, be acquired by compulsory purchase, 50013-7.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

If the landlord were assured his net income in return he would be well off; purchase should be made by Congested Districts Board; this district was not scheduled congested, but all Connaught should be scheduled, 50018.—Grazing land in Carnacon parish was all held by persons outside the parish, 50023-5.—This land was suitable for cultivation, 50026.—Local people who needed land should be supplied first in every place, 50027.

FLOODS OCCASIONED BY DAMS FOR ORNAMENTAL WATER.

Bogs in Carnacon parish were all worn out and turf had to be fetched from a distance, 50018-9.—Turf and pasture were destroyed by floods which invaded all the lowlands in winter as drainage had been entirely neglected; Lough Carra could not empty its waters into Lough Mask owing to dams made by two landlords for purposes of ornamental waters, 50019-21.

HIGH VALUATION OF CARNACON HOLDINGS.

Economic holdings of £15 valuation represented fifteen to sixteen acres of tillage land, rent being about equal to valuation, 50028-33.—The land was good but rent high; the valuation was on the holding not the land, and had been raised by the reviser in witness's boyhood, 50034-9.

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.

CONGESTION IN CLAREMORRIS—ITS POPULATION, VALUATION, AND AREA.

Claremorris Union, which had a valuation of £44,729, comprised three dispensary districts, viz., Ballandine, £16,050 5*s.*; Ballyhaunis, £13,081; and Claremorris, £15,597 15*s.*, 50042.—In 1901, the valuation of the whole union was £43,992; an increase of £757 was shown since that time, 50044-5.—Whereas the population must have materially decreased, 50044.—The total population, including the town, was in 1901, 25,820, 50043-4.—The population in 1901 was, Ballandine Dispensary District, 7,239; Ballyhaunis, 10,879; and Claremorris, 7,702, 50042.—There were nineteen electoral divisions in the Union, of which eleven (Ballyhaunis, Bekan, Claremorris, Cloghermore, Course, Culnacleha, Kilvine, Knock (North), Knock (South), Loughanboy, and Murneen) were scheduled as congested; the remaining eight divisions (of Ballindine, Caraun, Crossboyne, Garrymore, Kilcolman, Mayo, and Tagheen) should also be scheduled, 50046, 50058. 50065.—There were several very congested villages in unscheduled districts, for example, in Caraun division, the village of Cuilmore, where 274 persons were living on land valued at £298, 50059-60.—In the village of Garryredmond, were 145 persons on land valued at £173; in Meelickbeg, 30 persons on £30 valuation; in Meelickmore, 96 persons on £75 15*s.* valuation, and in Tortagh, 80 persons on £65 valuation, 50060.—Adding all these together, the aggregate would be less than £1 valuation per head; in Mayo Electoral Division there were in Corskeagh, 36 persons on a valuation of £39; in Corlisland, 17 persons on a valuation of £3; in Derronell, 65 persons on a valuation of £51; in the Tagheen division, there were in Ballydaff 51 persons on a valuation of £73 10*s.*; in Knocklbrack and Lanabold, 37 on a valuation of £49 10*s.*; in Tersaugh, 71 on a valuation of £80; in Tagheen (East and West) there were 70 persons on a valuation of £100; and in Ballindine division, in Killeen, 120 persons on £111 10*s.* valuation, 50062.—In the eight unscheduled divisions there were 11,000 acres of grass lands valued at £5,800, 50058.—Of these 3,324 were owned by Lord Oranmore and let to graziers, 50059.—If the valuation of the grass lands were taken out of the total valuation these unscheduled electoral divisions would come within the definition of congestion; the rest of them are no less congested than the examples given, and it was unfair they should have no relief, 50062.

Congestion Defined.

Witness considered that a district was congested when it contained holdings of less than £10 valuation, 50068.—The present system was to take £7 10*s.* as the maximum valuation of a holding considered as congested, 50066, 50069, 50094.—This was too low, 50066.—It was arrived at by taking the valuation per head as 30*s.*, 50066, 50078.—And reckoning a family as five persons, 50066.—Witness advised that it should be doubled, and reckoned at £2 a head, 50069, —Or £10 a family, 50069.

Parish Committee Grants.

Witness stated that there were in the unscheduled districts many occupiers as poor as in the scheduled districts, 50062, 50064, 50072, 50076.—And thought it a hardship that parish grants should not be available for them, 50062-3, 50073, 50076.—Witness wished to see areas scheduled that they might have a Parish Committee in them, 50095.—Parish Committees had been a boon in many parts of the country, in teaching hygiene and sanitation; and encouraging the observance of the rules by the conditions on which they gave grants, 50062, 50096.—The grants could not be given to any family with over £7 10*s.* valuation, unless it was in a congested district, scheduled as such; and in congested districts they were generally given to the very poor, to those under £15 valuation, 50094, 50098-9.

Suggested Alterations in Scheduling.

If the whole of Connaught were scheduled, it would meet witness's complaint, 50067.—Or if the Board were free to apply itself to congestion, wherever it existed, without being bound by a definition, excluding districts comparatively prosperous, where congestion was found, it would do as well, 50071, 50079-81.—Witness would only speak as to his own unions, 50082-4.—Because his knowledge was confined to that district, 50083.—And he did not wish to take too large a scope, though he was interested in the affairs of Ireland as a whole, 50088.—He gave his evidence with regard to the union he knew, 50089.—And expected that others would give evidence of their unions, 50090.—The province of the Commission was to put the evidence together, and draw a general conclusion, 50085, 50091.—Under present rules, the Board could not deal with the grass farms, 50071.—And there must be some alteration, 50077.

Taxation on House Improvements.

Witness attributed the increase of valuation in the union to new buildings, 50046.—These improvements in poor men's houses were taxed, £1 2*s.* 1*d.* on every £5 increase in house valuation, 50046.—Or 4*s.* 5*d.* in the pound, 50047.—This was very unpopular, 50047, 50055.—And led farmers to refuse parish grants for house improvement, lest they should lead to increased taxation, 50046, 50051.—This farmers would prefer to contribute to improvements rather than be taxed on them, 50048-9.—The Irish peasant would make no effort towards improvement if he were to be taxed for it, 50046.—Taxation on improvements lessened the burden on those who made no improvements, 50054.—The dislike to this form of taxation was common to England and Scotland as well as Ireland, 50050, 50055, 50057.—In England the landlord made improvements, 50050.

Lord Oranmore's Grass Lands.

As grazing lands in Claremorris were excellent for tillage, and the congested tenants lived for the most part on bad low-lying lands; some years previously, Lord Oranmore, when approached by his tenants, agreed to sell his land in the neighbourhood of Esker and Ballindine, 50099.—But refused to sell the grass lands on the plea that the price would not give him his present income, 50099, 50116.—About the same time he took over the grazing ranches, which had been in the hands of graziers on the eleven months system, and stocked them; but though the steward, Grant, was a good judge of cattle and sheep, and appeared to make the business pay, Lord Oranmore was discouraged by the fluctuation of the cattle market, and came to the conclusion that the business was better worked by several graziers, and returned to the old eleven months system, dismissing Grant; witness stated that if landlords tried to stock their ranches themselves they would soon be willing to sell at a fair price, 50099.

"Fair Price" of Grass Lands.

Witness thought that twenty years' purchase was a fair price for grass lands, 50099, 50105.—By this he meant twenty years' purchase on the rent, 50100.—But he could not say what was a fair rent for grazing lands, which might one year be worth 30*s.* an acre, and another year only 22*s.* 6*d.*, 50101.—Witness did not understand how the Board, or the Estates Commissioners estimated the price of the grazing land they bought, 50104, 50106.—And he thought Mr. Doran, or Mr. Stuart of the Estates Commission, having experience, could fix a price, 50106.—He arrived at his calculation by taking the same data as for tenanted land, 50105.

Fair Price of Tenanted Lands.

Witness took as his basis of calculation, a £5 tenancy; if a landlord receives twenty years' purchase on a £5 tenancy, he obtained £100; this, with the bonus of three years' purchase, made £115; this invested at 3½ per cent. would bring in £4 0*s.* 6*d.*; but he would be as well off as before, because he would not have to pay ten per cent. for collection of rent, and if the tenant went into Court again, he would get his rent reduced by three shillings in the £, 50105.—Witness put the expenses of collection at ten per cent. because he knew the agent must be well paid, 50127.—But he had only hearsay evidence on which to base his opinion, 50128.—That was the terms of the Land Conference, 50129-30.—But there were other opinions on the matter, 50130.—It would be unfair to fix the price of land entirely from the landlord's calculation, 50108.—The landlord should give way a little, 50110, 50124.—The landlord, according to the tenant's showing, wanted too much, 50109.—The landlord should bear a portion of the loss, if there were any, 50114.—The tenant had been paying for the land, whereas the landlord had never bought it, 50111, 50115.—The tenant had give way, 50125.—Witness would think it hard if he had to suffer as the result of the State's policy, 50118.—No private individual should suffer, if landlord and tenant were both to be satisfied with their bargain, 50109.—The State must pay and witness considered that the State paid for the sake of giving the landlord an inflated price, 50122.

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—*continued.*

Question of Selling Price, including Tenants' Improvements.

The land of Ireland, being improved, had a certain selling price, 50135.—It had increased in value, and in price, since 200 years ago, 50139-41.—Many tenants reclaimed their holdings prior to 1881, 50143.—At which time it was possible to charge a tenant extra rent on account of his improvements, 50147, 50151.—While those who had reclaimed since 1861, 50144.—Had not been rented on improvements, 50146, 50151.—The Act of 1881 was passed to remedy this injustice, 50152, 50162.—The selling price demanded by landlords, included, witness thought, the improvements confiscated before 1881, 50153.—Though rents were not based on tenants' improvements. 50162.

Increased Price of Land in spite of Reduced Rents.

Prices of land had been continually rising, 50182.—This was not because land had been improved, but because stock-rearing had been more profitable since the exclusion of Canadian cattle, 50136.—And because Irishmen suffered from land hunger, and were over anxious to purchase, while landlords held back in the hope of better prices, 50174, 50178.—This naturally raised prices, though in other markets it was not always a good plan to wait, 50175.—Land was higher now than ever before, 50169, 50171.—It had risen in price between the passing of the Ashbourne Act, 50170.—And again considerably, on the passing of the Land Act of 1903, 50169, 50171, 50177.—And had continually risen since then, 50172-3, 50177.—Land hunger had always existed in Ireland, but it had increased recently, and prices developed in consequence, 50179, 50180-1.—Under the Land Act of 1881 landlords were satisfied to sell at 17 or 18 years' purchase, 50153, 50179.—And yet there were few or no negotiations for purchase between landlord and tenant, 50179.—These prices were on First Term rents, 50154.—Under the Ashbourne Act prices had been 14 to 18 years, on first term rents, 50170-1.—Witness considered that there would be a larger number of years' purchase on second term rents than on first, 50154.—It was a known fact that the price of first term rents was 20 years' purchase and of second term 23, 50157.—There had been cases where the purchase on first term had been 14 years and on the second term 17, 50190.—Landlords now wanted 26 or 27 years' purchase where they had been willing to take 18, 50186—or 26 or 27 where they had been willing to take 17, 50191.—Captain Sheffield had been willing to take 18 and now wanted 25, 50188.—In all these cases the higher price was for second term rents and the lower for first, 50187, 50189, 50192.—The decrease from first to second term rents was 3*s.* in the £, 50106, 50155.—It was 2*s.* in the £, 50193.—A man buying at 20 years' purchase on first term rents would get a reduction of 7*s.*, 50152, 50193.—The tenants on the Nolan-Ferrall Estate under the Act of 1903 got 7*s.* in the £, and 5*s.* on second term rents, or 23 years' purchase, 50159-60.—William Ferrall sold a property of which the rent was £5 and got 20 years' purchase on a first term rent, in addition to a bonus of three years' purchase, 50101-2.—Witness had in his mind a definite estate when he spoke of a rise from 17 to 26 years' purchase, 50191, 50202—and had heard of this from the tenants, 50202—and in the case of 18 years' purchase being asked formerly, whereas 28 was now demanded, 50194, 50200—in addition to the bonus, 50201-2.—The rents were in both cases, both at the earlier and later dates, first term rents, 50203, 50205-7.—Witness did not think the tenants had had their rents reduced between the times of the lower and higher prices, 50203-4.

Considerations affecting Price of Land.

The 18 years' transaction was in 1898, 1899, or 1900, 50194.—At that time purchasing tenants had to pay 3½ per cent. on the money, 50195.—The landlord was paid in Land Stock, 50196—which then stood at 112, so that when he got £100 of Land Stock he really got £112, which, with three years' bonus, made

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—*continued.*

£115, 50198.—These considerations must be taken into account, together with the fact that the rents generally affected now were first term rents, whereas then they were second term rents, 50198.—Land Stock at the present time stood at £86 or £87, 50212.—It was depreciated under the Ashbourne Act, 50210.—But the bonus now compensated fully for the 12 per cent. premium then, 50211.—The bonus may be three or four years, 50199.—Landlords were now paid in gold, 50199—and had opportunities for profitable investment (in Land Stock), 50212.—Under the Act of 1903 an owner might clear off his mortgages, 50214.—This was a great advantage to landlords, some of whom were paying 6 per cent. on mortgages, 50215.—Witness did not understand the procedure of the Court in fixing second term rents, 50149.—Generally when a man had improved the land he was evicted, 50150.—Witness supposed that a second term rent implied a decrease in the value of the property, 50166.—A second term rent was generally three shillings in the £ less than the first term rent, 50106, 50155.—Witness admitted that in fixing a second term rent credit was given to the tenant for improvements, 50161.

Grass Land and Landlords' Improvements.

Witness found it hard to answer the question as to whether the State, in buying grass lands from a landlord, should compensate him for money spent by him or his predecessors on improving the land, 50165.—But he agreed that the landlord had already reaped the benefit of those improvements, 50166.—Witness did not think it fair that a landlord should be deprived of land which he had improved and made profitable without receiving the same income he had before the sale, 50167.

Migratory Labour Superseded by "Conacre" Tenancy.

For years men and boys from Curraghadoney, Crossboyne, and Ballandine had migrated annually to England as labourers, saving during the season as much as £9 to £12 each, or in other cases £15 or £16 after twelve months' toil and privation; now most of these men stayed at home and tilled what used to be grazing land; in England they suffered great hardships, having to sleep in out-houses, on bags instead of beds, 50183.—This was distasteful to them, and they now stayed in Ireland as "conacre" tenants, 50184.—Owing to the competition for conacre land (which was sold in plots of an acre or so), the price rose in some cases to £7 or £8 an acre, 50183.—At the present prices of oats, turnips, and straw, the "conacre" tenant must work at a loss, especially as the crop was considerably damaged by rabbits and game, 50184.—Farmers tried to improve grass land by letting it out in conacre tillage, 50162.—Lord Oranmore had been more successful in letting his land in conacre than in his grazing experiment, 50099.—He reaped a three-fold benefit, getting £4 to £6 per acre for his conacre, getting his land improved by tilling, and fattening his game at the tenants' expense (for reductions were not made even if half the crop were destroyed by game); the tenants worked in the hope of having some fodder for their cattle during winter, but this might not result in any profit, 50184.—Migration had diminished, but not ceased, in the villages of Curraghadoney and Crossboyne, 50185, 50186.—The rents were paid from the land round the tenants' houses, and the shopkeeper by gifts from America at Christmas, 50186.—Compulsory powers were needed to induce these landlords to sell, 50186.

High Rents under the Congested Districts Board.

It was the duty of the Board to see that tenants did not enter into foolish bargains, 50221, 50232.—It had not in this county adopted the responsibility, 50233, 50236.—And in some cases tenants had paid too much for their land, 50233.—And found it hard to pay their annuities and live in moderate comfort, 50221.—Many farmers who had received increased areas of land were no better off, owing to paying high rents, and to increased valuation placed on their houses, 50221.—49 years' purchase was too high a

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—*continued.*

price to pay, 50234, 50238.—And involved tenants in a responsibility they are not able to meet, 50235, 50238.—In mentioning 49 years, Mr. Kelly had in view a particular estate, 50239.—Which witness preferred not to name, 50240.—The forty or fifty years' purchase was on the valuation, 50234, 50238, 50243. —Witness could not say definitely that that sum was paid by the Board, 50243, 50245.—If the Board was anxious to find holdings for congests, and was pressed to do so, it might, unless it had compulsory powers, be obliged to pay high prices, 50246.—The tenants on the Isidore Bourke Estate found their rents too high; as examples, witness gave James Regan, Curraghleigh, 20 acres, including four acres plantation, rent £18 0*s.* 2*d.*, valuation £18 5*s.*; John Reaney, Curraghleigh, 18 acres, rent £16 2*s.* 6*d.*, valuation £11 15*s.*; Thomas Lavelle (herd on the farm Ballybehenry), area 19 acres 4 poles, rent £9 15*s.*, valuation £11 13*s.* 2*d.*; this man had no house built, yet paid a £40 fine, 50221.—These were all enlarged holdings, 50223.—And tenants were struggling to meet the rent, 50224.—It was a great advantage to the tenant to have good land added to his holding, 50226.—And this naturally increased the annuity, 50227.—When this estate was divided, Mr. M'Clean pressed tenants to take land, 50227-8.—Tenants would pay large sums to each other for tenant-right, 50229. —And a man getting an enlargement will not expect, in justice, to get the tenant-right for nothing, 50230. —And if he had a house built, he might be charged for the building or improvement of it, 50231.—Witness complained that the conditions made at the sale of the Nolan-Ferrall Estate had not been carried out by the landlord or by the Board; the tenants, who had been promised a reduction of 7*s.* in the £ on first term rents, and 5*s.* on second term rents, 50159-60, 50246.—Were still paying their old rents, in some cases £4, or £5 and taxes, though the bargain took place six years previously, 50246, 50248.—The title had only just now been completed, 50249.—And the Board had made improvements, 50251.—It was difficult to make improvements until the title was assured, 50252.—There had been difficulties between the landlord and the Board about the home farm at Loughboy, and the Board said that the sale had not been completed, though they collected the rents, 50248.—The tenants thought it too long to pay the old rents for eight to ten years, 50248.—The Board was expending the whole rent on improving the holdings, and of this the tenants had the benefit, 50247-8.

PROPOSED CONSULTATION OF BOARD WITH TENANTS.

Witness thought the Congested Districts Board, when acquiring grass land for enlargement of holdings, should consult the tenants to be benefited, as to the price paid for the land, 50253, 50256, 50258, 50260.—Not every tenant should be consulted, 50261-2. —As that would prevent any sale, 50261.—But the more intelligent, so that they should be aware, when their holdings were enlarged, of the responsibilities they would have to meet, 50258, 50262.—They could not be given information about holdings not yet fixed, 50255.

DRAINAGE OF THE ROBE.

Witness asked the Commission to inspect the River Robe, which rose in the Dillon Estate, in the parish of Bekan, and flowed through estates now in the hands of the Board, including the Nolan-Ferrall and Tighe Estates, and others, as the Cranmore, Knox, and Fitzpatrick Estates, which witness hoped would soon be under the Board; the river flowed through a large part of the Union, and the land on its banks was liable to severe floods, not only in winter, but in summer; from Lough Mask to Tagheen, a distance of twenty miles, the river was deepened and improved by the Board of Works, under Lough Mask Drainage Board, forty-five years previously; this portion was under the Drainage Trustees, and was in an improved condition, but the part between Tagheen Bridge and Brickens required deepening, widening, and improving, since it was the outlet of large tributaries draining the congested divisions of Claremorris and Cloghermore; the drainage should be done as a whole, and not in sections, for it was alleged that the Board's operations on the upper reaches had caused more flooding below; and tenants had threatened legal action against the Board, if Lord Oranmore allowed the river bed to be lowered at Castlemargarrett, in his demesne, a plan which would provide an effective fall as far as Brickens, 50263.

ACTION OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN THE SCHEME.

Witness thought that the Congested Districts Board, which had done so much towards draining the country, should have commenced its drainage operations with the River Robe, instead of with the tributaries of that river; the Board had suggested that the drainage between the source and Tagheen Bridge could be done for £3,500, and had offered to subscribe two-thirds of that sum, 50264-5.—And Lord Oranmore would pay his share on lands outside, but not on his demesne, 50264.—The offer of the Board was conditional on the formation of a Drainage Board, which would undertake the work in accordance with plans approved by it, and by Lord Oranmore; would levy one-third of the expenditure (£1,167) on the lands benefited, and be responsible for the future maintenance of the river, 50264, 50266. —The Claremorris District Council held a special meeting, and agreed to the above arrangement, 50264, 50267.—But they were unable to obtain from the Board of Works the necessary loan of £1,167, 50263, 50271.—The loan was refused, pending the report of the Arterial Drainage Commission, 50263, 50270.—It was left to Father M'Hugh to arrange with the Board of Works and the Arterial Drainage Commission, 50269.—The Arterial Drainage Commission approved the draining of the river, but refused to take evidence, on the plea that the Commission was not formed to go into special cases, 50264.—The district was to blame for not taking advantage of the Board's generous offer, but it was impossible to raise the loan, 50271.—The inhabitants manifested an individual interest in the drainage of the river, and hoped to obtain their end through this Royal Commission, 50263.

HERAGHTY, Mr. THOMAS.

CONGESTION REMEDIED BY DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS.

The Ballinrobe Union was as much congested as any rural district in the county, 50272.—It should be scheduled and placed under the Congested Districts Board, 50273, 50352.—The people were very miserable, 50274.—And compulsory purchase would be the only means of acquiring grass land and relieving congestion, 50275.—The Congested Districts Board should have more power and facilities to purchase these places, as they were the only body which had made an effort to relieve congestion, 50275.—If all the land held in the county on the eleven and twelve months' system were acquired by the Board or the Estates Commissioners, it would be insufficient to relieve congestion, 50335.—The Commissioners' returns showed that the grass land in Ballinrobe would be insufficient to relieve the congestion therein, 50335-7, 50359.—The land, when acquired, should be divided first among the tenants of the townlands on the estate containing the grass land, and tenants on adjoining estates, 50276-7.—And, if any remained, it should be given to sons and daughters of the people on the estate, 50276-7.

ACQUISITION OF GRASS LANDS OF JUDICIAL TENANTS.

Judicial farms should be acquired compulsorily, 50278, 50281-2.—Equally when the judicial tenant was a tenant purchaser, if he occupied a farm from which previous holders were evicted, 50282.—But witness would except a man who had already concluded a purchase, 50281.—He knew of no grazing farms held by purchasing tenants, 50280.—If necessary, for the benefit of the country, the land of a purchasing tenant should be acquired compulsorily, 50285.—Witness was willing to apply compulsion to the landlord, 50286-7.—The landlord held in fee, 50287A.—Land, however held, or by whomsoever held, should be acquired compulsorily in case of necessity, 50290.—Certainly so, if the holder was a shopkeeper with a grazing farm, 50291.—This opinion was shared by the highest authorities, including Mr. Doran, 50292.

HERAGHTY, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

Acquisition of Cut-away Bog and scattered Lands of Large Tenants.

Witness thought the Board should have power to acquire cut-away bog for the purpose of forestry, which would eventually enrich the country and improve the climate, 50294.—And that any tenant having a compact holding of fifty acres should relinquish other small patches, scattered amongst the holdings of small tenants, holding four or five acres, 50295-6.—And these should be given to the small adjoining tenants, 50296.—An instance of a tenant of this kind was to be seen at Brownstown, in Ballinrobe, on the estate of G. Browne, 50297-8.—He should obtain "Court value" for these patches, 50296.—"Court value" was "fair value" according to the Land Act of 1881, 50296.

Acquisition of Land, at its Letting Value, previous to 1881.

Witness suggested that land should not be acquired at the present letting price, but at a price calculated on the rent paid for it before 1881, 50300, 50310.—Twenty-five years ago, 50300, 50301.—When the land was held by Englishmen and Scotchmen for agricultural purposes, 50299, 50304.—For it would be used for agriculture by the congested tenants, who were to receive it, 50304.—These Englishmen and Scotchmen took the land when the former tenants were evicted, 50299.—These men all failed to farm the land profitably, 50302.—They all left when agricultural prices fell, 50299, 50302, 50305.—They left in poverty, 50309A.—And had impoverished the land by working it with artificial manures, 50308.—On the English and Scotch systems, 50307, 50309.—Witness did not know whether they left, owing arrears to their landlords, 50304.—That system was not a permanent one, 50305.—And the present system was risky, and if the State paid auction prices, it would embark in a risky transaction, 50306.—But not if it purchased at what it let at before 1881, 50311-13.—The Land Act of 1881 cut down the letting value of poor bog land, and reduced rack-rents, 50314-5.—But did not reduce rich grass land, 50314.—Witness did not therefore contemplate that the price to be given for grass lands would be more than their present letting value, 50315.—He intended his proposition to refer only to holdings outside the operation of the Land Act, 50316.—Witness considered that it was just to dispossess owners and give them less than their present income, because the land had been wrongfully taken from its former owners, and the State (being a party to that wrong) should endeavour to redress it, 50317.—The former tenants, driven out to cut-away bogs, should be relieved, and have their grievances redressed, 50321.—The procedure would be just when the tenant to be dispossessed was a judicial tenant, 50319.—If it was a shopkeeper, who had nothing to do with the past, but had bought a piece of land which was in the market, he should be removed, that the State might redeem it for a judicial tenant, 50319.—If it was a shopkeeper, who had made his money by trading and had risen from a position where he had not a shilling, he should be evicted and compensated if he lived in a village where the inhabitants were miserable beggars, 30325.—He should suffer more or less, as he went into the position with his eyes open, 50326.—But witness would give him his interest, 50327.—Witness did not think the State could ascertain the present income of the dispossessed tenant, 50238.—Witness would not give a dispossessed holder of grass land a sum bringing him in his present income, but the price he himself had given for the land, 50329-30, 50331.—The land was bought as a speculation, and the buyer should not be compensated for profits he received at the present day, 50331, 50334.—Witness was aware that both parties in Parliament were anxious to relieve congestion, 50332-3.—But he did not think they were bound to pay more than the purchase price the tenant himself had paid, 50334.

Proposed Transference of Funds to Congested Districts Board.

Witness proposed that the funds of the Agricultural Board should be handed back to the Congested Districts Board, so that those bodies could be amalgamated, 50339-40, 50342.—The bodies would then only need half the number of officials, and a great saving would be accomplished, and the state of the country improved, 50342.—The purposes for which the bodies were formed were not carried out, 50343.—The Congested Districts Board did the work better than the Agricultural Department, 50346.—To which the work was transferred some years ago, 50344-5.—The Agricultural Board frequently wasted public money, 50347.—Witness really intended to suggest the re-transference of the work to the Congested Districts Board, 50348.—Because the agricultural schemes would then be more beneficial, 50348.—Witness was himself a member of the Agricultural Committee, whose suggestion was ignored by the Board, while the Board's own plans were useless, 50349.

HERAGHTY, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

New Tenancies since 1903 to be void.

Witness suggested that leases or assignments made since 1903 by landlords, for the creation of new tenancies, should be illegal and abortive, 50350.—Some underling in an office might have a bogus lease drawn and lodge a claim when the Board came to purchase, 50351.—Witness instanced a case on the Claremorris Estate where tenants had agreed to purchase through the Estates Commissioners, when a Mr. Good, the chief clerk of the office, had claimed by an assignment several hundred acres which was at one time the demesne of the Claremorris family, 50353.—Mr. Good had bought a portion of land from a bailiff on the estate, 50353-4.—And by this means coming in as a tenant, 50355.—Was able to purchase a large part of the property, 50353, 50355.—Mr. Good was an agent, 50357.—Living fifty miles away, at Westport, 50355, 50357.—And the transaction came before the Court, 50355.—When Judge Morphy declared the whole proceeding to be illegal and a fraud, 50356.

STEPHENS, Very Rev. CANON.

Congestion in Ballinrobe.

The Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers, and funds for the relief of distress, 50369.—Witness suggested that the parish of Ballinrobe ought to be scheduled as congested, 50361, 50369, 50394.—And also the county generally, 50394.—And the whole province, 50369.—In the parish of Ballinrobe there were 4,000 acres of grass lands, on which bullocks were fattened, and many families were living on extremely congested holdings, on intermixed plots immediately adjacent, 50361, 50364.—In the Kilmaine district of the Bingham Estate there were 2,374 acres in the hands of three farmers, and round about, on bog, on rocky land, there were more than sixty families on holdings broken into 707 separate patches, 50361.—There was not an economic holding on the estate, and the peasants, evicted from the lands now under grazing, worked as labourers, 50367.—The uneconomic holders were descendants of evicted tenants, 50365.—In the village of Cregduff, there were twenty families whose holdings were scattered in 352 patches; in Cloonereen, eighteen families had 127 patches of bog reclaimed by themselves and their predecessors; in Rosslaura, once a penisula in a bog, eleven families held 169 separate patches, chiefly bog reclaimed by themselves; there were a few cottiers, a few herdsmen, and a few labourers, but no labourer's cottage in the Union, 50361.—In Knocknadriume, eleven families had fifty-eight patches.

Clause 75 of the Act of 1903.

Witness suggested that Clause 75 should be expunged from the Land Act of 1903, 50361, 50383.—Because, although the district was not scheduled, the valuation was only kept up by the grass lands, 50368, 50369.—The clause provided only for the advantage of those whose rateable value did not exceed £5, whereas many of those whose valuation was over £5 were equally in need of help, 50380.—Witness thought it better first to relieve those whose valuation was small, 50381.—Valuation was no test, holdings of £5 might be economic, 50382.—The section, though only permissory, was a blot on the Bill, 50384.—It might be enlarged over £5—the Land Act was simply meant for the redistribution of grass land as a whole, 50368.

Distribution of Grass Lands, and Migrants from a Distance.

Migration was a relief question, the line was hard to draw, but it was drawn at the wrong place, 50381. —Witness considered that the importation of strange migrants would be to make the existing distress permanent and irreparable, 50361.—By strangers, he meant persons from other localities, 50362.—The poor farmers of the district, some of whom had been evicted from the land, had the first claim, 50366.—They might be put back on moderate holdings, and the few who still had uneconomic holdings might work as labourers, 50367.—The existing holdings should first be made economic, before sons of tenants were considered, 50386.—The holders on the property purchased should be first benefited, 50388.—Then the sons of tenants whom ight wish to migrate to economic holdings should be provided for, 50387.—Witness considered it unreasonable to import into the Kilmaine section of the Bingham Estate poor migrants from other districts, while the holders on the estate were in the abject poverty he had described, 50391.—The section was permissive only, but permitted an injustice, 50389, 50390-2.—It would be a step in the right direction to raise the valuation from £5 to £10, 50393.—There was much dissatisfaction among the peasantry at the prospect of migrants from a distance, which might, witness thought, become dangerous and uncontrollable if the migrants were introduced, 50369, 50378.—The Bingham Estate had been recently purchased from the Earl of Lucan by the Congested Districts Board, 50361, 50370.—He did not know the price paid, 50371-2.—He was not aware that local people had been consulted; tenants were eventually asked (at a meeting at which witness was present) what price they would offer for the land, if acquired, and they consulted, and offered thirteen years' purchase, if their holdings were to be economic, 50373.—Witness did not in any way influence or advise the tenants, 50373.—The estate was within 1½ miles of Ballinrobe, 50371.

Drainage of the River Robe.

The constant flooding of the River Robe was the cause of much distress, it flooded thousands of acres of the best lands in Mayo, from its source in Bekan to Lough Mask; the Drainage Commissioners in 1847 reported the total area of flooded lands in the district to be 14,886 statute acres; the report was drawn up by Mr. Harding, an eminent engineer, who estimated that the increased value in the lands, resulting from drainage, would be 6*s.* 3*d.* per statute acre, amounting in all to £4,632, and that the increased value of the lands would yield a profit of 8½ per cent. on the outlay, independent of the value of mill power, brought into operation, 50373.—The mills were never brought into operation, 51373.—They were removed, and their sites can still be pointed out; the floods still continued and caused poverty, and also ill-health; many thousand pounds had been profitably expended by the Congested Districts Board in profitable works; on quays at Ballinrobe, and weirs and locks and bridges on the Robe; if a few thousand pounds more were spent in making the river navigable from Lough Mask to Ballinrobe, and the people from the mountains of Partry would be within reach of a market; the town of Ballinrobe would regain its former prosperity, and the neighbourhood would be made more attractive to tourists; the question of deepening the river from Lough Mask to Ballinrobe was one of small outlay and large profit; Ballinrobe once had tannery, brewing, tobacco industry, spinning, flour and tuck mills, and many cottage industries; witness had brought the question to the notice of the Agricultural Department, which had reported at length and sympathetically, but said in the end, that it was not a question for the Department, 50374.—Witness was not aware that evidence on the subject was tendered before the Drainage Commission; he himself had applied to the Board of Works, and was told that the money could be obtained as a Treasury Grant or as a loan granted on the application of a Drainage Board, but that there was little chance of either, 50375.—Why the local landlords objected, witness could not explain, except that one thought it would interfere with his privacy, 50376.—Witness believed that the scheme of drainage would be an advantage in every way, 50379.—The former scheme broke down because fissures in the limestone swallowed up the water between Lough Mask and Lough Corrib; this could now be remedied, with some hundreds or thousands of tons of cement, 50377.

Sale of the River to Lord Ardilaun.

A question should be asked in Parliament as to whether the Grand Jury of Mayo were right in selling the river to Lord Ardilaun; if salmon were allowed up from Lough Corrib, Lough Mask might be one of the chief fisheries in Ireland, 50377.

FALLON, Rev. JOHN.

Scheduling by Townlands.

Witness recommended a change in the law as regarded scheduling congested areas; as the law existed a large number of townlands or villages, though in reality congested, could not be scheduled, and therefore could not come under the Congested Districts Board; for example the village of Clonlavish, in the parish of Knock, was the most congested in the parish, having twenty houses only a few yards apart, with holdings varying from £3 to £4 valuation; this was no exceptional case, and the law should be amended to include them, 50397.—Witness suggested that the Board should be empowered to schedule congestion wherever it existed; this, after official inspection, by Mr. Doran, or other officials, 50397-8—And the scheduling should be by townlands, 50397, 50399.—Witness was glad to hear this was the rule in Scotland, 50400.

Representation of Congested Districts on the Board.

Witness regretted that there was no representative of the congested districts of County Galway, and of the western seaboard of County Mayo, on the Congested Districts Board, 50400.—He thought there should be one member for each county, as it was unwise to have a large Board, 50400, 50402.—The County Councils should be empowered to select a representative, either within or outside their own body to represent them on the Board; the County Councillors were fairly intelligent representatives, and could give valuable assistance, but he would not limit representation to them, 50402-3.—He did not mind whether the representatives were elected or nominated by the Council, 50403.—He did not think one member from each congested county would make the Board unwieldy, 50405-6.—Witness did not recommend the nomination of those members by Parish Committees, 50434.—Though these were well informed as to local needs, 50433.—But Parish Committees only existed in certain parishes, 50434.—And there were congested parishes which had no committee, 50435.—The grants to Parish Committees were annual, and might be discontinued, 50434.—It took some time to master the work of the Congested Districts Board, 50439.—But witness thought that a man who did his duty would be re-elected by the County Council, even if he did not at first obtain many advantages for his district, 40340.—Witness would prefer six years' tenure of office to three, as it gave a man time to learn, and also to use his knowledge, 50443.—Witness would give no opinion as to the advisability of the same persons being at once a member of the Estates Commissioners, the Congested Districts Board, and the Department of Agriculture, or any two of these bodies, 50407-8.

FALLON, Rev. JOHN—*continued.*

OPERATIONS OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN CONNAUGHT.

Witness did not advise the amalgamation of the Congested Districts Board with the Estates Commission, being of opinion that the Board should deal with the purchase and distribution of land, 50408.—In Connaught, Donegal, Kerry and West Cork, in the purchase of estates where there was little improvement to be made, land might as well be purchased through the Commissioners as the Board, but in dealing with estates where the holdings must be improved, or remodelled, and where questions arose of turbary rights, rights of way, deeds of assignment, etc., the experience of the Board and its officials made it the only suitable authority, and it would be a calamity if the Board were broken up, and its experience not made available, or if it were amalgamated with the Estates Commission; the Board had been operating in a successful manner in the parish of Knock for nine years; Mr. Doran, by his courtesy, sympathy, and fairness, had made the Board trusted and respected; witness would not advise that the Estates Commissioners should operate in Connaught, 50409.

RELIEF OF CONGESTION BY ACQUISITION OF GRASS LANDS.

Witness recognised that the problem of obtaining more, and better land for congests, was a difficult one; if there were untenanted lands or non-residential farms in the neighbourhood, the Board should have compulsory powers to acquire them, and should parcel them into lots of eight or ten acres, to be distributed among the smaller holdings, for the purpose of making them economic; this plan had been successfully tried on two farms in Knock, and was likely to succeed generally, 50448-9.—This was done by the Board, 50448-9.—It was likely to succeed, because it would not entail much expense, the tenant already possessing house and outbuildings, so that the Board would not be called upon for large sums, nor the tenant for more rent than he could expect to pay, while the extra land would benefit him considerably, 50449.—Witness thought the old house, if fairly good, would suffice for the new holding, 50450.—The tenants (now obliged to pay high rents for con-acre, and to buy grazing) would be satisfied with extra land, not immediately contiguous to their holdings, 50450-1.

COMMON GRAZING.

Witness did not advise common grazing in the vicinity of congested districts, as he thought it not likely to be a permanent arrangement, 50452-3, 50456, 50463.—But, at any rate, it gave tenants the management of their own affairs, 50467.—Permanent possession alone, gave the peasantry on interest in the land, and was what witness wished, 50456.—It would be better to have common grazing than to leave things as they were, 50461-2.—If the acquisition of permanent holdings was impracticable, 50460.—Witness had no objection to the plans, 50460, 50464, 50466.—But did not see his way to managing it, 50466.—He did not know it was common in Europe, 50458.—And was the basis of land tenure in Scotland, 50459.—It would be easily managed if you got good managers, 50465.

RELIEF OF CONGESTED TOWNLANDS, NOT ADJACENT TO GRASS LANDS—MIGRATION, ETC.

The greatest difficulty was in the case of townlands (such as some in Swinford Union) not within a ten mile radius of grass lands; migration was a remedy for this, and was much less distasteful than formerly to the peasantry of Western Ireland, this witness attributed to intercourse with America, 50467.—Whence many emigrants returned each year, 50467-8.—Sometimes, in witness's parish, as many as a hundred in a year, chiefly girls, who had emigrated at sixteen or seventeen, and returned in five to seven years, having saved £100 to £200, which, in Mayo, made it certain that they would be able to marry, 50469-70.—Very few men returned, nor did they send back so much money as the girls, 50471.—Witness did not anticipate a bad reception for emigrants if the wants of local holders were first supplied, 50471.

FALLON, Rev. JOHN—*continued.*

HIGH VALUATION DISCOURAGES MIGRATION.

The great objection of the tenant farmer to migrate was his reluctance to face high rents, high rates, and increased working expenditure of a new, larger holding; this, witness considered, was a wise reluctance, 50467.—A number of small holders in Knock had been offered larger holdings if they wished to migrate; five of them migrated, but the others, after inspecting the new holdings and considering the annuities, declined to do so, being frightened by the high rents, 50471.—Those who consented to migrate, witness had visited; witness thought that a large, prosperous farmer should be given every encouragement to migrate, as he would probably succeed in his new farm, but the experiment of migrating poor tenants into new holdings of fifteen or twenty acres provided with new fences and houses, was dangerous, 50472.—Because the tenant had to pay an annuity, 50 or even 100 per cent. above his neighbours, who had their tenant right, 50473.—As an example, witness gave the case of a migrant, planted by the Estates Commissioners on a farm for which he paid £1 5*s.* an acre, while his brother, who had a tenant right, and lived on the other side of the road, was paying 11*s.* or 12*s.*, 50473-4.—The brother had a house, but the new tenant had to build one, 50474.—Witness thought he had no grant towards his house, 50476.—And he would also have to pay high rates, 50474, 50477.—The new slated houses also were rated upon a high valuation, 50477. Perhaps £2 extra, 50478.—This handicapped him in the race for the 68½ years, 50477.—Witness knew a woman, a migrant, who paid £4 18*s.* in rates alone, on ten Irish acres, 50480-1.—And a man paid £4 6*s.* on a valuation of £20, and an area of sixteen acres, 50481.—This was a great grievance, and concerned the Government, not the Board, 50477-8.—Which had made superfluous efforts to keep down the annuity, and had made it as small as possible; but it was the high valuation which handicapped the poor man, 50481-2, 50483-4.—The tenant who had an enlarged holding, as well as the migrant, had a larger annuity, and had to build fences, 50473.—When the Board took a new farm they must keep the old valuation, and the houses were valued besides, as an extra, 50478.—The migrants needed all their resources for the working of the land, 50483.—Rates must naturally rise, with the advance of civilisation, and would be a burden upon the ordinary landholder, but would press more heavily upon a migrant, 50484.—Witness considered that the high valuation pointed to the fact that too high a price had been given for the unoccupied land, afterwards divided, 50476.

DEFERRED TAXATION OF HOUSES.

Witness recommended that the migrant for whom a house was built should be rated and taxed on his land but not on the house, for a term of years, for fifteen or twenty years, 50478-80, 50485-6.—This would give the migrant a chance of starting on a fair level with his neighbours, and unless he could do so, migration would be attended with disaster, 50483.—The tenant had been assisted to migrate because he was otherwise unable to live, and he should be given a chance of living, 50487.—Witness would not except in the same manner tenants who had built their own houses, or tenants with enlarged holdings for whom the Board had built houses, 50486-8.

WORK OF THE PARISH COMMITTEES.

Witness considered Parish Committees most valuable in dealing with persons living on fairly economic holdings and showing an apathy with regard to improvements which was a survival of the time when improvements entailed an increase of rent; no other scheme had such possibilities as the Parish Committee scheme; it had, in nine years, worked remarkable improvements in Knock; the first year it built about 50 out-offices, estimated on an average at £12 each, and this was continued till every landholder had sufficient accommodation; the houses were then improved, until most of them were provided with concrete floors and large windows, 50409.—

Though the valuation put on these houses was unfair, and pressed heavily on the poor, 50429-30.—It did not actually deter them from building, and in one village recently twenty slated houses had been built within the year, 50430.—The scheme had the effect of technical training upon the villagers, 50431-2.—They had to build upon sites selected, and carry out plans and specifications submitted under the instruction of the supervisor, and, training once begun to improve, the taste for improvement became almost a passion, one improvement leading the others, 50430, 50436.—This was an opinion formed from witness's own observation, 50436-7.—The Parish Committee at Knock had had domestic classes, which were wonderfully successful, 50444-5.—The Board sent down instructors in cookery, laundry, and domestic economy, 50445-7.—A class was formed at the best house in the village, and a class of forty girls of ages averaging from sixteen to twenty-one, met weekly, hardly one being absent for six weeks; the class changed the aspect of the country in the way of cleanliness and tidiness, 50445.—Which witness considered the best economy of all, 50448.—They had applied for another class, 50445.—Last year the Parish Committee of Knock had planted 20,000 trees, 50409-10.—The Board had paid a third of the cost of trees, ordered and bought by the Parish Committee, through witness, this amounted to £5, 50411.—The peasantry began to plant trees themselves three years previously, and some were growing, 50421.—But many had died, owing to bad planting, and were being replaced, 50422.—Witness would not say that a third had died, 50423.—These trees had been given by the Board, and would in future be valuable shelter belts, 50412.—The Parish Committee now allowed the tenant one-third the cost of the trees, 50415, 50418.—And nothing for his labour, 50420.—This worked successfully, and witness expected to double the number next year, 50419.—The trees planted were chiefly Austrian pine and Scotch fir, 50413.—No trees were given till the supervisor had reported that the land to be planted was properly fenced, 50414.

Supervisors of Agriculture.

Witness thought the plan of supervision adopted with regard to tree-planting could be successfully applied to agriculture; the supervisor would superintend the preparation of the ground, and give information as to seeds, times of planting, manures, etc., and this would much advance agriculture in a few years, 50424, 50428.—The Agricultural Department used formerly to work in this way, with success, and it was better than the system of inspectors, 50428.—The Parish Committee now supplied the parish supervisor, and paid him 10 per cent. of the grant from the Board, 50425-6.—If he were to be employed as an agricultural instructor, a different form and amount of payment would be adopted, 50427.—The same man need not be employed for both purposes, 50428.

CONNELL, Mr. THOMAS.

Witness's Holding.—Various Rents, etc.

Witness was a farmer, having a holding, 50491.—Since 1865, 50531.—At Bekan, between Knock and Ballyhaunis, on the Dillon Estate, of 35 statute acres, 50491.—He had formerly been tenant under a middleman, Frank O'Grady, who held a farm from Lord Dillon, under a lease, and was a judicial tenant, 50491-3.—O'Grady was a tyrant, 50491.—And a bad agent, an advocate of high rents, 50535.—When a tenant under O'Grady, witness had paid £24 for his holding, 50491, 50495, 50508.—He paid this by devoting nearly all the produce of the holding to rent; people now lived and dressed better, 50532.—The tenants had got more and the landlord less, witness thought this a wise arrangement, 50533.—Witness got a reduction of rent to £15, without going into Court, 50496.—He paid £24 till 1879, and after that £15, 50507-8.—This reduction, nominally voluntary, was wrung out of the middleman, 50510.—It was before the Act of 1881 was passed, 50509.—After this, witness went into Court, and had his rent reduced further, to £12, 50494, 50497.—It was at £12 when witness purchased his holding, 50498.—And in consequence of the purchase, witness's annual payment was reduced from £12 to £5 17*s.*, 50491, 50499.—Witness had begun negotiations for purchase under the Ashbourne Act, when his annuity was £7 4*s.*, 50499, 50502.—When the Act of 1903 came into operation, he had to pay only £5 17*s.*, 50499, 50503.—He actually purchased about eight or nine years previously, 50500.—Of the Congested Districts Board, 50502.—Which drained part of the holding, 50502, 50506.—The other improvements were made by witness himself, 50505.—Put differently, witness's 4 per cent. annuity made £7 4*s.*, and the $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. made £5 17*s.*

Congestion in Bekan, Larganboy.

The whole of the parish was very much congested, though almost all the land was bought by the Congested Districts Board, 50511, 50515.—The townland of Larganboy had an average valuation of £1 15*s.* or £1 16*s.*, and contained sixty-four tenants, 50511.—It was near Mannan Lake, which was injurious to the land, 50529, and was on the Taaffe Estate, and about two Irish miles north-west of Ballyhaunis, 50529.—It was a suitable place for the Commissioners to collect evidence, 50528.—There was a grass farm adjacent, 50511.—Formerly in the possession of Knox, from Ballina, and called the Taaffe Estate, 50514.—It was situate between Knock and Ballyhaunis, 50512.—The estate had been refused by the Commissioners on account of the townland of Larganboy, adjacent, which was congested, and because they thought it not sufficient security for the purchase money; but the Commissioners had now bought the whole estate, 50514, 50529.—Though the rents were not fixed, 50529.—Or the land vested in the tenants, 50514.—This land would be suitable for the migration of congested tenants, 50511.—The Taaffe Estate and More O'Farrell's property was also congested, and More O'Farrell's was highly rented, and often flooded, 50528-9.

Migration and Distribution of Grass Lands.

Witness believed that the majority of the Dillon tenants would migrate, if they got good holdings, 50515-6.—Now they were in bad circumstances, 50511.—And since their holdings were small, they were obliged to migrate to England for work every year, 50515.—Witness was not anxious to migrate, 50515.—But would be willing to do so, to improve his circumstances, 50520.—He would not particularly wish to go to Roscommon, until they gave up cattle driving, 50520.—The feeling against migration was disappearing, 50517.—Migration was increasing, 50516.—Witness thought that the people in the neighbourhood of grass lands should be first considered, in their distribution, 50522.—And unless they were provided for, others might come in from a distance, 50523.—He did not think that sons of farmers should get holdings in preference to migrants from a distance, but when the people on the spot were congested, and others imported, he considered unfair, 50524.—The question of what was fair in this matter, was a question of degree, 50526.—It had not been thought fair to import persons to grass lands in the Knock neighbourhood, when the Congested Districts Board left the people in the neighbourhood with very small holdings, and gave the land to persons from a distance, 50521.—The inspectors of the Board generally differed from the local people on these matters, 50526.

Drainage of the Robe.

Witness lived at the source of the Robe river, 50526.—which had this year flooded many acres of tillage land, 50527.—And flooded much of witness's parish, the floods from lower down the river often backing up towards the source, 50526.—It would be well for the Commissioners to see the district, 50528.—The river needed clearing and dredging to let the water get away, 50530.

PRENDERGAST, Mr. LUKE.

Witness's Holding.

Witness had a holding of eight acres at Woodstock; his father, now dead, had bought a field of two acres one rood from Colonel Browne, seventeen years previously; Colonel Browne (at his death) had not turned witness's stock off the land, 50536.—But had taken witness to Ballinrobe, and "decreed him for the possession of the land," 50537.—But when witness served a notice to put a fair rent on his holding, Colonel Browne deprived him of the two acres, 50536-7.—Witness had no property in this land, only an understanding that his father should buy it, 50537.—But he had reclaimed the land, improving the soil with clay, by his own labour; it was not true, as had been stated before Judge Morphy, that witness had six horned cattle on this field, he had only two sucking calves, 50538.

Witness's Family—Migration, etc.

Witness, since the death of his wife, was unable to work in England, as he had done till six years previously, 50536.—Three of his sons were in America, 50539.—And two others migrated to England, coming back in the winter, 50541-2.—And living, one at Baltor, and one on witness's holding, where he worked with witness, 50542-3.—All the men on Colonel Browne's Estate worked in England for six or nine months in the year, as he had done himself, sleeping in barns and outhouses, 50544.

Colonel Browne's Estate.

Colonel Browne's Estate, though congested, was not scheduled, on account of the proximity of grass lands to congested tenants; the tenants were anxious to buy the grass lands, which were good, while the tenants' holdings were chiefly cut-away bog, and were uneconomic; Colonel Browne was an absentee landlord, and regardless of his tenants' interests, 50544.

WALDRON, Mr. MARK.

Uneconomic Holdings on the Oranmore Estate.

Witness farmed 29 statute acres at Killean, Ballindine, his valuation was £12, and his rent £14; he was a tenant on the Oranmore Estate, and had about the largest holding on the property, 50545, 50547.—Witness, before the Act of 1881, was paying £26 8*s.*, but at that time the holding was decreased by six acres and the rent raised to £27 8*s.*—Witness spoke for himself and for sixty-four tenants, whom he represented, 50545.—Between 1862 and 1866, before the tenants had fixity of tenure, fifty tenants were evicted, 50545-6.—These fifty held on an average 15 acres of land, 50545.—And together with forty, who were migrated from Carrowlessa to Killean, which was congested, 50545.—Held 2,000 acres of arable land, which was now in the hands of graziers; graziers from other properties held 3,000 acres of the Oranmore property, while the tenants had only 300 or 400 acres, English, 50548.—When the tenants were evicted they were promised the grass of a cow and calf on good pasture at £2 a year, but when they got possession the landlord charged them £4 on one farm, and then moved them from that and charged them £3 on bad mountain land, 50546.—This land was poor and unhealthy, and cattle on it frequently died of blood murrain and other diseases, 50547, 50548.—Witness had seen two families under the same roof at Killean occupying about five English acres of reclaimed bog each, 50546.—The tenants evicted in 1862-66 were most of them living to-day, many in hovels in Ballandine, or on unreclaimed patches of bog, 50548.—Lord Oranmore had not offered his land for sale; and when approached by tenants, he offered them holdings of twelve acres English, at most, 50548.—He now wished to claim as demesne the land from which the tenants had been evicted, 50548.—Some of the holdings of the evicted tenants had been divided and given to those who were migrated, 50546.—Lord Oranmore gave no employment to his tenants, 50548.—Except the rough work, 50552.—The greater number of the labourers he employed were Englishmen and Scotchmen, 50548-52.—And the best paid, and pleasantest work, such as gardening, milling, forestry, and rabbit catching, was done by these imported labourers, 50552-3.—Any labourer whose wages were more than eight shillings a week was an imported man, 50554-5.—Witness had not worked for Lord Oranmore, and had no ill-feeling towards him, 50555.—The tenants were very poor, living from hand to mouth, at the mercy of shopkeepers, and could only live with the assistance of friends and relatives in America; the land was exhausted, owing to continuous cropping, which resulted from the smallness of the holdings, 50555-7.—And produced vegetables often unfit for human consumption, 50555.—Every season was a bad one, for land so treated, 50557.—Witness wished to assure the Commission that tenants could not live on their holdings, and to ask that the Congested Districts Board should have power to distribute grass lands and untenanted lands in such quantities as to make the holdings economic, 50559.

Drainage.

The drainage of the River Robe and its tributaries would greatly benefit witness's parish, where much damage was done by floods sweeping away hay and crops; witness had heard a farmer state that drainage of this river would benefit him by £100, and he was willing to pay a good part of it, 50555.—This farmer held 200 acres, of which twenty was annually flooded; witness would give the name of the farmer, if pressed, 50558.

JORDAN, Mr. DAVID.

Witness's Purchase under the Ashbourne Act, etc.

Witness was a farmer, holding 8½ acres, 50570.—At Lecarrow, near Ballyhaunis, on the estate of the Rev. T. Wallace, of Booterstown, County Dublin, 50560.—Of witness's holding, only four acres was arable, and there was other land, unfit for grass or hay, owing to the surface having been carried away, and only rock being left, 50568, 50571.—Some was in rundale, 50570-1.—This was in three different places, 50605.—Witness knew where it was, though at the time of the sale of the land to him, in 1900, 50579.—No map was given to him, 50604, 50613.—The land was inspected on behalf of the landlord, and then for the Land Commission, 50606, 50608.—All the facts of the holdings were known to the inspector, 50607.—And to witness, who had a paper stating his position after purchase, 50610-1.—But no description of his farm was given, 50613.—Some of witness's land was held in common with other tenants and divided by agreement, 50571.—The holdings on that estate varied from 2½ to 15 acres, but the greater part was cut-away bog, 50571.—Witness's valuation was £3 12*s.*, 50560.—His rent before purchase was £5 2*s.*, 50578.—He had paid eighteen years' purchase of second term rents, 50567.—His annuity was £2 8*s.* 4*d.*, 50577.—He intended to apply for the decenal reduction on this, to which he would be entitled in a few years, 50580-1.—Witness, and thirty other tenants, had purchased direct from the landlord, 50560, 50604.—They did not understand the purpose of the Congested Districts Board, 50582.—If he had understood this, he would not have purchased except through the Board, 50609.—They now wished to be brought under the Board or the Estates Commissioners, 50564.—Which would enable them to have their holdings enlarged, 50561, 50583.—They had purchased their holdings under the Ashbourne Act of 1896, 50567, 50579, 50603.—Before the sale of the Dillon Estate, 50560.—Now, witness and the other Lecarrow tenants were excluded from any privilege on the Dillon Estate, 50560.—And there were no grass lands on the Wallace Estate, 50560, 50591.—The people contiguous to the Dillon grazing lands had the prior claim on them, 50561.

JORDAN, Mr. DAVID—*continued.*

WILLINGNESS TO MIGRATE.

Witness and other tenants would be willing to migrate, and leave their farms for the enlargement of other uneconomic holdings, 50563, 50566, 50584, 50592, 50601.—Witness would be willing to go to Roscommon, 50594.—If it would improve his condition, 50566.—He did not anticipate an unfriendly reception if he were to emigrate, 50597-8.—Though there might be individual cases, where the grass lands were small, and neighbouring tenants wished to keep them for themselves, 50596, 50598, 50600.—Public opinion was beginning to take broader views on the subject of migration, 50599.—Witness had no business except his present holding, but his sisters helped him, 50576.—He had four sisters in America, 50576, 50593.—He had a cow and two calves, 50572, 50574, 50585.—He could not feed them on his holding, but on hand feeding, with "shop-stuffs" and grass which he bought, 50574, 50573.—When they were two years old he sent them to Roscommon, 50573, 50586.—Sometimes thirty miles distance, 50587.—If there were no grazing lands, witness would have to live on any vegetable he could grow; it would seriously damage his farming, 50588-9.—If he could obtain grazing lands himself, the difficulty would disappear, but this would not be convenient without migration, 50590-1.—The larger and more prosperous farmers should be migrated, 50601.

TURBARY BOG.

Witness was chiefly anxious to obtain help from the Congested Districts Board, or Estates Commissioners, in getting access to turbary bog, without which the land was of little use to tenants, 50564.—The tenants on the Wallace Estate had for forty years cut turf on the Dillon Estate, 50563, 50615.—For fifteen years of this time, they paid five shillings a year for the privilege, 50563, 50615, 50626.—This arrangement was made with the bailiffs on the Dillon Estate, 50616, 50621.—The Wallace tenants could claim no right, 50625.—The agreement was from year to year, 50622.—Though the continuance of the arrangement for forty years suggested a right, 50526.—And the discontinuance was a hardship, 50634.—The turbary was now divided among tenant purchasers on the Dillon Estate, 50564, 50617.—On representation being made by the Wallace tenants to the Board, they replied that it was purchased exclusively for the tenants on the Dillon Estate, and outsiders would not be allowed to cut turbary, 50618, 51619.—There was no turf on the Wallace Estate, and since they had been excluded from the Dillon Estate, they had gone to many places for turf, 50564, 50633.—In some cases an inconvenient distance, and the turf was often of an inferior quality, 50564, 50623.—They were not even allowed to buy of the Dillon tenants; 50563.—Though these had more than they required, 50536.—And did, in fact, supply the Wallace tenants at times, 50632-3.—If the turbary bog was insufficient for the Dillon tenants, and unlikely to last more than fifty years, 50627-8.—There was other bog land available, 50628.—Witness did not bring any charge against the Congested Districts Board, but suggested that the Wallace tenants had been deprived of a benefit they had enjoyed for many years, and asked for some arrangement, by legislation or otherwise, by which they could obtain turbary, on sufficient payment, 50630.

CLARKE, Mr. PATRICK.

DISSATISFACTION OF WITNESS WITH TERMS OF PURCHASE FROM THE BOARD.

Witness was a tenant under the Congested Districts Board at Ballyglass, his holding was twenty-four acres, of which the valuation was £11 15*s.*, 50637.—He had no land previously, 50639, 50648, 50658.—Land was enclosed for him, 50659.—A grant of £10 was given to him for the improvement of his house, 50654, 50660.—It was the same he had previously occupied, 50654.—He had had only one room; witness

CLARKE, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

had built a second, 50660.—The Board had made one ditch on his land, 50657.—Witness had paid £50 for the land, 50638.—He did not know whether that was cheap, 50640.—It was half bog-land, 50638.—He considered £50 too large a fine, 50637.—As a neighbour had obtained thirty-four acres without paying any fine, 50642.—Witness did not want to get a fine put on the other man, 50646.—But to get his own fine back, 50645.—He had received £20 back in April, and had his annuity increased to meet it, 50647, 50649.—This was not given back for the purpose of stocking the land, 50650.—He had some stock before taking the land, 50653.—He considered that he was as well off as now before he bought the land, 50661.—He had a better living previously, 50644.—The Board had taken away his means of living, 50644.—He was formerly a herd, 50637.—He had entered into the arrangement of his own free will, 50641.—He did not wish now to give up the land, 50662.

CONNOR, Mr. THOMAS.

REQUEST OF WITNESS FOR REFUNDING OF FINE.

Witness was an evicted tenant, now restored to his holding, on the estate of Mr. Isidore Burke, 50663, 50678.—At Ballinamalla, 50663, 50665.—He was evicted, together with forty-five other tenants, in 1881, 50663.—And his father-in-law afterwards took up the holding, and gave it to witness's wife, 50663, 50677.—Who made it over to witness, 50678.—Witness was only out of the holding from November till May, 50681.—The holding from which witness was evicted was valued at £79, 50665, 50679, 50683.—By the Land Commission, 50680.—Its area was thirteen acres, the rent was £7 14*s.*, 50663.—Witness had this holding enlarged to thirty-six acres, 50668.—Which he held under the Estates Commissioners, 50676.—And paid £61 for the change, £31 down, and £30 with the rent, 50666.—£79 was the tenant's interest in the farm he gave up, and £61 in the farm he took up, 50667-8.—Witness now paid £16 10*s.* rent, and his valuation was too high, 50670.—Rates were high in Claremorris Union, and witness had to go five miles for turbary; in consideration of these disadvantages, he asked for the remission of the £31 fine, to enable him to start the world afresh, 50668, 50688.—He would be willing to have his annuity increased accordingly, 50675.—Witness had been in possession more than three years, 50673.—He was tilling three or four acres, 50671.—A less area than in the old holding, 50674.—It was very hard for witness to live at all, and he got no crop the first year of his new holding, 50674.—The land was some of it good, and some bad, 50671.—Witness was paying rent to the Land Commission, and hoped they might refund the money, 50669.

M'LOUGHLIN, Mr. MARTIN.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS UNDER THE BOARD.

Witness's holding was situate at Knock, Ballyhaunis, 50688.—Consisted of twenty-seven statute acres, at £8 valuation, 50685-6.—And with a rent of £4 8*s.* 10*d.*, 50687.—Tenants in this district, Knock South Electoral Division, 50697.—Were all purchasing owners under the Board, this was under different Acts, 50690.—Most of them paying annuities to the Land Commission, 50699.—The property was known as the Dillon Estate, 50700-1.—And passed to the Board about nine years previously, 50700.—The Board had enlarged a considerable number of holdings in the district, 50706.—And the people were contented and happy, 50690, 50706.—But they were still obliged to go as migratory labourers to England and to emigrate to America, and before the holdings could be made economic, fifty to eighty families must be migrated, and the remaining holdings enlarged, 50690, 50694.—There were about 600 families in the district, 50693.—And, after eighty had been migrated, their holdings should be divided among the remainder, 50694.

M'LOUGHLIN, Mr. MARTIN—*continued.*

WILLINGNESS TO MIGRATE UNDER FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS.

These uneconomic holders, and others in Knock North, and parts of Caraun and Kilkelly, 50698.—And paying annuities of 30*s.* to £2, and with rents of 30*s.* to £4, 50696.—Would be willing to migrate, if the rents of the new holdings would be less than what they paid at present, 50698.—But they considered the rents of most of the new holdings created by the Board to be too high, 50698, 50710, 50719-20.—Witness had heard persons who were migrated to new holdings complain that rents were too high, 50735.—But had no personal knowledge of it, 50736.—He was not a migrant, but remained on his old holding, 50733.—Which had not been enlarged, 50734.—Witness's former rent was £9 4*s.* 8*d.*, 50702.—Being twice his present annuity, 50703.—Tenants of the Board considered the valuations were also too high; there was £2 to £3 on each house, besides the land valuation, 50698.—Witness had not heard whether the migrants were prospering, 50735.—There was more willingness among the holders on the Dillon Estate to migrate than before they came under the Board, 50709.—They were not afraid of bad treatment at the hands of their new neighbours, if they migrated, 50710.—But only of rents being too high, 50709-10.—It would be an advantage to migrants to have an instructor in agriculture, 50741.

OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD ON THE DILLON ESTATE.

The tenants on the Dillon Estate were considerably better off than formerly, 50708, 50737.—They were better able to pay cash, and keep out of debt, 50738.—So far as witness knew they were now not much in debt, 50738.—This was a great improvement, 50739.—They appreciated the work of the Board, 50711, 50723.—The Board had enlarged their holdings in divisions, giving each tenant three to six acres more than formerly, 50707.—The Board had for the last eight years built about forty out-offices annually, 50704-6.—And had improved dwellings and surroundings, and built retaining walls, and made sanitary arrangements; in the houses they had constructed ceilings, and put in concrete floors and large windows; they had also carried out large drainage schemes, and had deepened and widened rivers, and made small drains, and constructed roads, 50704, 50706.—The enlargement of holdings had pleased the people, but still the rents were excessive, 50712, 50720.—If the charges for building were excluded the prices and annuities on the Dillon Estate would not be excessive, 50716.—If a slated house and new outbuildings were erected on witness's holding the rent would be nearly doubled, 50715.—Witness did not say the Board was paying excessive prices for property, 50714, 50724.—The prices were high, because landlords were unwilling to sell, 50725.—Though the charges of rates and rents fell heavily upon existing holdings, 50727.—And there might have been less could the land have been bought more cheaply, 50728.—Still the Board had not given more for the land than was necessary, 50729.—If they had had compulsory powers the land could have been bought more cheaply, 50730.—They had done as well as they could, 50731-2.—They bought the Dillon Estate at comparatively moderate price, 50742.—The wages given by the Board helped the Dillon tenants to pay off their debts to a certain extent, 50745.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

Witness believed that agricultural banks existed on some parts of the Dillon Estate, though not in his parish, 50743.

CRAWFORD, Mr. ROBERT.

WITNESS'S EXPERIENCE.

Witness was agent for Colonel Knox, of Ballinrobe, and for Mr. Sheffield, whose estate adjoined the town of Claremorris, and also for other small estates in the north of Mayo, 50747, 50773.—And as an engineer, 50746-7.—And also as a tenant farmer, 50746.—Was well acquainted with every property in the county, 50747.—He appeared on his own behalf, and also on behalf of the landlords generally, 50748.—Though he had not been nominated by the landlords, 50749.—They might consider his views too drastic, 50750.—Witness was also superintendent of three drainage districts under trustees in Kilmaine, in Lough Mask, and River Robe, and in Castlebar, 50750.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE AND STRIPING OF HOLDINGS.

The first necessity of the West of Ireland was drainage, especially arterial drainage, 50750, 50764.—It was important to drain and stripe holdings, and not to embark too rashly on the distribution of grass lands which would be wanted later on; if 80 per cent. of the holdings were properly drained and striped they would materially increase the prosperity of the tenants at a third or a tenth of the cost of schemes of migration, 50750.—The engineers of the Estates Commissioners had shown great lack of judgment in proceeding to the distribution of grass lands, and the Claremorris Estate, where tenants had stripes given them without fences or water, and three miles from their dwellings, 50752, 50754.—Small tenants got none of this land, which all went to larger men, who, in many cases, could not keep it in their own hands, but sublet it, 50755-6.—An instance in the demesne of Newbrook, where the owner, whose name witness did not know, was letting to a Mr. Murphy, a cattle dealer, one or two stripes at a less rent than he was paying to the Commissioners, 50756-7.—Witness thought the Board would have managed this better, 50758.—They would have taken a couple of very large tenants off a very poor estate, and would have planted them on the Claremorris Estate; by this plan they would have had only two houses to build, which was cheaper than building houses for many small tenants; the holdings of two large tenants distributed among those remaining would transform the small holdings, 50761.—Poor tenants if migrated had no spirit or means to work land at a distance; but if they had two acres added to existing holdings without disturbing their houses or fences they would, with this and the drainage, be much benefited, 50761, 50820-22.—Witness had no personal experience of migration, except on the Castledillon Estate, and what was done in the Orkneys and Hebrides, but he perferred to confine his evidence to Mayo, of which he had a thorough knowledge, 50762, 50785.—Witness did not consider that by removing large tenants he would be creating congestion; the land left by the large tenants ought to suffice for improving small holdings without including in their rent-charge any expenditure, 50764.—Witness had himself only enlarged holdings by inducing the landlord to purchase the interest of any tenant wishing to leave, and using this to persuade the tenants to have their land striped, 50763.—He thought there was a tendency to headlong distributions of grass lands as on the Claremorris Estate, 50750-1.—There was not enough land anywhere in Mayo to make economic holdings for everyone, 50764-5.—Witness based this opinion on evidence given to this Commission, 50768-9.—Even if tenants of the coast were excluded from the distribution of grass lands, and depended for relief on the development of fisheries, there would not be enough to give tenants economic holdings, 50770-1.

THE SHEFFIELD ESTATE.

When witness opened negotiations, three years previously, with the tenants of the Sheffield Estate, he had promised to give each of them grass land which would make up their holdings to twenty acres each, 50771.—This meant statute acres, and the tenants were at first pleased, but afterwards the large tenants asked for the same amount of additional land as the small tenants; this, witness would not allow, but promised each of them as much land as would make their holdings two and a half times larger, on condition that they would agree as to the prices of their judicial tenancies, and then witness would sell to the Board or Estates Commissioners all the land in question, making it as far as possible a condition that no migrants should be introduced from a distance, 50772.—The tenants would make no offer, 50772, 50775.—Father M'Hugh was present at the negotiation, 50772.—Witness asked the tenants

23½ years' purchase, 50772, 50776.—It was not true that he or the landlord asked 18 years' purchase, 50772, 50781, 50784.—Mr. Killeen had made this statement, 50773, 50780.—Which witness denied, 50777.—Mr. Killeen had also said that in 1888 a price had been offered on second term rents, which was absurd, as there were no second term rents till 1896, 50773, 50779.—Witness was not agent for Mr. Sheffield at that time, 50781.—But was agent for fourteen years, 50773.—He thought Mr. Killeen had been misled, 50783.—Though on the spot at the time, Mr. Killeen was not then to the fore, 50782.

Grants in Aid of Purchase of Grass Lands.

Witness was of opinion that the work of purchasing, draining, and distributing grass lands could not be carried on without a further grant from Government; this should amount at any rate to one-third of the cost of grass lands purchased, 50784, 50791.—In purchasing grass lands, the State obtained a property which had both a tenant's and a landlord's interest, 50791.—And it was not right that the tenant taking over this grass land should pay this tenant-right charge as well as the fair marketable value of the holding, which would saddle him with an impossible tax, 50784, 50793, 50815-6.—And the difference between what it was just for the tenant to pay, and the landlord to receive, should be paid by the State, 50793.—It would amount, perhaps, to a quarter of a million if the 12 per cent. which was talked of were given for the purpose, but four or five millions was required, 50784.—The State should not pay less than the market value, 50794.—And the professional men, artisans and labourers, who made up the State, should pay this charge, because it was an Imperial matter, 50795.—If the charge on the tenants were too high they would not be able to pay it, 50796.—And the landlord, if he got his share of this sum, would only get the market value of the land, 50797.—If the charges for rates, taxes, herding, maintenance and agency were deducted from the profits of a grass farm it would be worth about the same sum as the tenant's rent plus the tenant's interest, 50798.—When a tenant was put on to the land he could immediately sell his interest, 50818.—But the ordinary tenant had inherited his holding, and it made no difference to him whether his tenant-right would sell for 20 or 40 years' purchase, 50784.—And the migrated tenant had, as a rule, given up other land to acquire his new holding, 50819, 50823.—Otherwise he would get the tenant-right of the new holding for nothing, 50824.—Witness did not approve giving land to anyone except present occupiers, since there was not enough land to go round, 50819.—If there were a very great difference between the values of the old and new holdings he might fairly pay something, though not much, 50825.—Otherwise, if he paid nothing, a migrant would be much better off than other tenant farmers; but he required more means and enterprise than other tenants, 50826.—His annuity should, therefore, be small enough to give him hope for the future, or migration would be discouraged, 50827.—A migrant should not be burdened with any charge which he could not expect to pay with reasonable industry, 50828.—The Board built so many houses that the cost of building and drainage could not be borne by the incoming tenant, 50788-9.

Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners.

Witness had no hesitation in stating that, comparing the operations of the Estates Commissioners on the Claremorris Estate, and that of the Congested Districts Board on the Bingham, or other estates, that the action of the Board was wiser and better, both in the interests of the people and of the State, 50787-9.—The Board was the proper authority to deal with distribution of land in Mayo, 50753, 50785-9.

Increased Prices of Land under Second Term Rents.

Witness had sold property at 23 to 26½ years' purchase, 50800—and at £22 on the valuation, 50802, 50804—under the Ashbourne Act, 50801.—The rent in this case being 10 per cent. over the valuation; witness accounted for the rise in price, first, by the fact that the annuity was less, 50807, 50809.—The second term rents, and in some places the first term rents had been fixed since the lower price obtained, 50805.—The property was not diminished in value, 50808.—And, secondly, by the consideration that money could formerly be invested more profitably than at present, 50809.—Not more than 3½ per cent. could be obtained now, 50810.—Most of the estates were now settled, and the landlord could not touch the money, but must have it invested through the public trustees, where it would probably bring in 3½ per cent., 50811.—Witness had read Mr. Waldron's evidence, and also that of the Public Trustee, who gave the rate of interest as £3 8*s.* 6*d.*; and a judge of the Land Court had said he had £30,000 of land on which he could not get more than 3 per cent.; a third reason for the larger price asked by landlords was that they had to wait for their money for 3½ years, 50812.—The landlord was only getting the annuity meanwhile, 50813.—And that did not amount to anything like his previous income, and the charges must be paid before he touched a penny, 50814.—If a landlord charged 30 years' purchase this would be a third too much, 50817.

GLYNN, Mr. JAMES.

Some Particulars of Witness's Holding.

Witness had a farm of sixteen statute acres, 50831.—At Esker Valley, Claremorris, 50930.—At a valuation of £6 15*s.*, 50832.—And a present rent of £8, 50834, 50865.—Witness had not yet purchased, 50834.—His rent was by agreement between landlord and tenant, 50836-7.—The rent had been fixed in Court in 1883, 50837, 50840.—And in 1884, the landlord raised the rent, 50838, 50841, 50844.—This increase of rent was put on the first term men, 50837.—And were paid for fifteen years, 50837.—When the landlord took off the rise, 50837, 50839, 50864.—And tenants were now paying first term rents, and had done so for eight years, 50837, 50839, 50866.—The rise was from 10*s.* to 30*s.*, and was put on eight tenants, 50837.—There was no alteration as to their holdings, and no alteration of grazing arrangements, 50842-4.—The tenants paid this because they owed arrears of rent, which they could not pay off, 50845.—There was a year's arrear when they went into Court, 50847.—And two years by 1884, 50848-9.—And the landlord pressing for arrears, brought about the rise in rent, 50850.—The landlord did not take his tenants into Court till he raised the rent, 50852.—It was not the Civil Bill Court which had determined that the tenants should pay the increased rent, and arrears by instalments, 50852.—The arrears were not added to the rent, 50852, 50854.—The landlord said he had appealed, and the High Court had pronounced the land too cheap, and that if he did not obtain an increased rent, the tenants would be put to great cost, 50856.—It was not paying off arrears by instalments, because the arrears were to be paid immediately after the increase in rent, 50857.—Witness was not evicted for arrears, 50859.—Nor made a future tenant, 50860.—No process was served on witness for until about a year after this time, 50861-2.—And this was not acted upon, since the tenant paid, 50863.—This was on the Begley Estate, 50858.

Disturbances on the Begley Estate—Action of the Board.

Witness wished to inform the Commissioners as to the action of the Board with regard to its grass lands round the Begley Estate, 50867.—The holdings on this estate were of small valuation, and the tenants were not able to get enlargements, 50868.—The Board had bought grass lands all round this, the Roche lands, which had been distributed among the tenants of a neighbouring property, 50868, 50882-4.—They also bought the Clonford Estate; the Blacker Estate, and the Bourke Estate, which the Board had purchased two years ago, 50936-7.—Also the Castlegar property, most of which was grass, and was adjacent to the Begley property, 50886.—The tenants on the Begley property

GLYNN, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

were in the same position, from the point of view of congestion, as the Roche tenants, 50885.—They saw the advantage which would accrue to them from coming under the Board while it still had grass lands to distribute, 50887, 50937.—That they would get enlargements and improvements, represented this to their landlord, saying they would be willing to pay a good price for the opportunity, 50737.—And asked him to sell to the Board, 50871, 50930.—They had approached the landlord repeatedly during the last five years, 50871, 50939.—And within the last six or nine months he had agreed to negotiate with the Board, 50890, 50893, 50941-2.—And had, in fact, communicated with the Board, 50931.—Witness had been informed of this by the Board, 50875-3.—But his offer to sell was contingent on his getting a price satisfactory to himself, 50873, 50890.—The tenants were willing to leave the question of price to the Board, 50870, 50919, 50925.—Subject to the price being such that the future tenants would be able to meet the consequent annuity, 50926-7.—But the price the landlord asked was too high, 50877.—Witness had heard so, two months previously, 50878.—From a member of the Board, 50877.—And while negotiations were still proceeding, 50933-4.—The tenants had a promise from Mr. Doran, that the Castlegar farm should not be broken up until an arrangement had been arrived at with Mr. Begley, 50976.—The time was limited to six months, 50976, 50981.—This was kept more than six months, 50982-3.—But before six months had expired, tenant purchasers from a distance came to see the place, 50983, 50913, 50958.—And an official of the Board went on to the property in order to have it divided, 50894, 50909.—And the tenants, feeling that faith had been broken, hunted the workmen and gangers, and the purchasing tenants, who were inspecting the property, off the land, 50979, 50894-5, 50896, 50913.—They put some of them into the river, 50913.—And there were no migrants in the neighbourhood, except one on an adjoining estate, 50913.—The Castlegar farm was the last grass farm in the neighbourhood which remained undistributed, 50928.—And if this were given over to migrants, the Begley men would lose their last chance of enlarged holdings, 50881, 50887-8, 50891-2.—And besides the Begley tenants had been accustomed to have grazing for one cow on the Castlegar farms, while it was unoccupied, 50903-4.—Which was a great assistance to them, 50903, 50905.—And the Board at present allowed them to have it, 50907-8.—But if the land were given to migrants, these tenants would lose their grazing, and this would be a hardship, 50902, 50910-1.—There was a feeling of soreness about the introduction of migrants, 50902.—For the Begley men had expected to get the first enlargements, 50942-6.—And if they did not get the Castlegar land, they must go to a distance to obtain enlarged holdings, 50953-7, 50963.—The Board only proposed to introduce migrants, because it had not been able to acquire the Begley property, 50947-9, 50968.—It was anxious to provide for the migrants from a distance, 50967.—But when it heard of the disturbance with regard to the migrants, it informed the tenants that it would have no more to do with the property on account of this incident, 50897, 50961.—The disturbance was difficult to allay, 50901.—Witness did not know whether the Board, though not responsible to the Castle, was responsive to it, 50898, 50900.

EFFECT OF DISTURBANCES ON SELLING PRICE OF THE ESTATE.

Witness was still anxious that the Congested Districts Board should buy the Begley Estate, 50922.—And was putting pressure on his side to buy, at a big price, 50924.—Which would be transferred to the tenant, 50923.—And he still hoped the Board would buy the property, and provide the enlargements, 50965.—He regretted the trouble on the property, 50971.—But recognised that if there had been no trouble, the landlord might not have consented to negotiations, 50971.—And might be as reluctant to sell as he was two years previously, 50972-3, 50986.—And the landlord would be able to make a better bargain with the Board, by pointing out the tenants were determined to have grass land at any price,

GLYNN, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

50964.—The landlord had agreed to sell before trouble arose with the migrants, but the tenants did not care to buy, if they could get no grass land, or other improvements, 50989.—It was difficult for the Board to negotiate with owners while disturbances continued, 50963.

HENNELLY, Mr. MAURICE.

WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness was a farmer with a holding at Scardane, Seafin, of eighteen statute acres, with a valuation of £8 10*s.*, 50990-3.—And a rent of nearly £9, 50994, 51031.—This was a second term rent; the tenants having gone to Court on the first term, and agreed with the agent for three shillings reduction on the second term, 51032.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR SALE ON MAJOR VESEY'S ESTATE.

The tenants on Major Vesey's Estate had asked the landlord to sell, on condition that the sale was made through the Commissioners, 50997, 50998, 51000.—The last time was in November, 1906, 51001.—He replied that he did not see his way to sell, 51002.—That he would sell if the bargain were made direct between himself and the tenants, 50999, 51005-6.—The reason he gave came to this, that he would keep the grass land, and sell the remainder, 51016.—But the tenants were determined not to buy except through the Board or Commissioners, and witness had told the landlord this, 51002.—Also they would not buy unless they could get the grass land, 51003, 51016.—They would otherwise go to Court every fifteen years, 51002.—The landlord, when approached by the Board and the Commissioners, had given them the same answer, that he would deal directly with his tenants, 51004-5.—The estate had not been sold to either of those bodies, 51003.—Witness was anxious that the estate should be acquired by the Estates Commissioners, and divided amongst the tenants, 51007.—By compulsory powers, if necessary, 51008.—The landlord asked twenty-five years' purchase, 51012.—The tenants offered him twenty years' purchase, 51012.—Witness would have given him twenty-one, 51014.—The landlord had said he would not sell except at his own terms, 51002.—And the witness, on behalf of the tenants, had offered to meet him half way, 51002.—Witness believed there was no solution of the difficulty but by compulsory purchase, 51014.—He wanted the landlord compelled to sell at a reasonable price, 51009.

GRASS LANDS ONCE UNDER TILLAGE.

The grass lands on the Vesey Estate had been at one time under tillage, 51018.—It was arable land which was taken away from tenants, 51019, 51023.—Soon after the Famine, 51022.—Forty years or more ago, 50997.—It was handed over to graziers, 50996-7.—Some was let in Galway, and sub-let to a shopkeeper in Claremorris, 50997.—The land had been taken away, and the tenants evicted, because some of them failed to pay, 50997, 51021.—Only a few of them paid, 50997.—The tenants on reclaimed land were left, 50995, 51019.—The grass land taken away from tenants amounted to 150 acres, 50995.—It was on one side of the road, while the other side was cut away bog and reclaimed land, on which the tenants and houses mostly remained; the grazing land had been laid down to grass for sixty years, 51017.—Witness was a hard-working man, 51024.—And a good farmer, recommended by the Agricultural Department, and if he got a few acres of arable land back, his position would be much improved, 51025.—He and his neighbours would be benefited by grants of grass land, while remaining in their present houses, but would prefer to have fifty acres a head in Roscommon, 51026.—Some of the reclaimed land in his own possession was nearly as good as the grass land, 51027.—Ten shillings an acre was a fair value for the grass land, 51028-9.—Witness

HENNELLY, Mr. MAURICE—*continued.*

would be willing to pay an annuity representing a value of ten shillings an acre, for the grass land, preferring to be under the Board, rather than the landlord, 51030.

DAVIS, Mr. ANTHONY.

WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness had a farm of ninety acres, 51034, 51046. —With a rent of £34 17*s*., 51036.—And a valuation of £28 5*s*., 51035.—At Rathduff, Ballina, in the Carronmore district, within five miles of Ballina, 51037, 51090.—Part of it on Mr. Jackson's Estate, and part on H. Perry-Knox's estate, 51038.—This farm had always been in one block, though in the possession of two landlords, and the block was once larger, as the farm had been divided between two sons, 51065.—It had been in witness's family for more than 200 years, 51047.—For more than 150 years, 51064.—Witness also kept a shop, 51044.—But had no spirit licence, 51045.—Of his ninety acres, twenty Irish acres was tillage, 51048-9.—Witness had been a grazier, but considered that mixed farming paid him better, 51053, 51056.—He laid down his tillage every sixth year to artificial grass, 51073-4, 50187.—He was not exceptional in his district in this practice, 51089, 51091.—The neighbouring landlords were intelligent and industrious, but had not enough land, 51088.—Witness did better with his cattle for having twenty acres of tillage, 51081, 51097.—And considered that if the grass lands were utilised for tillage the country would bear a greater number of cattle than at present, 51098.

DETERIORATION OF GRASS LANDS.

Witness did not consider that the majority of grass land was deteriorating, 51069, 51071.—Though certain grazing land would deteriorate unless properly worked on mixed farming, 51057, 51070.—He would not say that grazing land in the next ten years would be as good as in the last ten years, 51059.—Good grazing still maintained its price, though grazing that had deteriorated was cheaper to hire, 51068.—Even good grazing should be broken up after a certain time, and witness was anxious to break up some of his best grass land; moreover broken up grass land was the best for growing wheat, a crop that should be encouraged, since the potato crop continually failed; wheat required a natural body in its soil, as well as manuring and subsoil, 51072.—If the price of cattle remained the same, the deterioration in grass land would affect its rent, 51059, 51061.—And it would not be a safe investment for the State, if bought on the basis of ten last years' profits, 51062.

PRICE OF GRASS LANDS.

The price given for grass lands should not be based on the last ten years' profits, 51062.—Nor on the rents paid by tenants evicted to form grazing ranches, 51062-3.—Some landlords had increased their profits by evicting tenants, and driving them without compensation, as to patches of bog, 51063, 51082.—Though the tenants were not in arrears, 51083.—Then pulling down their houses, to bring down his taxation, 51083.—This gave the land an inflated value, which the State should not recognise when it paid him compensation, 51063.—Witness also knew cases where the rents had been raised by landlords from £3 to £6 10*s*., and had now been reduced to £3 10*s*. by the Land Commission, this also was an inflated value, which should not be recognised, 51062.—Landlords could not claim to be paid on the tenant interest of his grass lands though they had enjoyed it for many years, 51084-6.—But if a landlord could show he had improved his land, or that his predecessor had done so, he should not be dispossessed without compensation, 51094, 51096.—There were no landlords of this kind in witness's district, 51095.—But where improvements were entirely due to tenants, this should be considered in fixing the price, 51085, 51095.—There were two large grazing tracts close to a congested district, one at Lisdaragh, 197 acres, and at Crannagh, 181 acres; these had deteriorated and were now lying fallow; the landlord, to inflate its value, had divided it into bogus holdings, on which he put rents of 24*s*. to 28*s*. an acre, 51039, 51040.—This was done last year, 51040. —But had not been carried out as the land on large adjoining estates was rented at 12*s*. to 14*s*. an acre, and was in better condition, so that ten years' purchase on the bogus tenancy would be equal to twenty-five or twenty-four years' purchase; besides which, the house and offices built by the tenant might be valued at £200, and should be deducted from the selling price, 51041.

CONGESTION AND AVAILABLE GRASS LAND.

Witness represented thirty-six townlands, on which there were 151 holdings under £4 valuation, 198 under £10 (the majority of which were under £7 10*s*.), and 52 over £10; of which 43 were under £17, and only 9 over £20, 51038.—In one townland the area was 135 acres 1 rood 30 perches, the bad land (bog or marsh) was 35 acres; the valuation was £132 2*s*.; the population was 72, and in the last fourteen years twenty-eight persons had emigrated; the people were very industrious, but very poor, owing to the smallness of their holdings; during the last year money had been sent to this townland from America to the amount of £111; from England £92, while only £10 had been earned at home; the money from abroad alone had enabled the people to live, 51039.—There were three large grazing farms in the neighbourhood, of 336 acres, and a small untenanted farm of 18 acres, and a second of 40 acres, 51038.—Witness proposed that these should be purchased by the Board or Commissioners, and distributed, 51039. —This would relieve congestion and abate emigration, 51038-9.—Tenants had been driven off holdings on to bog land, and had had their rent raised when they made improvements, 51062.

CATTLE.

Witness kept cattle, of which he stall-fed seventeen or eighteen each year, 51075-6, 51080.—He bought half-feds or quarter-feds, and disposed of his first cattle, 51076.—He bought no cake, but fed them on grain grown on his own farm, 51077.—This he considered more profitable than grazing pure and simple, 51078.—But the small tenants, owing to want of space, were obliged to sell their cattle at four months' old; grazing generally cost them 7*s*. an acre, though this year it could be obtained for 4*s*. or 5*s*.; witness sold his cattle at two or two and a half years' old, 51079.—Selling them in Dublin if not satisfied with local prices, 51080.

LABOUR.

Witness employed ten labourers constantly, and sometimes fifty at a time on a harvest day, 51050-1.

MULKEEN, Mr. MARTIN.

NATURE OF HOLDINGS IN WITNESS'S DISTRICT.

Witness held 14 acres 3 roods at Greenwood, Bekan, near Ballyhaunis, his valuation was £7 10*s*., and his annuity £5 17*s*. 6*d*., 51099.—Witness in 1904 gave up his old holding to the Congested Districts Board, and migrated to a new holding on the same property; the Board were to build a house for witness for which he was to pay £50, and he was to have the same quantity and quality of land as before; this arrangement satisfied witness, but he now found that four Irish acres of land were flooded from January to June, so that it could not be used for grazing, 51100.—The Board had promised that the drainage should be efficient, 51103, 51111.—Through their engineer, 51112.—The Board had spent £70 in making a bridge and two gullets, 51101-2, 51112.—This £70 was spent for the benefit of holders in the valley, 51113.—And was for the purpose of drainage into the lake, 51114.—Witness's holding was raised by £6 4*s*., in valuation, and the house was raised 10*s*., 51102.—The drainage work of the Board was

MULKEEN, Mr. MARTIN—*continued.*

not completed, it was stopped as soon as the tenants signed and the gangers were removed, 51106.—Witness had written to the Board, and was told that his case was under consideration, 51107.—This was in 1904, 51108.—Witness thought the Board should keep its promise and proceed with the drainage, 51110.

BROGAN, Mr. MICHAEL.

Claim to an Enlargement from the Commissioners.

Witness had a holding of 18 statute acres, with a valuation of £10, and a rent of £8, on the Claremorris Estate, at Weathersfort, Ballyglass; two and a half years previously he had been promised an enlargement of his holding, 51116, 51119.—But after having this for six months the Estates Commissioners made witness give this up to his brother, 51126, 51117, 51116, 51118, 51120, 51125.—Witness now had his old holding, 51118.—And his brother continued to live with him, 51122, 51127.—The brother would get a house built on the new farm, 51127.—Witness and his brother were on good terms, 51128.—Witness had a right to an enlargement, 51121, 51129.—His brother, who had no land before, now had the new farm, 51132, 51131.—And had no wish for an enlargement, 51130.—The Estates Commissioners had not yet distributed all the land, 51122.—Witness supposed this would take time, 51121.—Witness had for some time been a tenant on the estate, 51135.—Some tenants' sons had been given land on this estate, 51134.

BRENNAN, Mr. MICHAEL, Junior.

Claim to a Holding from the Commissioners.

Witness was living with his brother at Weathersfort, Ballyglass, and had no land, 51136-8.—His father, who died about twenty years previously, had a holding, and was bailiff on the estate, 51142, 51143.—Witness wished for a holding, 51138.—Having no land, 51137.—And his brother, who had a holding of which the valuation was £16 and the rent £10, was entitled to an increase, but had said he would waive his claim on consideration of witness getting a holding, 51140, 51137-8.—The Estates Commissioners had promised witness a holding, 51137, 51139.—But he had not received it, 51137-9.—Nor had his brother received an increase, 51137.—Several farmers' sons had holdings on the Clanmorris Estate, 51141.

BRENNAN, Mr. MICHAEL, Senior.

Claim to an Abatement from the Estates Commissioners.

Witness had a holding of between six and seven acres at Neathersfort, Ballyhaunis, with a valuation of £7 5*s.*, and rent £5 12*s.*, 51145.—Witness went into Court when the Claremorris Estate was sold, and was promised an enlargement of ten acres, 51146.—He had not yet had his vesting order, though this was two years ago, 51150.—Witness had not his enlargement yet, though he was brought into Court, 51150.—And raised to £6 10*s.*, 51146, 51150.—Witness had asked Mr. Stewart and Mr. Hogan, who were in Balla, for a reduction or abatement, 51146-7.—An account of a passage (needed by an adjoining tenant) to water, which passed through witness's enlargement, 51146-7.—This passage was given in witness's absence, 51146-7.—And took a strip of the enlargement, seven feet wide, and 100 yards long, 51147, 51157.—The reduction asked on account of this was four or five shillings, 51148.—The reduction was refused, 51146-7, 51153-5.—Witness was entitled to his enlargement, and there was plenty of grass land available for him to have it elsewhere, 51152.

HENRY, Mr. MARK C.

Fall in Rent on Witness's Land.

Witness had twenty-five statute acres, with a valuation of £10 on land; the rent had been about the same, and had dropped to an annuity of about £4, 51158-60.

Swinford Union; Exceptionally Poor Condition of People; Congestion of Evicted Tenants on Inferior Lands.

Swinford had an unique position among the Poor Law Unions constituting the "congested districts"; the valuation per head was the lowest in Ireland, except in three Unions on the coast, where, however, the occupiers had advantages, *e.g.*, fishing, not possessed by inland Unions; Swinford Union did not contain as large tracts of prime land as did other Mayo Unions, because when auxiliary workhouses had been established in the county, the original boundaries of the Union had been altered, and drawn, for the most part, round a vast area of comparatively poor soil; this was crowded with families who had been evicted from the good lands, now transferred to the newly-constituted unions, 51161.

Population, Valuation, and Acreage; Majority of Holdings Uneconomic.

Swinford Union had a population of 44,162; total valuation, £41,783, or 18*s.* 11*d.* per head; the superficial area was 151,560 acres, but the actual area under crops (including meadow and clover) and grass, together with the area of uncropped arable land, was 112,588 acres; the rest being made up of land under water, road, bog, etc.; there were 2,700 holdings; 4,768 were valued under £4; 2,327 from £4 to £8; 395 from £8 to £15; 77 from £15 to £20; 133, chiefly grazing farms and lands grazed by landlords, over £20; out of 7,700 families, there were 7,095, say, 35,000 people, whose holdings could not support them, and who, in many cases, were only kept from starvation by the earnings of relatives in other countries, 51161.

Failure of Potato Crop.

Owing to congestion and the inferiority of the land of small tenant farmers in the Union, the crops were an easy prey to disease in many forms, but especially acute distress resulted from the failure of the potato crop, and in 1905 and 1906 (perhaps including a part of 1907), £8,000 had been expended on relief, 51161-3.

Migratory Labour.

The number of migratory labourers annually leaving Swinford Union for England, was over 5,000—*i.e.*, fifty per cent. of the number of the whole of Mayo, and fifty or sixty per cent. of the total male population of the Union between the ages of twenty and sixty years, 51161, 51164-5.—They usually left in June, returning in October, or perhaps December—the average time of absence being, say four of five months; they brought back from £8 to £10, or £15 in the year, or even more, £10 on an average would bring £50,000 to the Union and be very good earning, 51266-7, 51275.

Emigration; Resulting Decrease in Population; Money sent Home by Emigrants, etc.

There was a constant disastrous drain on the population owing to the necessity for boys and girls in the flower of their age, emigrating to America, for the support of their families; the total emigration from Mayo since 1851 had been 176,817, of whom over 44,000 came from Swinford Union—a number almost equalling its present population; in 1881, the population had been 53,714, falling in 1901, to 44,162—a decrease of eighteen per cent., 51161.—The people of the Union as a whole did not go to one particular place or State in America, but those belonging to the same district usually went to the same place, 51206-9.—In witness's district, nearly every family had one or two members in America, and they sent a great deal of money home, 51268-71.

HENRY, Mr. MARK C.—*continued.*

Revival of Corn-milling, and starting of other Home Industries advocated.

If a stimulus were given to agriculture by the amelioration of land tenure in Ireland, and if corn-milling were revived in the Union, and other home industries, *e.g.*, weaving, wool, and lace-making, were started, intending emigrants could easily be induced to give their best efforts to making their own country prosperous; agriculture was now the only industry in the Union, and paid very badly; good employment of some kind would be very beneficial to the Union, 51161, 51203-5, 51237.

Purchase of Holdings by Returned Emigrants.

A great many emigrants had returned that year, some to settle; returned emigrants usually bought a holding of perhaps five or ten acres at an exorbitant price, or else raised the status of a poor family by marrying into it; every year this was done more; the holdings bought had not been held in the families, and witness did not know what become of the sellers; there was not the slightest aversion on the part of local people to these transactions which were voluntary on both sides; the standard of comfort of the buyers was much higher than that of the poorer local people, 51210-9.

Raised Standard of Living.

Witness could see a great improvement in the method of living in the Union; the houses were neater, and where the Congested Districts Board had any authority, there were no pigs or cattle allowed inside them; this custom still prevailed in places uncontrolled by the Board, but the Parish Committees had made a great impression, and people were beginning to learn the wisdom of keeping their animals outside, 51220-5.

More Drainage Needed—Work of Congested Districts Board in this Respect.

There had been very remarkable improvements in the Congested Districts Board; the Board had done a very great deal and would doubtless do much more had they the power and money, *e.g.*, take up farms and make more improvements such as roads and drains; the Board had done much arterial drainage in witness's district, but there was much wet, bad land still undrained; a common scheme of main drainage throughout the country would be very beneficial; the drainage of the Lung had been a remarkable improvement; witness did not know that district well, but believed the river had been drained for many miles; the land had been much improved, agriculturally; it was said that people would now live on it; witness could not say whether work of this sort would make otherwise uneconomic holdings quite economic, 51227-32, 51244-9.—There was much room in the Union for improving the produce of the soil by improving its tillage; there were over 50,000 acres of mountain which could be well reclaimed, 51250.

Further Enlargement of Holdings Needed—Land Available—Possibility of Migration, etc.

The Congested Districts Board had acquired the Dillon Estate, but there were still in the Union 2,000, 3,000, perhaps 5,000 acres of grass land which should be broken up and re-distributed so that the occupiers might have holdings capable of supporting them, 51233-4, 51254-6.—There was probably not enough grass land in the Union to relieve congestion and raise the average holding to twenty acres, but great numbers of people seemed to be volunteering to migrate; there was far less unwillingness to migrate than formerly; it was unlikely that anyone would put obstacles in the way of the many people anxious to go, 51199-202, 51235-6, 51251-4.—There were nearly 5,000 holdings in the Union rated under £4, and in order to make the occupiers economic there must be improvement of the agricultural condition of the holdings and migration; granted these remedies, a fair number of people might remain on small holdings, going occasionally to England, or getting employment on the big farms in the district, and so, to a large extent, supplying the place of what are called labourers elsewhere, 51273-4.

HENRY, Mr. MARK C.—*continued.*

The Claims of Congests should be put before those of Tenants' Sons.

The Congested Districts Board when re-distributing grazing lands should consider the congests of the district before the sons of tenants in the neighbourhood, 51276-8.

Abolition of Dual Ownership by Compulsory Purchase Advocated.

Dual ownership should be abolished by a system of compulsory purchase; experience showed that where this was done the condition of the people improved; they took a more lively interest in land which was their own, and a little independence was infused into them; the State was now taking the place of the landlord, and rents were reduced; some would think no price was too great to pay in order to get rid of the landlord, 51163, 51179-85, 51196-7.—The tenant's ownership seemed to have existed from time immemorial, but might be said to have begun in 1881, as it had only then received legal sanction; before that the tenant had paid for his land time after time in his annual rent, but there was no other remedy than his buying again now, 51186-95.

Price in View of Compulsion—Claims of Landlord and Tenant.

In cases of compulsory purchase, the landlord should receive a sum which would make up to him his previous net income; this income, according to his view, subject to all deductions for collection, arrears, etc.; also the purchaser must be on terms which would enable the tenant to make a fair livelihood, *i.e.*, give him an economic holding; in the case of untenanted grass lands, the landlord might be said to have the occupation as well as proprietary interest, and though the purchase price could not be divided between the two, a tenant when planted on a new holding did, as a matter of fact, contribute to the occupation interest by giving something for the goodwill of the holding besides continuing to pay for the annuity afterwards; any loss involved in the transaction should be borne by the landlord, or, failing him, the State, 51164-78, 51279-89.—If a defaulting tenant were evicted, his right to his holding passed to the landlord, but a new tenant should not be asked to pay for this, 51291-2.

BLOSSE, Sir HENRY LYNCH.

Sale of Untenanted Land Conditional on Sale of Tenanted Land.

Witness was willing to sell every acre of grass land he possessed, exclusive of his demesne, conditional on the simultaneous sale of his tenanted lands; the Congested Ditsricts Board had the matter under consideration, 51293.

Price which a Landlord Should Receive—Method of Calculating Price, etc.

A landlord should receive for his land a sum which, invested at 3½ per cent., would yield him his previous net income; less than that would be unjust and unreasonable, 51293, 51297.—As to a 4 per cent. investment, most of the Mayo estates were entailed, and when stocks, low at present, rose, it was doubtful whether so high a percentage were possible; an owner in fee was, of course, in a different position from men in the hands of trustees; when law and order were enforced, Mayo was a gilt-edged security, but there were unfortunate men whose agents did not trouble to collect the rents, 51301-3, 51366-7.—The average rent collected annually should be ascertained from estate account books, and from that should be deducted costs of collection, law costs, agent's fees, taxation, money allowed tenants for rebuilding walls, land drainage—in fact, "estate expenses," 51299, 51311.

BLOSSE, Sir HENRY LYNCH—*continued.*

OCCUPATION INTEREST IN UNTENANTED LAND.

The value of the "dual interest," recognised by Mr. Doran as belonging to the owner of untenanted grass land, was what the land would fetch in the open market, and was shown by the rent; witness admitted that the "tenants' interest" in such cases was a figment, a purely mental conception, and that in order to gauge the value of the two interests exactly, a tenant must be in occupation, and must not even be an eleven months' tenant; but what the landlord had received, grazing rent, less estate outgoings, should be at least the basis of compensation, 51323-5, 51357-69.—It happened occasionally that a landlord let land to a grazier for certain years, and in others worked it in and out with other lands, and perhaps his own farm, but, even so, the rule of making the profits the basis of compensation would work fairly well, *e.g.*, if he bred 100 head of cattle on the land, he would make so much a head; certainly it would be impossible to apportion the exact net income of a grazing farm in these circumstances, and it would be necessary to take the income from the land as a whole, though a part might be his own demesne, which was not in question, 51339-44.

MOVEMENTS OF RENTAL OF GRASS LANDS—QUESTION OF DETERIORATION.

Witness could not say how grazing rentals had moved lately, but there was no trouble in estimating them, and the same value was being paid; he did not let his grass lands by auction, but the same tenants had had them for years, and at the same rent; other landlords in the county did not complain of a decrease in rents, but in the midland counties it might be different; in places where cattle driving, etc., constantly occurred, there was no rent paid, 51370-5.—The price of land had only fallen officially, and with an object; the tenants would put it down with the help of the Estates Commissioners, but the landlord took what he could get, 51376-8.—The estate books would show the tendency of an estate; speaking generally, grazing lands in Ireland did not seem to be deteriorating; some land was running back into rushes and so forth from lack of drainage, but most of it seemed to keep very good sheep, and much draining, etc., was done, 51380-2.

ARREARS—EFFECT IN CALCULATING PRICE OF LAND.

A deduction from the net income on account of arrears of rent should only be made in certain cases; witness knew a man driving a car who had not paid rent for fourteen years, but on a well-managed estate arrears were usually wiped off; when too heavy, a tenant unable to pay being, as a rule, let off with an additional quarter's rent; on these estates it would be right to deduct for arrears on the average rental over ten or fifteen years, *i.e.*, allowing for good and bad years; if a landlord's income, being £1,000 a year, he had in ten years received £9,000 instead of £10,000, his net income should be based on the former sum, 51312-17.—Witness had never heard of cases of Scotch farmers and others brought to the district forty or fifty years ago, leaving with arrears of rent unpaid; he only knew of one Scotchman having come at all, 51326-8.

TENANT-RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF EVICTED TENANTS.

Witness knew Mr. Davis, from near Ballina, and would not pay much attention to his evidence concerning evicted tenants; in the case cited, the people had probably been paid so much for going out; in any case, no deduction should be made for confiscated "tenant-rights," as the landlord only got back his own land; the transaction must have taken place before the Act of 1881, when tenant-right had only existed in the North of Ireland; witness admitted that it would be very hard to be evicted without compensation, 51329-33, 51335.

LANDLORDS' EXPENDITURE ON IMPROVEMENTS.

A great deal of money had apparently been spent on improvements by landlords years ago; on one estate, near Claremorris, over £10,000 had been expended by the present owner and his father; the tenants did a good deal of burning or scrawing, but they did not cultivate the land well, 51333-4.—Information could probably be obtained as to improvements of the last ten or twelve years, but it would be very difficult to base present compensation and present dealing with the land on what happened forty or fifty years ago, as it was doubtful whether Mayo landlords kept books in those days, 51336-8.

RIGHT OF APPEAL TO AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE ADVOCATED.

If the effect of any deal were to give the owner his net income, *i.e.*, his rental, less estate out-goings, the questions in dispute could be easily solved; in case, however, of any *bona fide* dispute arising as to what was net income in an individual case, there should be the right of appeal to an independent tribunal; this was essential to justice, as all sides would be heard, and facts and figures be made public; it was most unsatisfactory that the buyer should practically fix the price, and the landlord have no access to the report of the inspectors and valuers engaged, so as to correct any possible error; this was the case when the Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners bought estates; the Judge of the Superior Court in Dublin might be appealed to in case of a difference of opinion between buyer and seller, but it would be preferable to have three judges to form a proper Court of Appeal, and there should be no assessors sitting; it would be very objectionable to have a politician appointed as valuer; a Court of Appeal would only be necessary in case of the Board being granted compulsory powers. 51382-9, 51394-5.

COMPULSORY POWERS UNNECESSARY.

If acquisition were on the basis of net income, the landlord, unless quite exceptional, would be so willing to sell, that compulsion—a mistake in any circumstances—need never be used, 51390-3.

COMPARISON OF CLAIMS OF SONS OF TENANTS WITH THOSE OF CONGESTS.

Witness did not believe that the dividing up of all the grass ranches in Ireland would be of real benefit, but in order to test the efficacy of the principle adopted by Government, he was willing that holdings should be enlarged and smaller tenants migrated; the uneconomic holders should have priority of claim, then those in the neighbourhood should be relieved, but some of these last would be willing to migrated to Roscommon, Westmeath, King's County, and other places, and thus leave room for holdings for sons of tenants; these should be on the estate as far as possible, so as to keep families together, 51293-8, 51319.—It would be impossible, though statistics might be made to show the contrary, to fill up all the grass lands, large though Irish families were; Supposing, however, that there was not sufficient land to relieve congestion, congests would probably have to be considered before sons of tenants, though this was not really just, 51305-10, 51319-22, 51345-6.—If the landlord were to divide land amongst sons of tenants, he would choose men whose fathers could start them, and who wanted a holding, and who would live on the land; it would be illegal on an entailed estate to charge a fine; if the Congested Districts Board had bought the estate, they should, if possible, either sell the holdings to the tenants' sons or charge them the agricultural rent, so that the selection would be by competition prices, 51347-55.

M'DONNELL, Rev. JOHN.

MIGRATORY LABOUR; DECREASE IN EARNINGS IN ENGLAND.

There were 7,095 holdings under £8 valuation in Swinford Union, and upwards of 50 per cent. of the male population between the ages of twenty and sixty were migratory labourers; some went to England for the hay-saving alone, returning, usually in four or six weeks, with about £6; many did not now, as formerly, wait for the harvest, chiefly because they could not get work; the earnings in England were not one-third of what they used to be owing to machinery and other causes, 51396-402

EMIGRATION TAKING THE PLACE OF MIGRATION.

In witness' parish six heads of families, once migratory labourers, had emigrated with some of their children, leaving their wives and the others on their holdings; the cost of going to and from America was very great, and it was doubtful whether many would return, as they meant to do; children too were emigrating, instead of going to England where earnings had decreased, and where it was not worth while remaining so short a time, 51402-7.

EVICTIONS.

In twenty-five years 120 families had left the parish, mostly through eviction; the lands were chiefly in the hands of the owners, except a few handed over to planters, and no compensation had been given; in some cases evictions had not been for non-payment of rent, but simply to make a farm for the owner. when the tenants were sent to the mountain and rocks; these cases had occurred before the Act of 1881, 51407-9. 51416.

DEMORALISING EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF AND WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY BEFORE PASSING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

For about twenty-five years past Government had often had to send relief to Swinford Union owing to the failure of the potato crop, but Government remedial measures had generally been too late, had been demoralising in their effects, and had done little permanent good, while the administration had involved an enormous waste of public funds; certainly now, under the Local Government Act, responsibility for relief rested first on the Guardians, then on the County Council, while Government gave relief when the cost was greater than it should be; on the last last two occasions there was no observable demoralisation, this year's administration of the Relief Act being, as far as it had gone, exceptional; the scheme being local, many works of permanent utility had been done with practically very little expense of administration; former remedial measures had failed because the people had not been consulted as to the most useful works, and had had no voice in the administration of the money, whereas now it was to their interest to see that a fair day's work was done, 51409-16.

ACQUISITION OF GRAZING LANDS FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS, AND MIGRATION, ADVOCATED.

Vast grazing lands once belonging to Swinford Union, and from which the poor had been evicted, should be given back to the Union; within the Union there was £3,842 worth of land in the hands of fourteen owners and thirty-nine graziers, used mostly for grazing alone; in Kilasser there were about 1,300 acres of grass lands, non-residential holdings, valued at £500; 100 holdings under £3; 500 under £5; 200 under £10; on Joynt's Estate there were 150 tenants, 110 of whom were under £5 valuation; the untenanted land in the district should be acquired, if possible, by agreement, if not, by compulsion, to make the small holdings economic; Migration of some young thrifty families from the locality should be encouraged by allowing them fair compensation for what they gave up, while a reasonable value was put upon their new acquisitions, according to the locality, and not above that of their new neighbours; many would be willing to go under these conditions; part of the five grass land of Straide should be given to people migrating from Callow, while part should be bought and given for meadowing and pasture to tenants in Callow, who now had to go five miles for meadowing and to buy it at auction prices, 51416-7.

UNEQUAL VALUATION OF LAND.

A grazing-farm of 134 acres, 2 roods, 7 perches was valued at £63 10*s.*; while Pat Hughes, an evicted tenant, was valued at £5 5*s.* for fifteen acres of mountain, and Bryan M'Nulty was valued at £15 3*s.* for forty-three acres; thus, bad mountain land was valued almost as high as the grazing-farm, 51416.

LARGE DRAINAGE SCHEMES ADVOCATED.

The pastures were ruined, and the people's hay carried away by floods, which left, besides, a deposit so injurious to sheep and cattle on the pastures that no one who knew would buy the animals grazed there; it was necessary that some body like the Congested Districts Board should have power to deal with the drainage of large rivers—main drainage—both on their own and other lands; the tenants benefited would be glad, if necessary, to bear a portion of the taxation involved, and the balance of cost should be paid by Government, as it would be useless to look to the owners, who, with few exceptions, had never shown any interest in the people's wants, 51418-23.

WORKING OF THE LAND ACT OF 1903 PREVENTED BY THE LANDLORDS.

Landlords throughout the Union had made land purchase impracticable, except in a few cases, some of which had already been proved bad bargains; it was not true that the people had prevented the working of the Land Act of 1903, for shortly after its passage, Guardians had, by unanimous resolution, written to all the landowners in the Union, stating the wish of tenants to buy under the Act, and asking them to name prices; many had not replied, others had written abusively, while others, as if by arrangement, had said they were unwilling to sever the friendly relations that had always existed between their families and their tenants, though, in many cases these relations could scarcely have been truthfully so described; the landlords were seldom willing to sell either to the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, some saying that as Sir Anthony MacDonnell had said he would not sell to his own Board, so it was unreasonable to ask them to do so, 51423, 51435.

PRICE OF LAND; DANGER INVOLVED IN THE EXTENSION OF ANNUITY PERIOD BY ACT OF 1903.

No landlord in the Union, since the Act of 1903, had offered to sell for less than from 21½ to 24½ years' purchase, whereas before, some of these estates had been offered for from sixteen to nineteen years' purchase, the former being all of second term, the latter mostly of first term rents; an estate was now being negotiated at 21½ years' purchase that had once been offered at 16 years' purchase; the Congested Districts Board thought the price too high, because there was an average of perhaps four years arrears on the property; the tenants had doubtless consented because negotiations had been begun in a bad year, when the landlord had wiped out the rent with the running gale; the people had refused to pay the sixteen years' purchase before, because an adjoining estate had been sold for from eleven to twelve years' purchase—the Land Commissioners not having sanctioned the advance when the tenants had agreed to fifteen years' purchase; witness did not know in what year this had occurred, but admitted that the landlords had then been paid in stock standing at 112, 51423-30.—The tenants realised that when they had given sixteen years' purchase, they had paid four per cent., whereas now they could give 19½ years' purchase, and yet pay a smaller annuity; it was one of the dangers of the Act of 1903 that the practical effect of extending the annuity period from 49 to 68½ years, induced the tenant to give a larger number of years' purchase, 51432.—The Board would not buy at a price which, when converted into an annuity, the tenant would not be able to pay, and there should be power vested in some body to prevent this being done by tenants who, to rid themselves of a bad landlord, would gladly give a few years' purchase more than the value of the land; only two estates in witness's district had been bought under the Act of 1903, and the Estates Commissioners were dealing with them, 51432-5, 51447-8.

TREATMENT OF TENANTS BY LANDLORDS AND THEIR AGENTS.

Most of the landlords of the district have never given the tenants a reduction of rent in bad years, or even given them time to sell their stock, but had persecuted them, processing for even the hanging gale the day after it had fallen due (though the case could not be heard for months), and serving writs, if the rents were high; there were exceptions, like Mr. Orme, who had treated his tenants very well, 51435-7.

—In some cases, too, the good intentions of the landlord had been frustrated by his agent; Sir Roger Palmer, for example, sent each of his poor tenants £1 every year through his agent, and usually even some of the very old people had to walk to the office, forty miles there and back, to get their money, though they paid their rent at another, generally a much nearer place; this could not have been the landlord's intention, and so far as witness knew, it had not been brought to his notice; the same agent had twice evicted a weak little family, the mother of which had just died; the second time he had thrown down the house, lest they should return; the tenant had been allowed back first on payment of rent and costs, but, being over seventy years old, he had again got into arrears; he had paid rent direct to the agent for forty years, when he had been able to migrate to England, but now when returning in winter to his old home, he had been sent to goal for three months, 51435-46.

Advantages of Purchasing through the Board.

Having seen the dangers of direct purchase, and owing to turbary rights, passages, boundaries, etc., in the Brett and Lynch Estates, and the consequent endless law proceedings, the people were anxious to buy only through the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners; in almost every case, they had told the owners they would agree to any price fixed beforehand by either of these bodies; those who had purchased direct were beginning to see they had deprived themselves of the extensive improvements carried out by the Board, 51435, 51449.

The Board's Work Hampered through Lack of Compulsory Powers.

In witness's parish, the Congested Districts Board had only bought the McCarrick Estate, on which were twenty-six tenants; though the property was small, the Board had made wonderful improvements in the way of drainage and accommodation roads, etc.; building new houses and putting slated roofs on old ones; the estate was very congested—sixteen of the tenants being under £5 valuation, and there were no grass lands, but close by was a grazing farm, valued at £14 5*s*., which the owner had refused to sell, though his own tenants were valued at less than £2; this state of things prevented the Board making improvements on a large scale, *e.g.*, drainage and roads, and an economic division of bogs; operations being confined to an isolated estate involved a waste of expenditure; the Board should have compulsory powers to buy adjoining estates; in spite of difficulties, they had done much wherever they had operated—as on the Dillon Estate; also in Charlestown and Kilmore, which had been entirely changed by drainage, building, and the making of accommodation roads; they had done much by improving sanitary conditions to check the spread of consumption, 51448, 51453.

More Funds needed for Work of Parish Committees.

The Board's scheme of Parish Committees was the best ever brought into the country, and had infused into the people a spirit of emulation, improvement, and thrift; hitherto improvements had meant increased rents and taxation, but the people, by being associated with this scheme, were made to feel the work was done in their interest; their advice was asked for and followed; at first a reasonable latitude had been allowed, then, as the scheme had worked and the people had understood it better, more exactness had been required; the grants were too small, six, and in some cases, ten times the value of small grants having been given, at a cost of fifteen per cent. of the actual grant, or three per cent. if the value of the work done were considered, as indeed it should be; with more funds and the operations of Parish Committees extended, the homes of the people would, in a few years more, be made quite comfortable, and the land, with proper draining, manuring, and variety of crops, made to yield double its present produce; more land would be cultivated and the young men could stop at home; the Committees might also be given the money needful for relief of periodic distress, to ensure reproductive work being done, and that without demoralising results; it would be well, too, if they were associated in some way with the schemes handed over by the Board to the Agricultural Department, touching cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry, spraying, manuring, and seeds, 51448-9.

Livestock Schemes; Criticism of Department's Operations.

Though much had been done by the Board to improve the breeds of cattle, pigs and poultry, the efforts to improve the breed of horses had had very bad results; the Agricultural Department had done very little in regard to the schemes handed over to them, and that with less good effect than the Board, which had received no subsidy from the rates; the Department had had £1,200 or £1,300 from county rates alone, but had done little in Swinford Union with the funds at their disposal; whereas the Board had distributed bulls at £12, £15, or £20 each, the Department had charged £40 in the district that year; certainly the price of bulls varied, but the Department should change the system of giving premiums and reduce the initial price to the buyers, to whom £40 was prohibitive, and who had consequently had to give up improving the breed of cattle, 51448-9.

The Market for Pigs, Poultry, etc., should be regulated by the Department.

The Department working on much the same lines as the Board, had improved the breed of pigs and poultry, but the people were still at the mercy of the buyer; slaughter-houses should be established at convenient centres; the Department should get a market for pigs, poultry, and eggs, and should regulate, as far as possible, they now excessive ruling rates, while much of the offal now lost to the seller might be saved for him, 51449.

Creameries and Home Dairying.

The Department had done nothing in this district in regard to butter and creameries; the people were suspicious of these last, because when rents were being fixed, the question was always asked if the holding were near a creamery; while admitting that butter fetched a higher price in creameries, witness could not personally approve of them; the people of the Union had on an average only two cows, and those poor ones; 3*d*. a gallon for milk did not seem a fair price, considering the time spent in getting it, the expense of sending it, the want of milk, butter, butter-milk, etc., at home; it was doubtful if children would get enough sweet milk in creamery districts; in a few years, too, the future wives of farmers would not know how to make butter; when, with the encouragement given by the Congested Districts Board, each farmer had a nice dairy and knew how to treat his cattle, milk, etc., it would be far better to have a "butter factory" at a convenient centre, where butter would be paid for according to its quality; this was done in Canada where, too, cheese was sometimes made instead of butter, when it paid better; this scheme would keep girls at home and fit them to be good housekeepers, and it could be carried out, in spite of difficulties, if encouraged by the offering of prizes; the Parish Committees should be associated with these schemes; the people whom witness knew did not believe in the Department's itinerant instructors; it would be better and cheaper to send an intelligent member of the Parish Committee and an intelligent farmer's daughter from each parish to Glasnevin for six weeks or so, and thus associate the people themselves with the scheme, 51449.

Spraying.

Spraying was the great need of the district, but the Department had done nothing for it in this direction; after refusing last year they had at last been induced with difficulty to bring machines and sell them at the price at which they had previously been offered by the Board, viz., 24*s*.; the Department had only sprayed some plots for seed potatoes, chosen by themselves as examples, and some along the road in certain districts; the Department or the Board should, through the Parish Committees, M'DONNELL, Rev. JOHN—*continued.*

see that no spraying material was sold without a guarantee as to purity, and samples should be taken for analysis, as people would buy a cheaper article unless they knew it to be inferior, 51449.

TURBARY.

In this district alone there were perhaps 1,700 acres of deep bog, 820 acres of which belonged to one man; this, though valued at a few shillings, he was selling for £2, £3, and even £7 per acre; the District and County Councils would have to deal with this question—a serious one for ratepayers; all surplus bog should be taken over by some body, as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, and after each buyer had been given certain turbary, the rest should be vested in that body for the general use; an ample supply of turbary for the people would be a serious matter in the future, 51449.

AFFORESTATION OF WASTE MOUNTAIN LANDS ADVOCATED.

It would be beneficial if waste mountain lands, *i.e.*, those in the hands of owners, were planted, as they were now almost useless; in carrying out a comprehensive scheme of afforestation, mountains might be required where tenants had grazing rights, but this pasture need not be touched, though probably the people would not object to its being planted if the matter were explained to them, 51449-52.

FINN, Mr. PATRICK.

ACREAGE AND VALUATION OF CLOONTIA, MIGRATION FOR ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS ADVOCATED.

Cloontia had belonged to Jonathan Rashleigh, of Cornwall, but had been bought by the Land Commission in December, 1904; there were 140 holdings, of from four to ten acres of reclaimed bog, most of them valued under £2; there was no untenanted land on the property available for the enlargement of these, but half the tenants might be migrated to the big grass ranches in Mayo and Roscommon, and their holdings divided amongst the others, 51454.—Witness and many others could willingly migrate if they were each given a thirty-acre holding with a house on it in Roscommon; he could not say what sort of reception they would get there, but the difficulties of migration would be greatly lessened if three, four, or six men went together from one parish, taking old associations with them; certainly it would be well to see a farm before deciding to migrate to it, 51524-33.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR RECLAMATION OF BOGS ADVOCATED.

There were several thousand acres of shaking bog land—commonage—where the tenants grazed cattle; some acres were measured into the holdings now, and the tenants expected the rest to be divided amongst them, as it was really theirs, and no one else claimed it; failing migration they would build roads through this, drain and reclaim it, and so be able to add considerably to their present holdings, if Government would keep them financially; witness admitted that as his property would become more valuable, the tenant might and ought to pay something by way of instalment to the public body that had advanced him the money, though they would not be able to pay much, 51454-72.

WITNESS PARTLY DEPENDENT ON HIS BROTHER'S EARNINGS IN ENGLAND.

Witness was a farmer, with between seven and eight acres of reclaimed bog land, of which valuation was £1 18*s.*, the rent £1 11*s.*; he and his neighbours had grazing in common and rights on the cutaway bog; he was married and had a family, and was partly dependent on a brother, joint-owner of the farm, who worked in England; witness only worked on their own land, a bit of which he had reclaimed himself, while the rest had been done by his father, grandfather, and others; the soil was fairly good when first reclaimed, but was nearly worn out; the stock consisted of two cows—partly grazed on the bog—two pigs and a little mule; the calves were sold when a year old; what milk and butter there was was needed for the house; there were about two acres under potatoes and oats, a few patches of turnips, a small cabbage-patch, and about an acre of meadow; the rest was pasture; the potatoes, though sprayed, were not good that year, 51454, 51481-95, 51498-502, 51511-23.

SPRAYING FACILITIES.

Everyone sprayed with a broom in witness's district, and had never even seen a spraying machine, but they would gladly use any facilities given them in the way of machines and mixtures, 51503-9.

MORE MONEY NEEDED FOR POOR PARISH COMMITTEES.

The only obstacle to the proper working of the Congested Districts Board and the Parish Committees was lack of funds; their grants were too small to enable the people to make much needed improvements; induced by a grant of £2 from the Parish Committee, a man might begin building an outhouse which would cost him £10 before it was finished; he would have to borrow the £8 or buy his material on credit; he had to get galvanised iron and timber, and the mason's work was costly; the grant was generally for material, and the rest was a matter of work which he could usually do himself if he had a little help—otherwise he must pay for labour; witness admitted that the man was virtually paid for doing his own work, 51472-80.

POVERTY OF THE DISTRICT—COMPULSORY PURCHASE ADVOCATED.

In one townland on the property there were sixty-six holdings of so-called "land," each of which was valued under £2; every year 150 men went to England for the reaping, while about 63 had emigrated during the last few years; the relatives at home were dependent on their earnings; the only remedy for this state of things, prevailing throughout the district, was compulsory purchase of grazing lands by the Congested Districts Board of the Estates Commissioners; witness believed the landlords to be unwilling to sell, but could not adduce any facts in proof of this, 51539-42.

PRICE OF LAND BEFORE AND AFTER THE ACT OF 1903; DISADVANTAGE OF DIRECT PURCHASE.

Before the passing of the Land Act of 1903, the tenants on Captain Costelloe's property had bought their holdings at prices varying from 7 to 16½ years' purchase, and had been given decadal reductions; witness thought the land had been bought direct from the landlord; the rents had been second term rents, 51495-7, 51510.—On the adjoining property, under the Act of 1903, they had had to pay 18½ years' purchase for inferior land, because the holdings had all been sunk in arrears.

AMOUNT OF ARREARS.

The average number of years of the tenant on the holding was from two and three years and upwards; they were sued for arrears every May, and paid a year's rent in November; the landlord, in order to get his demand, had offered to wipe off all the old arrears and add the year's rent due in November, 1904, to the purchase money; as 1905 threatened to be a year of famine, the tenants thought it best to accept the offer, and pay 18½ years' purchase though the State would not have advanced half this had the land been inspected, 51533-9.—Had the tenants been able to pay through the Congested Districts Board instead of directly from the landlord, they would have had the advantage of works being opened, and improvements, *e.g.*, drainage, being made on the land, 51539.

FIXING OF PRICE BY THE BOARD IN CASE OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Granted compulsory purchase, the Congested Districts Board should have the power to compel a tenant to pay a fair price for land, *i.e.*, as much as a

FINN, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

reasonable man would think the holding worth; witness thought that he himself would be willing to trust the Board, 51543-7.—On every estate in Mayo the tenants had expressed their readiness to buy if landlords were willing to sell, leaving the price to be settled by the Board or the Estates Commissioners; the tenants were always satisfied with what was just and reasonable, and their willingness to submit their case to an impartial tribunal, spoke strongly for the justice of their claims, 51548-50.

KEAVENEY, Rev. MICHAEL.

Valuation no Test of Economic Holdings.

Witness's parish, with the exception of one townland, lay within the limits of the Dillon Estate, and contained 600 agricultural holdings, 51570.—Of which the average area was almost 24 statute acres, 51570, 51634.—And the valuation £2 10*s.*, 51570, 51634.—They were almost all sold to the occupiers at fifteen years' purchase of the rent; the rent was fixed since 1881, at the valuation, and the annuity now payable to the Land Commission was little over 1*s.* an acre, 51570.—Witness gave an example of a reclaimed holding, 51634, 51634.—Of an area of over forty acres, 51659.—Of which the valuation was £2 3*s.*, and the rent originally £2 1*s.*, while the present annuity was £1 12*s.*, 51634-5.—This was all reclaimed by the holder and his brothers, less than fifty years ago, from its original condition of good mountain bog, 51660.—And the valuation had not been changed since 1847, 51634.—This holding produced this year twenty-one tons of hay, 51664, 51659.—And six sacks of oats, and two acres of potatoes, as well as supporting thirteen head of cattle, 51634.—The owner of this land had good clothes; his children were not migratory labourers, and he had given his daughter a dowry of £130, 51655.—He had no money from America, but lived out of the holding, 51656-7.—The holding was now in fair condition, 51660.—There were plenty of owners in the parish at a higher valuation, who were in abject poverty, 51634.—Mere figures of valuation were not by themselves a test of economic holdings, at any rate in Charlestown, 51634, 51644.

Migration.

The clergy were not opposed to migration, and the disinclination of the people to migrate was disappearing, though they would often express willingness to migrate, yet refuse when the offer became definite; witness thought they would be more willing to migrate in groups of six families who knew each other; migration was in some cases the only remedy for poverty, 51634.—But it was difficult to carry out, 51634.—Large holders were more suitable for migration than small, 51642.

Parish Committees—Funds, Grants, etc.

Witness suggested the enlargement of the powers of Parish Committees as a remedy for poverty, 51686.—The election of Parish Committees should remain as at present, 51637.—But they should have more funds, or they would not be workable; witness used to get £160 for his Parish Committee, and this year had only £80, for the money available remained the same, while the number of grants increased; the money now expended by the Agricultural Committee, and under the County Schemes should be handed to Parish Committees in the congested districts, 51641.—It would be reasonable to raise the limit of valuation in determining parish grants from £7 10*s.* to £10, 51653.—But witness was not concerned locally with this, since he had hardly any holdings of £10; he thought that it could not be done while the available funds were so small, 51643.—Grants could not be more usefully given than to the Parish Committees, 51641.—Witness considered that it might be necessary to continue parish grants at the present scale for ten years, 51648-51.—Till the people had learned sanitary and other lessons, 51648.—It was difficult to get men to act on the Committees while the funds were so small, 51651.—He preferred his system of grants to the Donegal plan of prizes, 51652.

KEAVENEY, Rev. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Instructors in Agriculture.

Witness did not think it necessary at the beginning to give a permanent parish instructor any training 51645-6.—Though as intelligence and knowledge increased, it might be necessary, and a trained man under the Committee could superintend all the branches of improvement, now under the Department of Agriculture, 51647.—The permanent local instructor should himself have a farm, and should be given a reasonable remuneration for inspecting holdings and giving advice, 51637.—His own farm, probably, would need only superintendence, 51638.—In most farms, the produce could be doubled by a better system of agriculture, and since the Board had undertaken the management of agriculture in Charlestown, the produce of many holdings was 25 per cent. better, 51636.—Agricultural instruction should also be given in the schools, 51654.

Methods of the Board and the Department of Agriculture.

Witness thought the methods of the Department of Agriculture were less effective than the method adopted by Parish Committees; there were complaints that the Board was dilatory in dealing with the Estates Commissioners; though at one time the tenants of congested holdings were restive, they now wished the land had remained longer under the Board, to enable trees to be planted, 51634.

Grass Lands.

Witness advised the acquisition of tracts of untenanted land, to be used as common grazing lands for congests, 51638-9.—This plan was followed at Harrogate; if the Board found difficulty in retaining the land, trustees might be appointed, 51639.—Common grazing was an easy expedient, and had been recommended by Mr. Doran, 51640.

Constitution of the Congested Districts Board.

Witness thought that the Board should consist of twelve members, instead of ten as at present, 51572.—Six should be elected by the County Councils and six nominated by the power which at present appointed the Board, 51571, 51597.—There were eight congested counties needing representation, 51576.—Four of the large counties should have a member each, and the four others two amongst them, 51577.—There would be a difficulty in settling the districts, but Leitrim and Sligo, both congested counties, now combined to manage their joint asylum, 51577.—It was desirable to have local members, so as to get into touch with the districts which the Board operated, 51589.—They would not doubt try to get as much as possible for their own locality, 51604.—And there was an apparent danger of a man's efficiency being judged by the money he got for his county, but members would find it best to work for the common good of the whole country, 51606-8.—And this evil would be counterbalanced by the increased knowledge of local needs, 51609.—The Council might elect men from outside its own body, 51611.—The object of training these local men would be for their knowledge of local requirements, and to consolidate local influence and support for the Board, 51616.—These objects might be attained by appointing a small Board of the best men obtainable, and electing, in the manner suggested by witness, an advisory body in each congested district, to bring to the notice of the Board the requirements of their particular district, 51590.—This body would carry a certain weight, increasing with the reasonableness and importance of its recommendations to the Board, 51591.—Witness proposed that the nominated members should be nominated as at present, 51572.—The Chief Secretary, and Under-Secretary should not be on the Board at the same time, 51576-7.—But when the Board was not sitting (that is, for twenty-eight days in the month), the urgent orders were now passed by the Under-Secretary, 51594.—And the Chief Secretary, being much in England, was able to attend only three meetings of the Board yearly, 51594.—In view of this, witness suggested that the Chief Secretary should be a member of the Board for the purpose of keeping it in touch with the Government, but should not act, 51594.—As was done at present, 51595.—This would make the non-elected members of the Board consist of 5 nominated and one *ex-officio* member, the latter being the Under Secretary, 51600-1.—With regard to the question of members of the Board being also members of the Department of Agriculture, witness thought it was for the body nominating members to consider whether the same man had time for both offices, 51581.—Those on the Board should devote as much time as possible to the work of the Board, 51582-3.—The experience of officials like Mr. Green, of the Department of Agriculture, was most useful, and he should be a member of the Board, 51579-80.—The Government could well include him, or any fishery representative, among the nominated members, 51611-3.—For the fishery representative was not confined to a locality, 51614.—The Board should work harmoniously with the other bodies with which it came into contact, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Estates Commissioners, 51584, 51586.—And it would be an advantage to discuss points of difference face to face, rather than to prolong paper correspondence, 51586.—Considering this, witness might reconsider his statement that the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture should not be a member of the Congested Districts Board, 51578, 51584, 51586.—And it would be an advantage also if one of the Estates Commissioners were a member, 51584.—Though it might be awkward when the different bodies were in conflict, 51586.—The nominated members should sit for life, and the elected ones for three years, the duration of a County Council, 51682.—There would be some difficulties in this plan, but witness thought the permanent members would keep the Board in equilibrium, 51603.—If witness's plans were tried the Board would contain several of the same members as now; witness was aware that the Chief Secretary (or, in his absence, the Under-Secretary), the head of the Department, and the Inspector of Fisheries, were at present all members of the Board, 51621.—And a Land Commissioner, whom witness proposed to replace by an Estates Commissioner, 51618-20.—This left only two of the six nominated members who could be chosen by the Government for special knowledge, 51622, 51624.—It appeared that a larger Board was necessary, 51625.—This might be met by giving each congested county a member, and adding to them eight nominated members; this witness would recommend, if he thought so large a Board as 16 would work harmoniously, 51626.

CONTINUITY OF WORKING.

The work of the Board should have continuous supervision, 51627.—And there should be permanent members, but perhaps not working exactly as the Estates Commissioners worked, 51629.—The work of the Board came under three heads, agriculture, fisheries, and industries, 51629.—If there were three vice-chairmen, one for each Department, working under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, and associated with members having local knowledge, it might be an advantage, 51633.—It was an advantage to have such men as Father O'Hara and the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell connected with the work of the Board, 51631-2.—Witness thought that the Department of Agriculture worked very well through its Chief Inspector, without a vice-chairman, or constant interference, 51632.—As to the points on which he gave no evidence, witness agreed with Father Fallon, 51570.—These were :—The relative merits of the methods of the Commissioners and the Board, in the enlargement of economic holdings, and the necessity for compulsory purchase; in the other particulars of Father Fallon's evidence witness also agreed, 51570, 51634.

HENRY, Rev. MARTIN.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

Witness urged on the Commission the importance of compulsory powers of purchase, by which the Congested Districts Board could obtain grass lands and tenanted lands for the enlargement of existing holdings, 51671.—He wished to include both tenanted and untenanted lands, as the landlords would sell neither, 51661-2, 51671, 51675.—The landlords sometimes refused to sell, 51661, 51665.—And in others, asked an exorbitant price, 51661, 51667.—Witness thought compulsory powers should provide for purchase at a fair price, 51666.

"FAIR PRICE."

A fair price was not calculated on the net revenue of the land, for second term rents were sometimes as unfairly high as first term rents, or higher, 51667.—Witness gave as an instance a case where tenants had been deterred from going into court by threats of being put to expense if they did so, 51670.—They were thereby persuaded to agree to rents settled by the agent, 51667.—He gave them a reduction on first term rents, but charged for bog, 51667.—And also £1 or £2 for arrears of rent, making the so-called reduced rents higher than the original rents, though nominally they were reduced by two or three shillings in the £, 51667-8.—The tenants were then asked to pay 22 years' purchase on these rack rents, 51670.—In cases where the tenants had gone into court, the landlord had previously persuaded one or two other tenants to settle out of court for a reduction of 2*s.* or 3*s.* in the £, 51663-4.—The tenants who agreed, were not free agents, being in arrears, 51664.—But the agreement influenced the court to fix the same reduction for other tenants, 51663-4.—Though it was insufficient, 51663.

CONGESTION IN FOXFORD.

There was an urgent need of land to enlarge holdings in Foxford, where the valuation of holdings was under £4; the average valuation of about 400 families within two miles of Foxford was £2, 51661.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT.

The scheme of the nuns for improving houses round Foxford had been a great success, and was now in the hands of the Parish Committee, 51672.

MORRIN, Mr. JAMES.

CONGESTION IN SWINFORD.

Swinford Union was exceptionally poor, and always on the verge of famine; if the whole Union were divided into £10 holdings, more than half the present landholders would be left without any land at all; the valuation of the land was £34,450, 51676.—These figures included demesne, 51677.—And the number of holders was nearly 8,000, 51676.

INDUSTRIES—PROMOTION BY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

It was absolutely necessary to establish some industries; as labour was plentiful and without outlet; the Government should establish and subsidise industries, a plan which had great possibilities of success; many people who had money to invest would prefer a reasonably safe Irish investment, to precarious foreign stocks; the initial step must be taken by Government; and £1,000 or £1,500 could be raised locally; traders in the town of Kiltimagh a year ago, had volunteered to invest from £100 to £300 in a factory, which would be likely to give employment, but the project lapsed for want of capital, 51677.

PIG FATTENING—BACON FACTORIES—VETERINARY SURGEONS, ETC.

The only existing local industry was the raising and fattening of pigs, the Department had done something towards the improving the breeds of pigs, but they had done nothing to arrest disease among pigs in Mayo, and there were only two veterinary surgeons in the county, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Hamilton, 51677.—The Department should provide veterinary surgeons who were required in nearly as large numbers as medical men, 51678.—The veterinary surgeons of the Department went, so far as possible, to all the districts where the Department was at work, but it was impossible for two or three men to attend to the whole county, 51679.—On one occasion no surgeon could be got to attend a cow at Kiltimagh, though one was summoned by telegraph from Sligo; bacon factories

MORRIN, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

might be started by the Government, to provide a market for the poor owner of pigs; crushing mills should be established, to enable the poor holder to utilise his grain for feeding purposes, 51680.

Case of Mr. Kenny—Priests and Migration, etc.

Witness had read in the *Western People* Mr. Kenny's statement that the people dare not tell the truth on oath upon certain occasions, 51680.—Mr. Kenny had said that twelve jurors perjured themselves. 51686-8.—Witness, who had intimate knowledge of the neighbourhood, considered Mr. Kenny's evidence very prejudiced, 51688-9.—The statement as to perjury was, in witness's opinion, untrue, 51690, 51694.—If the men of Culthrasney, to whom he referred, had not been away in England, they would have come before the Commission, and denied that their priest had dissuaded them from migrating, lest his collection should be diminished; witness was present at a meeting at Kiltimagh Town Hall, when the parish priest had impressed on the people the foolishness of remaining on small holdings all their lives, and had offered to aid them in migrating, 51664.—Mr. Kenny himself was prosecuted by the Crown for suborning witnesses, 51680.—The decision of the court was "informations refused," but this was on technical grounds alone, 51681-4.—Witness produced a statement to this effect by Mr. Jordan, Petty Sessions Clerk, 51684-5.—A County Councillor had informed witness that Kenny had offered him a blank cheque to fill in for any amount he wished, provided he induced his witnesses to suppress their evidence, 51690-3.—The County Councillor was present, and would make this statement, 51692-4.—Witness had heard Father Keaveney's evidence about Parish Committees, and endorsed it; they had done an immense amount of good, and for £100 grant, would get £500 worth of improvements, 51695-7.

ROUGHNEEN, Mr. THOMAS.

Denial of Mr. Kenny's Evidence—Attempt at Bribery.

Witness denied the truth of Mr. Kenny's statement at Castlebar, which had been reported in the *Western People*, 51698.—Witness had a case against Dr. Burke, 51698.—He had brought a charge against the doctor, 51702, 51708.—As a result of which the Local Government Board had dismissed the doctor, 51703, 51707.—Mr. Kenny had tried to persuade some of the witnesses in the case that the whole case was settled, and their evidence not required, and they had complained of this to witness, who required their evidence to substantiate his charge, 51701.—Mr. Kenny had informed witness that he had settled with the witnesses against Dr. Burke, and had offered witness a blank cheque signed by Dr. Burke, telling him to fill it up for any amount he liked; witness had ordered Mr. Kenny to leave his house, 51701.—Witness had not the cheque, and had never taken it, 51700-1.—Witness had not given evidence before the Local Government Board inquiry, 51702, 51708.—It was not this case in which the decision was "informations refused"; witness had not stated in court that he was offered the blank cheque, as he won his case without doing so, 51709.

Clergy and Migrants.

Witness believed that the clergy in various parishes were most zealous in influencing their parishioners to migrate, 51710.

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.

Experience of Witness.

Witness succeeded Sir Horace Plunkett as Vice-President of the Agricultural Department at the latter end of May, in 1907, 51711.—He had only been three months in office, and two of those months had been spent in the House of Commons; he had not yet mastered the details of the Department, 51712.—He did not wish to give evidence in favour of one Department more than another, 51713.—He had for thirty years been a close student of the question of relief of congestion, 51815.—He had never lived in a congested district, but had gone over the congested districts, 51816.—His personal share in the relief of congestion had consisted in exposing the miseries of the Western population, both as a private member of Parliament and as a journalist; he was not an expert in dealing with congestion from a practical standpoint, 51317.—The views of such experts were of the first importance, 51818.

Wastefulness of having four Departments working in one area.

Four Departments were working in the congested districts area, an arrangement conducive to great waste, and probably not to good work; the Estates Commissioners were engaged in sale and purchase of land and endowed with funds which, setting aside the difficulties of the money market, were ample; the Congested Districts Board had, during many years, done valuable work with the funds provided by Parliament, and with a staff for carrying on the work; the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction also had funds and a staff; the fourth Department was the County Committee, a statutory body working under the Department of Agriculture, 51713-4.—Witness thought overlapping could not be avoided under this system, 51715.

First Scheme to avoid Overlapping by different Departments.

To avoid the disadvantages of this fourfold system the purchase and sale of lands in congested districts might be placed entirely in the hands of the Estates Commissioners; the improvement of land and development of estates might be carried on by Congested Districts Board; the educational work might be entrusted to the Agricultural Department and the County Committees, 51716-7, 51763A-70.—In this arrangement the Agricultural Department and County Committees might be treated as one department which practically they already were though the Committees were a local statutory body having their position secured to them by Parliament, a fact which should be kept in view, 51718.—The result of these two State Department—the Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners—being engaged in the work of buying and selling the land in competition with each other was the creation of an artificial market by which the owners of these slum lands were bound to profit at the expense of the State and of the people; the ample funds of the Estates Commissioners and the fact that they had a very large staff were the reasons why they, rather than the Congested Districts Board, should be entrusted with the sale and purchase of land; all estates bought by Estates Commissioners should be vested in Congested Districts Board for improvement, 51719, 51809.—The competition between Congested Districts Board and Commissioners for an estate did not amount to an auction at which the two Departments bid against each other, but prices paid by Congested Districts Board were slightly higher than those given by the Estates Commissioners, 51724-7, 51777, 51785-6.—Witness had been struck by the large price offered for Sir Henry Lynch-Blosse's estate, 51780-3.—He thought both Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners paid too much for slum land, 51778, 51784, 51787, 51877.—The fact that landlords preferred to deal with Congested Districts Board rather than with Estates Commissioners led to the inference that they had a good reason for doing so, 51810-4, 51877-9, 51915-8.—The average prices paid by Congested Districts Board for land might not be high, but averages probably did not give a fair idea of prices paid, as one man might receive a very large, and another a very small, price for his land, 51872, 51905.—Witness read an extract from Mr. Finucane's evidence given on page 143 of the Appendix to this Commission's Third Report, where it was stated that in 1903, Major Chichester Constable offered to sell to Congested Districts Board an estate comprising a small area of tenanted, and a large area of untenanted land in Roscommon; in September of 1903, Board offered the vendor £48,220, exclusive of bonus, which was refused; in December of 1903 Board offered £50,000, exclusive of bonus, or £56,000, inclusive of bonus, and were again refused; in November, 1904, the owner, without mentioning his negotiations with Congested Districts Board requested Estates Commissioners to purchase, and their inspector, Mr. Lopdell, estimated the price of the estate at £38,615, 51906.—The owner refused the offer of the Estates Commissioners, and informed them that the Board had already offered £50,000; it appeared that three valuations had been made of the untenanted lands—one by Mr. Doran, one by two of the Land Commission's Assistant Commissioners for settlement of rents, who were deputed for the purpose at the Board's request, and a third by the Estates Commissioners' Inspector, Mr. Lopdell; the annual valuation of lot 1 of untenanted land was substantially the same in the three cases, but while the Estates Commissioners' offer for this lot was only £16,392, exclusive of bonus, Congested Districts Board's offer was £21,000; the explanation was that Mr. Doran's estimated price was calculated on thirty times the annual value, without bonus, or 33·6, the annual value inclusive of bonus, while Mr. Lopdell's was based on twenty-four times the annual valuation, exclusive of bonus, or twenty-seven times the annual valuation, inclusive of bonus; this showed a difference of 6½ years' purchase of the annual valuation; Mr. Doran's price inclusive of bonus, would if invested at 3½ per cent., yield an income of 117 per cent. on the gross annual value; Mr. Lopdell's would yield an income of 104½ per cent. on the gross annual value, 51908.—This instance showed the danger of averages, 51910.—If vendors were quite sure they could get their money sooner from Congested Districts Board than from Estates Commissioners, that would account for their preference for the Board, 51919-21.—An arrangement under which Congested Districts Board might improve and sell land which it had not bought, but which another had bought for it, might be difficult, but with co-operation should be feasible and useful, 57824-5, 51845-7.—The process would be that the Congested Districts Board, desiring certain lands they knew to be a slum estate, would express their desire to the Estates Commissioners, 51832.—This desire would be founded on their knowledge that the locality contained uneconomic holdings, and the purchasing authority would inspect the lands before paying the price, 51833, 51836.—Congested Districts Board ought probably to inspect the land before asking for it, but this would be a question for an Act of Parliament, 51834-5.—With co-operation there should be no difficulty over the double inspection, 51837-8.—The land purchased should be invested in Congested Districts Board for improvement purposes, 51839.—The collection of rents would remain in the hands of the Estates Commissioners, 51840-3.—In selling to tenants the annuity must be fixed by Congested Districts Board in view of the cost of reclaiming the estate and the price paid for the land, 51844, 51848.—An instance of the confusion arising from the existing system had occurred at Runabackan, where about 360 acres of land had been purchased by Mr. John Fitzgibbon and sold to Estates Commissioners; witness had visited Runabackan; the Estates Commissioners had striped the land and placed on it nine tenants with about forty acres apiece; the Estates Commissioners had made each tenant a free grant of £30, but there were neither stock nor buildings on the land, 51719-21.—These nine tenants were farmers' sons who had not previously had holdings, and the idea of giving them farms was to prevent them from emigrating; these tenants probably relied on getting means to purchase their stock from an agricultural bank established at Castlerea by the Agricultural Department, 51722.—There was much to be said in favour of the practice of giving holdings to farmers' sons to keep them in the country, though the prime necessity in Ireland was the relief of congestion, 51799-808.—Under the system proposed by witness the Estates Commissioners would have purchased this Runabackan estate and sold it to the tenants, and the Congested Districts Board would then have come in to deal with the necessity for

housing and offices; in Ireland the necessary cottage and offices could be erected at a cost of £150, which should be added to the annuity; if the land were a reasonable price this £150 would not unduly weight the annuity; Congested Districts Board or Department of Agriculture would then lend the tenants money from an agricultural bank to purchase stock and construct drainage, etc., 51722, 51728, 51868-9.—An example of the advantage of co-ordination between the Departments was afforded by the action taken by witness at Athenry, one of the most disturbed districts in Ireland; at Athenry the Agricultural Department had purchased 1,600 acres from Congested Districts Board for the establishment of an agricultural station or college where Department's stock, such as cattle and stallions for the province of Connaught, were to be kept; Department had taken care that the tenants on this estate did not suffer from the scheme, but though existing holdings had been enlarged a demand was made soon after Department began to start the station for the surrender of part of this 1,600 acres to the people of the neighbourhood; spikes were also driven into the meadows, and the man engaged in meadowing had his house fired into; witness then went to Athenry, where he received a threatening letter; he interviewed some of the men interested in this demand for land, and told them Department had gone to Athenry for the benefit of the people of Connaught, and that he could give them none of the land, as it was all needed for public purposes; witness also told them that he had seen the land grievance of the West at Athenry as he had never seen it before; that he had seen grass lands all round the town with not an outlet save by grass lands, while the people could not get a bit of land to grow a cabbage leaf to feed a cow to give milk to the children; witness had then promised to represent to Estates Commissioners the people's grievance, and he had since made an appointment with Estates Commissioners to meet him at Athenry, and as practically all the grass lands about Athenry were already in the hands of the Estates Commissioners he hoped to be able to settle this Athenry question by co-ordination between the Estates Commissioners and the Agricultural Department, of which he himself was vice-president; this particular difficulty might be settled in this way, or the outrages might be allowed to go on until the law had to deal with them promptly and put them down, 51722-3.—Witness cited the Athenry case as an instance of want of co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the Estates Commissioners, 51731-2.—Acting as vice-president of the Agricultural Department, he was calling the attention of the Commissioners to conditions which the Commissioners could remedy, as they had the grass lands in their possession, and he was thus effecting co-operation between the two departments, 51734-49.—The Act of 1899, under which the Department of Agriculture was set up, contained a clause forming a consultative committee on education; the vice-president was chairman of that committee, and on it there was a member from the National Board and a member from the Intermediate Board; a similar plan was needed for the work in congested districts to give the three departments operating some official method for getting into communication, 51750-1.—The presence on Congested Districts Board of the vice-president of the Agricultural Department was useful for the purposes of co-operation as keeping him in touch with Board's work; witness attended Board's meetings as often as possible, 51889-90.—The presence on the Congested Districts Board of the Under-Secretary was also desirable, as there ought to be some member of the Government on the Board, 51891-4.—It was desirable that there should be on the Board a considerable representation of the districts, 51901.—The land kept for the college at Athenry was good land, 51854.—A great deal of it was put into tillage, 51855.—Witness had had nothing to do with the selection of this land, as he had not been long in office; the worst land could not be used for keeping the stock for Connaught; witness had satisfied himself that the tenants on the estate had been treated fairly, and had had additions to their holdings from land that was partly good, partly bad, 51856-8.

SECOND SCHEME TO AVOID OVERLAPPING.

If the land question could not be dealt with according to the first scheme proposed by witness one body only should do the work of purchase and sale of land in congested districts; this body might be either the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, 51723, 51763A-70, 51776, 51870, 51874.—Witness would not give an opinion as to whether Board or Commissioners should be the body to purchase land, 51754-8, 51775.—Witness had been over congested areas during twenty years and recognised the enormous improvement since effected; no one appreciated more than himself the work of Congested Districts Board; his only objection was having two departments working alongside each other, 51875-6, 51897.—The Agricultural Department would probably not object to withdrawing from supplementary schemes and leaving them to Congested Districts Board, though the schemes of the county committees, which were statutory bodies, could not be stopped, 51723, 51788-90, 51880-2.—County committees were doing excellent work and improving at it, 51791, 51929.—Witness would not support an attempt to supplant these statutory local authorities and replace them by a nominated board, 51926-36.—At present Department's supplementary schemes overlapped with work of parish committees; Department was spending £10,000 a year on supplementary schemes, educational and otherwise, 51792-4.—Parish committees did excellent work giving grants for small matters, such as slating a roof or building an outhouse, which were outside Department's work, 51795-7.—The proposed extension of the work of parish committees to such matters as instruction in agriculture would involve overlapping with Department, 51798.—Educational work, such as domestic economy work, should be managed by Agricultural Department or Congested Districts Board; at present it was carried on by both with bad results, 51722, 51729-30, 51763.—Educational work could not be carried on by Department with the £2,000 received from Congested Districts Board under Mr. Wyndham's arrangement; witness, as vice-president of Department, declared emphatically he would not be responsible for the work with such small funds; the estimate for this work in 1907 was £9,700, 51723, 51762, 51884-7.—Increase of funds for education could not be expected from Congested Districts Board, which itself required more money, and therefore the Department of Agriculture had no resources but its own funds or an additional Government grant, and Department's funds could not provide more for this purpose, 51760-2.—Witness knew from personal observation that schools in Mayo overlapped, 51859-60.—Recently two schools of domestic economy had been sanctioned by Board of Agriculture in Dublin, and witness found the Congested Districts Board had a school so near that there must be overlapping between it and Board of Agriculture's schools, 51863-4.—Such occurrences were likely under existing system, 51865-6.—Of the alternative schemes proposed by witness he himself preferred that which placed the work in congested districts under one authority, 51819-23.—Even if Congested Districts Board were made the only authority within congested areas, they would still have to co-operate with Estates Commissioners for the purchase of land which lay outside those areas, and was needed for relief of congestion, 51922-5.—The suggestion that fishery work should be placed under the Department went with witness's general statement that there should be a single department, 51937.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF GRASS LANDS.

Acquisition of grass land was an absolute necessity; its difficulty was mainly a financial difficulty, and concerned the finance of the Land Act, 51940, 51942.—This portion of witness's evidence was given in his private capacity, not as Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture, 51941.—When the Land Act of 1903 was passed the Land Conference in the first place, and Parliament in the second, were told by Mr. Wyndham that compulsion would not be necessary; at the Land Conference witness and his colleagues on the tenants' side of the question set aside compulsion for the time being and combined for a general settlement, because they were assured that the landlords were willing to sell if they got an equivalent for their net income; witness thought that result had been a great one; he had never gone against the Land Conference; the position in 1907 was that in the better parts of Ireland the Act had worked well, bar the price, but in the congested areas, and the West, generally, the Act had not worked at all. 51942-3, 51976-85.—The present Commission would never have come into existence if the Act had worked in the Western provinces as it had worked in the rest of Ireland, 51986.—The explanation of this inoperativeness of the Act was not the position of the money-market, and the lack of sufficient money to pay the landlords; the great difficulty was that the great grass lands of the West could not be had at a reasonable price; this was a grave problem for Government. because the people had been promised these lands in Parliament by the mouthpiece of the Government; witness was told there was plenty of land to be had in the West of Ireland, though the Government did not seem to think so, when recently they passed the Evicted Tenants Bill; very extraordinary terms on which the land was to be acquired had been proposed by one branch of Parliament, namely, that the full market value was to be given for the land, plus a bonus of 12 per cent., plus the benefit of the Land Clauses Act, which meant 10 per cent., and in addition such arrears of rent were to be given as the court thought fit to grant; such terms put the settlement of the grass lands quite out of the question; compulsion should be applied to acquire these lands at a price that would permit their re-sale at a price the tenants could pay for them; the question of compulsion presented difficulties which witness thought could be overcome, because the peace of Ireland counted for a good deal, and the people must have the land; the real difficulty of land purchase at the moment was that even if compulsory sales were ordered money could not be got to pay for the lands; to meet this difficulty there were two ways; if the landlords were to be paid in cash at the same rate of purchase at which they had been paid, and which had leaped from an average of 17·3 years' purchase under the old Purchase Acts to 25 years' purchase under the existing Act, and if, in addition, there were to be compensation for compulsion as well as a bonus the acquisition of the land could not take place, 51943-8, 51979.—The price of land and the bonus as well as an addition for compulsion were not inserted in the Evicted Tenants Act, but witness thought that a great deal of the Lords' action in that Act was with an eye to the Act which would follow the proceedings of the present Commission, 51948-9.—The House of Lords would probably have been better advised if they had not proposed such high terms, 51950.—Witness would give the fair market value of the land, and allow the bonus to stand for compulsion in each case, 51951-2, 51988.—The landlords should receive for their lands a sum which, invested in reasonable security, would yield their net income; to this proposition the landlords agreed at the Land Conference, and had it been carried out the land question would be a long way towards settlement, 51989, 51991.—Three and a quarter per cent., that is, 25 years' purchase, was the rate of investment at the Land Conference, but since then Parliament had added to the securities in which money could be invested a very large number of trustee securities, some of them bearing 4 per cent., 51992-3, 51997, 51999.—Witness did not object to the principle that landlords should know the State was ready to purchase their property on the basis of the Land Conference proposals, but the net income, that is, the net receipts on second term rents for ten years, must be ascertained; it was not correct to take the rental, 51990, 51994-6, 51999.—The investments of the money to produce the equivalent should also depend on the Act of Parliament which superseded the recommendations of the Land Conference, because that gave the landlord a much higher rate of interest; one landlord taking advantage of this had had his income increased by £9,000 a year, 51999-2000.—Witness was far from saying that the adoption of the principles of the Land Conference would lead to a general settlement of the land question, 52008.—Land in Connaught, and in the West, generally, was a very different kind of security from that in the East; witness did not think that in consideration of this the arrears in past times should be taken into account in calculating the landlord's net income for purchase; there were thousands of holdings in Connaught on which a fair rent should never have been fixed, and which the Land Commissioners, after the Act of 1881, ought to have returned as paying no rent at all; such holdings should have been treated as allotments, 52010-11.—A suggestion had been made that the landlord should be paid in stock; the medium of payment was changed from cash to stock in 1896, when stock was at 110; witness thought payment was made in cash under the Ashbourne Act; it would be unfair to pay in stock and give for £100 worth of land paper representing £100 but really worth only £82, 51951-3.—In September, 1907, tenants were buying on an average of 25 years' purchase, and land stock was a little over 80, so that in addition to the money raised and employed in actual purchase there was nearly one-fifth more to be added as loss on the stock; taking 25 years' purchase by the tenant, and one-fifth additional in the shape of loss, there were five years' purchase additional to be paid by the taxpayer, making the price 30 years' purchase, in addition to the bonus, which was 12 per cent. on the purchase-money, and at 30 years' purchase would make the whole price 33 years' purchase; besides this there was the upkeep of the Land Commission; the more exorbitant the price agreed to the worse was the security for the stock and the loss upon the flotation, and the higher also was the bonus, so that all this resulted from the basis of the Act of 1903, which set aside the old method of purchase by number of years' purchase of the land, and substituted for it a form of purchase by reduction; so long as the tenant secured his 20 per cent. reduction he had neither the capacity in many cases to inquire what his price was, nor was he concerned to inquire; another difficulty was that while land stock was not really inferior in security to consolidated funds the financial houses had been able to make a dead set against it as bog stock; chiefly from these facts, there was, in the Land Commission, an immense amount of arrears in the form of agreements for sale for which no money was available, 51954.—If purchase were allowed to continue at a cost of 33 years' purchase per acre financial ruin was inevitable; to suspend the operation of the Land Act would raise a tremendous storm in Ireland, and landlords and tenants would unite in attacking the Government responsible, but witness thought that if it were proposed only to alter the method of finance in as far as it was necessary to cut out the incidental loss, that is, the loss on flotation, the attempt would be so obviously justifiable in the public interest that no outcry would be sustained against it, 51955-6.—Estates, especially in the North of Ireland, which a year ago were not to be bought, were now coming into the market in a fashion which suggested that landlords anticipated the revisal of the finance of the Act of 1903, and the reduction of prices, 51956, 52006-7.—In the North of Ireland, at any rate, there would be a rush of settlers the moment a change in the finances of the Act was announced; to cut out the loss on flotation stock ought to be issued at a rate of interest that would secure a par price, and at 2¾ per cent., this had not been secured; if the stock were issued as Land Stock even 3 per cent. would not go at par, and to secure par price the stock would have to be issued in such a way that financiers could not set upon it as bog stock; it might, however, not be possible to disguise the stock, 51956.—It would be possible to do so if the stock were floated as Consols, but the objection to that was that the effect on Consols would be instantaneous, 51957.—The changes suggested would involve a corresponding alteration in Section 45 and other sections of the Act; by that section the purchasing tenant was charged for the use of the money at cost price; the stock was raised at 2¾ per cent., and the tenant was charged 2¾ per cent., plus 10*s.* per £100 for sinking fund, making a total of 3¼ per cent.; there would be no use in cutting out the loss of capital unless the rate charged to the tenant were altered in the same proportion, because the loss of capital was no worse than the corresponding loss of interest; the rate of the purchasing tenants' annuities would therefore have to be made 3½ per cent. instead of 3¼; the effect of this would be that the tenants having been taught, under the Wyndham Act, to buy by percentage reduction would stipulate for the 20 per cent. reduction, and would not think of the extended period of repayment; witness spoke for the part of the country he knew best; the 20 per cent. was the difference between the amount of the annual instalment and the previous rent; with the increased rate of repayment annuity the same reduction could only be secured by purchasing at a lesser number of years' purchase; the effect of this was simply to get back to the old method of purchase, 51958, 51964.—The system of percentage reductions under the Wyndham Act was introduced by advice of the Land Conference, of whose responsibility witness took his share; the Land Conference did things they were not certain about, and in fact things that they were quite sure would result the other way, and this system of percentage reduction was one of those things; in the old days, according to the custom of the country, the universal method of buying land was by number of years' purchase and not by reduction in annual payment, 51959-63, 51964-6, 52003-5.—Under the system of purchase by percentage of reduction the tenants got the reduction and continued paying the instalment for seventy years, and posterity had to deal with the matter, which might be a bad thing for posterity; to meet the deadlock the annuity on the tenant must be raised, and if this were done the tenant would return to the old method of calculating by number of years' purchase, and would see that under the new system he paid no more than before; at present he was paying as much in his instalment and more in his price; the scheme under Mr. Wyndham's Act, which reduced the element for sinking fund by a corresponding extension of the period during which instalments were to be paid, was of no use to the tenants, and the whole value of it was at once added on to the purchase-money of the landlord; the tenants, in 1885, got their 20 per cent. reduction under the Ashbourne Act, buying at 20 years' purchase; now, under the Wyndham Act, the tenants were buying at 25 years' purchase, and getting no more than the same reduction, and paying for seventy years instead of forty-nine; the matter was so imperative, the loss being so enormous, and the probable result so disastrous, that there could be no difficulty in defending a change that would cut out the loss to the taxpayer and let the Act work freely, 51967.

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. X.

BURKE, Mr. HENRY A.

Kelp Industry.

Witness lived at Drumkeen, Ballinamallard, Fermanagh, 52013, 52015.—And formerly lived in Galway, about twenty miles from Leenane, 52014, 52017.—He had broken his connection with Galway twenty-five years previously, 52019.—But still visited it, 52021-2.—Witness had acted as agent for the kelp industry from the time he was eighteen years of age, till twenty-five years ago, 52016, 52024.—His father had been a kelp agent till six years previously, 52025.—Witness's knowledge, though not of recent times, was from personal experience, 52020.—He was not now in any way connected with the kelp industry, 52024.—At one time kelp was a staple industry in that part of Ireland, 52021-2.—In conjunction with fishing, it had caused the congestion of population along the coast, 52030.—Kelp of a good quality at one time sold for £10 to £12 a ton, and even when other sources of iodine were discovered it sold for £7, 52021-2.—£7 or £6 10*s.* was the highest price witness remembered; when he managed a district from the mouth of Killery Bay to High Island, including the islands of Boffin, Shark, and Innisturk, it dropped to £4, or £4 10*s.* a ton, when iodine was discovered in South America, 52030.

Causes of Decline.

After the discovery of Chilian iodine, buyers would not take as much kelp, and required it up to a certain standard, 52032-3.—This standard could only be reached by weed gathered before June, 52031-3.—This had so much shortened the season (which at one time lasted till October) that at the lowered prices the gathering did not pay, and for the last twenty-five or thirty years had been dwindling, 52033.

Revival of Kelp Industry.

There were still many people who knew how to trim kelp, 52033A.—Witness believed the industry, even in existing circumstances might be made to pay by assistance from Government, by educating the workers in better methods, and inducing them to abstain from adulteration by sand, stones, or bad weed, which produced a small proportion of iodine or none at all, 52026, 52033-5.—This might be done through Parish Committees, 52033A.—The kelp-workers used to depend entirely upon drift-weed, but cut weed was not only of a better quality, but was procurable at will, whereas the drift weed only came intermittently, and then in so large a quantity that it rotted before it could be dealt with, 52033A.—A Mr. Stephens in witness's time advanced money for purchasing boats, or induced landlords to assist in supplying boats, for the purpose of cutting weed, but this was a failure owing to the conservative habits of the people, 52033.—However, improved and labour-saving methods of fattening the weed might be made use of, and families might co-operate, using a boat in common, and dividing the profits, 52033A.—A good kelp might be insured by providing the people with large drying sheds of a simple and inexpensive kind, 52026.—A chemical factory might be started in a central position, like Westport or Sligo for the manufacture of kelp, 52033.—A central burning-place might be provided, where the dried weed could be brought and burned on a large scale, and sheds where it could be weighed and burned according to its quality, 52033A, 52036.—This would be to the advantage of the purchaser by ensuring a good quality, and if there were several of these depots the vessels could call for the kelp instead of the gatherers taking it twelve or thirteen miles by boat, 52036.—Kelp absorbed moisture after burning, and this spoiled the quality; it was possible to detect the weed which did not produce iodine without applying a chemical test, 52033.—The best weed was locally called "Coughlagh," 52026, 52029.—It was saleable in a dried condition without burning, 52026.—It had a long "sea-rod," 52028.—But was not known as "sea-rod"; this rod should be collected in winter and burned with the "Coughlagh" to prevent it clogging in the kilns, 52033A.

Market for Kelp.

The whole output of Irish kelp was at one time bought by one Scotch firm; as competition increased other purchasers bought the worst qualities; this firm inspected and organised the industry, 52033.—There were bye-products from kelp such as black-bottles, soap and soda; kelp at the present time must contain a large proportion of iodine if it were to be profitable, 52033.

Migration.

Witness believed that if the Government succeeded in migrating congests from the coast, they would sell or abandon their land, and go back to kelp-gathering, 52033A.—The dwellers on the coast had been accustomed to earning their living by fishing and kelp-gathering, or migrating to England or Scotland as labourers, and they knew nothing of farming and would take generations to teach, during which time they would be living at the expense of the ratepayers, 52437.

Graziers as Purchasers from Small Farmers.

Witness considered the grazing land of Ireland an economic necessity in a country where small farms predominated, 52095.—The small holders were really most concerned in the preservation of grazing lands, 52040, 52098.—It would be disastrous for the small farmer if he were dependent on dealers and English markets for the sale of his young stock; the farmer with from five to fifteen acres was obliged to sell young calves; the farmer with twenty to thirty acres kept them till nine months' old and then sold them, 52437.—Having no room or food for them, 52437-8.—Even with twenty to thirty acres he might only have room for two or three cattle, 52038-9.—Small farmers could not keep even one bullock calf for longer than nine months or a year because they had no room; they had no land capable of fattening beef, and well-bred calves would not live on mountain land, 52040, 52054.—Farmers preferred well-bred calves because they got a better price for them, 52040.—Much land that was suitable for keeping milch cows would not fatten beef, 52040.—And bull calves were produced in a proportion of nearly three to one, 52437.—The calves could not be profitably hand-fed after nine months, 52055-7.—Nor would it pay to feed them on poor grass till they were ready for beef; owing to foreign competition food was now cheap, 50257.—Therefore these calves must be sold by the small farmer to a larger class of grazing farmers, who would keep them as long as the land was fit to feed them, from nine or twelve months, till they were ready to be fattened by graziers; it was only necessary to feed them sufficiently to keep them in healthy grazing condition; it would not pay to keep these cattle on fattening land all the time, even were there land sufficient, and sometimes there were two or three changes of pasture between nine months and two and a half years; at two and a half years the cattle were bought during April or May by the large graziers and fattened, then sold from the autumn, till possibly December; the graziers expected small profits and quick returns; some graziers, who had the various qualities of land required, bought calves direct from the small farmer and kept them till fat, 52040.—The greater number of calves produced in Ireland were had by the small farmers, the men whose numbers the Congested Districts Board wished to increase, 52437.—According as the small farms were increased, would be increased the production of young cattle (from nine to twelve

BURKE, Mr. HENRY A.—*continued.*

months), but the area required for keeping young stock till they were fit to be fattened, would be correspondingly decreased, as would the land required for fattening, 52040.—And as the small farmers and young stock increased, so would the demand for young stock diminish, 25062.—The object of the Congested Districts Board in introducing new breeds of cattle was to enable the small man to produce animals which would command the highest price from the grazier, 52096.—And the abolition of the grazier and grazing lands would make all these efforts useless, 52097.—The land now grazed was once under tillage, 52104A.—The grazing system then did not exist, 52105.—But these tillage farmers disappeared when the potato crop failed, 52105.—They tilled to provide themselves with the necessaries of life, as there were no imports from abroad, but now they only grew enough for their own use, as tillage did not pay; it did not pay to grow crops for sale or feeding, 52104A.—Nor could the small holders feed their cattle with green crops till they were old enough to sell to dealers from Meath, or from England or Scotland, 52099.—Witness was not aware that this was done in Mayo; he spoke of his own district, 52102.—He knew Tyrone as well as Fermanagh; Tyrone was an agricultural county, 52103.—And in Fermanagh there was both good and bad land, 52103.—There was tillage and fattening of cattle in Fermanagh, and dairying was only lately introduced, 52104.—If hand-feeding would have paid the small farmers, they would have been doing it for fifty years, 52101.

GRAZIERS KEEP UP THE BREED OF CATTLE.

Witness had experience of farming 200 acres, principally grazing land, and managed 600 acres, 52037.—For landowners, buying and selling all classes of cattle; he considered that the graziers had been the means of keeping up a high class and breed of stock in the country; for thirty years witness had been attending cattle fairs and markets, and he considered that a well-bred animal paid, even at a relatively high price, 52037.—The well-bred short-horn bulls, which produced profitable calves, were kept by the larger graziers, 52400.—And cost, at thirteen to fifteen months, from £10 to £35.—For their services from 2*s.* to 3*s.* was charged, or more in the case of a specially good bull; the small farmers could not afford to buy such bulls, or to hand-feed them all the year round, as was necessary, 52040.—And if the grazing farms were broken up the class of bulls would deteriorate, 52041.—The Department operated in witness's neighbourhood, and still it was the large farmers who had the bulls, 52042.—Although a grant of £12 or £15 was given with the bull, it did not pay to buy one for £30, and keep him for two seasons, 52044.—Tenants preferred coming to witness, as he had bulls that were not too pure-bred; he charged 2*s.* for the service; it was a pity to have bulls too pure-bred, because they produced calves too fine in the bone, 52040, 52045.—Any kind of animal could be provided by the Department, 52046.

GALLOWAY AND POLLED ANGUS CATTLE.

Witness preferred short-horn cattle for certain purposes, 52047.—He was aware that the Congested Districts Board had introduced Galloway cattle into mountainous districts, 52048.—The farmers got higher prices for young Galloway cattle than for other breeds; Galloways and Polled Angus cattle were good for beef, but not for milk, and in some districts people were depending on them for milk, 52049-50.—In a district where there was no market for butter it was better to rear grazing than milch cattle, 52051-3.—The Galloways were suited to mountain districts, but some mountain districts were adjacent to good land; the calf of a good short-horn bull and a mountain cow could not be reared on mountain land, 52054.

LAND SUITED FOR TILLAGE OR GRAZING AND DAIRY.

Excluding the moors and mountains suitable for grouse preserves, nine-tenths of Ireland was as suitable for tillage as for grazing, 52040.—The "middle land" at present under grass would do perfectly well for tillage for which land from 15*s.* to 17*s.* an Irish acre was enough; first-class land was not required for tillage, 52091, 52094.—Land under grazing did not deteriorate, 52106.—This was true of all land suitable for grazing, 52107-9.—Grass land could remain under grass and improve, but soil could be exhausted by cultivation and not being properly manured, 52108-9.—If a part were tilled and the manure put on to it in a proper system, more could be got out of the grass, 52110-3.—Mountain land that cannot be worked with a horse was more suited for dairy than for grazing purposes; land of this sort at 5*s.* an acre would produce a higher percentage of butter than fattening land; fattening land was not suitable for butter, nor dairy land for grazing; witness sold milk produced on land averaging 25*s.* an acre, and received 3*d.* and 3½*d.* a gallon, while his tenants were getting 4½*d.* to 5*d.* for milk off land at 7*s.* A farmer would not break up permanent pasture for tillage if he had other land suitable.

ECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Witness thought an uneconomic holding was one worked by a spade, and an economic holding was worked by a horse, 52090.—A farm ought to be of sufficient size to keep a horse, 52088-9.

UNSUITABILITY OF BELGIAN SYSTEM TO IRELAND—EDUCATION, &c.

The Belgian system of intensive cultivation was unsuitable to the Irish climate, 52064.—Its main feature was rotation of crops and "catch" crops, 52063.—The Irish climate rendered the raising and saving of "catch crops" precarious, 52065.—Also education in Ireland was more advanced than in Belgium, and persons who had a good education considered they were wasting their time on small farming; no man who had a good education was content to work with a spade, 52052.—Young people who had been to school till fourteen would not take to spade labour, 52065.—Witness thought that in primary education care should be taken from the beginning to fit boys for agricultural and pastoral occupations, 52061-2.

THE STATUS OF LABOURERS.

Witness considered that Irish farmers had been changed by civilization, education, machinery, and Land Acts, and now required more room; if the labouring class were raised by means of education, and grants of houses and plots of ground, it would be at the expense of the industrious farmer, who now must have additional capital to work a reasonable-sized farm; one class could not be raised without lowering the others, by artificial means, at all events; there must be an upper class; the present method of building labourers' houses, cutting the country up into small farms and giving advanced education was an unwise one, and tended to increase population before there was any increase in their means of support; labourers were taking plots of ground as they took seed potatoes, thinking they were getting something at other people's expense; the supply of labour in rural districts did not equal the demand, 52065.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

Witness knew of some labourers' cottages in Fermanagh, 52066-70.—He had no knowledge of whether the authorities took steps to assure themselves that the dwellers in these houses were *bona fide* labourers, 52071-2.—He knew of no case of a man in one of those cottages who was not a labourer, 52071.—All of them worked in the neighbourhood on farms, 52073-7.—Witness had been told that they did not labour, but that, having obtained an acre of ground with their houses, they worked on that, 52078-9.—The purpose of giving the labourer an acre of land was that it should supplement his work as a labourer, 52080-1.—But having it, he could afford to do with less labour than before, 52082.—It might be decided later to give him three or more acres, 52065.—The Labourers' Act originally defined a labourer as an agricultural labourer, and a recent change in the Act made the earning of daily or weekly wages the only qualification, 52083.—So that some of the labourers were now not agricultural labourers at all, but came from the country towns or villages, 52084-5.—Still he must actually be a labourer, and not merely in search of work, before he got the house, 52086-7.

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O'MALLEY, Mr. PETER J.

POVERTY IN OUGHTERARD.

Witness represented Oughterard Union, which had a valuation of £15,623, and comprised 3,914 holdings, 52118.—Of these 2,988 were agricultural holdings, 52119-20.—And 3,281 of these were under £5 valuation, and were occupied by 3,260 families, 52118, 52121.—If about forty large holdings were taken out, they would be all under £15.—The barest necessaries of life could in many instances not be obtained from the land alone, and the people were largely dependent on help from friends in America and England, 52121.

KELP AND TURF INDUSTRIES.

In Lettermore, Crumpaun, Comus, and Turlough a good deal of money used to be made out of kelp, but of late years the industry had been almost a total failure, 52121.—The cutting and saving of turf used to be a source of income; it used to be sold in Galway, Kinvara, Clare and Avon, but now the bogs were nearly exhausted, especially in Turlough, Gorumna, Crumpaun, and Lettermore, and there was no alternative for the people but starvation or the workhouse, 52121.

AVAILABLE GRASS LANDS IN OUGHTERARD.

In the divisions of Curr, Cong, Clonbur, Ross, Kilcummin and Letterbrickaun the population was not so congested; Letterfore, Oughterard, and Wormhole were much the same; grass farms in the hands of graziers in Ross, Curr, Letterbrickaun, Letterfore, Oughterard and Wormhole would, if divided, relieve a few of the congests; these farms were formerly occupied by tenants and cleared by landlords who, if the land were good, sometimes cleared whole villages and laid the land down to grass, 52121.

PURCHASES OF THE BOARD.

The Board had purchased no land except the townlands of Tumneenaun, near Clonbur, and Glannagirlagh, and part of Letterbrickaun, near Leenane, 52121.

OTHER SALES OF LAND.

No land had yet been sold under the Act of 1903, and under the Ashbourne Act only parts of the Berridge Estate in the division of Turlough at ten and a half years' purchase; parts in the Letterbrickaun division at sixteen years' purchase, and the townland of Shanafarahane, on the Kilmaine Estate at fourteen years' purchase; the landlords were disinclined to sell, except at prices the tenants could not give, owing to the ease with which they obtained their rents, 52121.

DEBTS TO SHOPKEEPERS.

Since the Connemara peasants had an interest in their land, they would pay their rent at all costs, paying rent with the money they obtained for labour, and getting the necessaries of life from the shop on credit, 52121-5.—They did not actually borrow from the shop-keepers, 52123.

SHOP-KEEPERS AS MEMBERS OF PARISH COMMITTEES.

Witness thought Parish Committees did good, but the grants were too small, and often the persons taking charge of them took no real interest, 52121.—If the priest did not interest himself in the matter, the Parish Committee was generally a failure, 52135, 52160.—Shop-keepers were debarred by a rule of the Congested Districts Board from acting as Parish Committees, 52126.—In witness's opinion

shop-keepers who were Guardians or District or County Councillors should be on the local committees, 52125.—District Councillors were debarred if they were shop-keepers, 52127-8.—No man knew the local needs and means better than the shop-keeper, 52125, 52132-3.—And it was to his interest to promote the prosperity of the people, 52125, 52136-7.—If a shop-keeper were an honest man, he knew who most deserved a grant, 52133, 52140.—And if he were likely to be unduly influenced by considerations of his own advantage, he might be prevented from obtaining any profit on money expended by the committee in the same manner as poor-law guardians at present, 52133A, 52135.—Legislation must be arranged for the dishonest as well as the honest, 52141.—A grant from a Parish Committee was allocated to a certain work, and the money so obtained could not be employed in paying the shop-keeper, 52142, 52148.—The work was done under the inspection of the supervisor, and according to specifications, 52142.—But applicants for grants were selected to qualify for competition work for money grants, 52144-5.—And the shopkeeper might favour his own customer in the selection, 52147, 52150.—And grants from the Parish Committees for improvements which the tenant would otherwise have paid for himself might set free an otherwise unattainable sum for the payment of the shopkeeper, 52148-9.—The shopkeeper would always be influenced and steadied by other members of the committee, 52138.—Though these would not always know his relations with his customers, 52139.—The man selected would get a grant for provision of materials, and the shopkeeper might have a collusive interest in where he got his materials, 52151-2.—The shopkeeper who was on the Parish Committee might be debarred from supplying materials paid for by grants, 52153-5.—Witness thought this would not be got over by collusion, as at East Ham, 52156-7.—It might be good to try and interest the small man in his neighbours if it were possible to bring them together, and get rid of their mutual suspicion, but those qualities of the poor prevented the formation of committees, 52135, 52158.—If some of the shopkeepers who were members of the District Council were eligible for the Parish Committees, they would try and cultivate the interest of the small holder in his neighbour, 52158.—Witness was himself a shopkeeper, 52130.—Had no licence, 52131.—And was a farmer in a small way, 52129.

EFFECT OF THE LACE SCHOOLS ON EMIGRATION.

The lace schools established by the Board had done good work, and witness thought great benefit would accrue from the establishment of permanent schools at Oughterard, Killannin, Cornamona, Clonbur, Cloughbrock, Maam, Leenane, Shanaforabane, or similar places, 52160.—Some girls were keeping house for relatives and earning a pound a week at lace-making besides; there should be lace schools wherever a class of thirty or forty girls could be collected, 52163.—Witness remembered that a year or two ago it was not easy to sell lace, 52165.—And that all the schools had to be shut down for a time, 52166.—The number of schools established must bear some relation to the demand for lace, 52164, 52167.—Witness used lace as an example, and advocated schools for varied cottage industries, 52166-8.—Witness thought schools and money earned by cottage industries discouraged emigration, 52170-2.—Some girls working at cottage industries earned more than emigrants saved while in America, 52169.—And lived more comfortably at home than they would in America, 52172.—Witness's experience of this did not extend beyond Connemara, 52173-4.

POTATO SPRAYING.

The Department of Agriculture had done good where they had assisted the people in getting seed oats, seed potatoes, spraying machines, and spraying material at cost price, but should extend their operations to the whole union, as the agricultural instructors who went round could only supply these things to persons who paid cash down, and this debarred the most necessitous from obtaining them, 52174.—Payment might be deferred, as in the distribution of seed potatoes by the unions, 52175.—Witness thought it would be better if the whole of this work were undertaken by Local Parish Committees, 52176-7.—Witness had not met with more than one person in ten who disbelieved in spraying, 52178.—But some persons could not, or would not, spray unless they could obtain the materials on credit, 52179-80.—Also some persons put on the spraying material with a brush, which was better than nothing, but not nearly so effective, 52181-3.—It was a waste of good material, 52814.—There was now a guarantee with every parcel of spraying material; the stuff given away by the Agricultural Instructor was genuine, and a heavy penalty was incurred if the material, on analysis, was found to be bad, 52185.—There was a new Act to this effect, under which Government undertook inspection of materials, 52187.—Witness was nearly certain that this Act applied to Ireland, and had known samples sent away for analysis, 52187.—The Government inspectors were not numerous enough to penetrate everywhere, and it would be better that there should be a general inspection of materials offered for sale, 52192.—The inspectors of the Department now took samples, and the Department or the Public Analyst would examine it free of charge; some of the poor holders knew that they could prosecute if supplied with bad materials, 52191.—Shopkeepers sometimes kept spraying machines, and lent them to their customers, 52188.—But though a good system, it was difficult to induce shopkeepers to adopt it, 52189.—And there was a danger that it would not reach the poorest people, since a shopkeeper would prefer to give it to his best customer, 52190.—If the material were bad it was not the fault of the trader, who did not know how to mix it himself, 52192.—Local shopkeepers at one time made the mixture, but it was now sold cheaper by the Department's officers, who got it carriage paid, and no one came to the shopkeeper but those who had not ordered in time, or were unable to pay, 52198.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS, AND MIGRATION OF GROUPS OF CONGESTS.

Witness thought that the proper way to meet the question of congestion was by the compulsory purchase, by the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, of the whole of Connaught, 52195, 52200.—The land should be distributed first to persons living near the rich grazing farms, 52195, 52201.—Who had at present uneconomic holdings, 52202.—Relieving congestion and making existing holdings economic before considering farmers' sons and other people, 52203-4.—The people along the seashore were capable of migration, being exceedingly hardy and industrious, 52025, 52209.—They now could make a living out of a piece of land, when one was obtainable, and would not be long in acquiring farming experience, 52206.—It would not take generations to teach them farming; if they were migrated to Roscommon they would learn quickly, 52208.—And would grow when there the same crops in the same way as at present, but on a larger scale, and more profitably, because on better land, 52210-2.—Agricultural instructors should be sent with migrants to teach them modern methods, and they would soon learn there, 52213, 52231.—Houses should be built for migrants, 52215.—And they should be supplied with stock by means of cheap loans, 52215-7.—The migrants might be able to raise a little capital themselves, 52218.—And their friends in America might, in some cases, provide them with the little capital necessary to settle them in grazing farms in Galway or Roscommon, 52219-22.—Nearly all tenants in the union had a little stock, with the exception of those along the seacoast, at Rossmuck and Lettermore, where they had neither cows or sheep, 52223.—In these districts the children, after they were weaned, had no milk but drank black tea, 52224, 52225.—The people there in some cases had no milk, and did not eat meat once in five years, 52226.—Migrants to the same district should all come from the same neighbourhood, 52195-6, 52228-9.—As they would protect each other and be company for each other, 52197-8.—They would not quarrel with their earlier settled neighbours, as there would be plenty of land, 52196.—And by degrees they would mix with the other people and settle down, 52196.—These migrants should be relatives and connections, or at all events, neighbours, in groups of forty, fifty, or one hundred families, 52195, 52229.—But they should be selected, those being chosen who were strong to labour, 52232-4.—They should not only be the strongest for labour, but the most industrious of the congests, 52235.—A whole district should not be cleared by migrating its inhabitants, 52230-1.—Migration must be carried out on a broad basis, for the land in Oughterard Union was quite inadequate to provide anything like an economic holding to each family under any system of re-adjustment; if the union were divided into £10 holdings, and a holding given to each family, more than half the population, 1,680 families, or 8,400 persons must be removed, which witness considered difficult and undesirable, as the families would be unwilling to migrate, and their reception would be unfavourable; therefore witness would resort to a wholesale migration of groups, 52194-5.

FISHING INDUSTRY—SEA FISHERIES.

By the development of the fishing industry, the condition of the poor would be materially improved—a pier should be built at Trabone, where the landing place was both dangerous and comparatively useless; the people of Trabone were hardy and persistent fishermen, dependent to a great extent on fishing for their subsistence, and handicapped by want of facilities easily afforded by the Congested Districts Board; a pier should be erected at Lettermullen, and a pier and curing station at Kiggaul Bay, when the islanders of Gorumna and Lettermullen would fish in good weather, and attend to their farms when the weather was rough; in Gorumna, Crumpaun, and Lettermullen the fishing would, with very little assistance, develop itself, 52235.—The Board had lost money in building boats and trying to make a fishery in this district, but the loss was owing to the fishermen being alleged to go to Arran and Roundstone, and when the weather was rough remaining there for a week or two at an expense exceeding their earnings; this would be obviated if piers were constructed for them, 52235-6.—The Board should supply five modern fishing boats, and two competent instructors to send out with them to teach the most approved methods of fishing, curing, net-mending, &c.; the boats could be employed all the year round with the spring mackerel fishing, summer and autumn herring fishing, and conger fishing in winter, 52235.—If there were good harbour accommodation the men would turn out steady and good fishermen, 52239.—Witness did not wish them to live entirely on fishing, as they did not wish to leave their farms, 52239-41.—To succeed in fishing they must be fishermen, and follow the fish wherever they went, 52240, 52242.—In time these men would get into the way of following the fish, 52243.—Witness aimed at the initial process, 52244.—If the fishermen were said to have given up fishing for turf-cutting there was none in Lettermore, and the turf at Gorumna was nearly exhausted, 52237.—The turf by the seaside would employ only a few, 52238.

INLAND FISHERIES.

The Board should develop the fisheries in Lough Corrib; the fishery, its outlets, and its tributaries should be taken over by the Board of Agriculture (if necessary compulsorily); the owner, Mr. Halkett, should be expropriated, as he was not treating the fishery fairly by holding the fish back at Galway; a hatchery for white trout should be established, and the lake thrown open for free fishing, with a nominal fee to defray working expenses; in this way, Lough Corrib would attract thousands of anglers, and would become in a few years the best free fishing in Europe; thousands of boatmen, car-drivers, and fishermen would be employed; hotel accommodation occupied, and money put into circulation in the district which was now spent elsewhere, 52273.—Witness considered the preservation and increase of game and fish as

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very important in the national interests of Ireland, 52274-5, 52278.—The Congested Districts Board gave a small grant of perhaps £20 to improve Lough Corrib, with the result that about £10,000 was spent in the vicinity last year by tourists, 52276.—It was almost as much a duty of the Board to improve inland as sea fisheries, 52278.—And if the Department of Agriculture were to develop the fishing in Lough Corrib, it might bring thousands of pounds into the neighbourhood, 52278.

HORSE-BREEDING AND CATTLE.

The Board had improved the breeds of cattle in the union, but had done irreparable harm to the breed of Connemara ponies by the introduction of worthless hackney stallions, 52160-1.—The Department of Agriculture should take immediate action to preserve and revive that valuable breed of ponies, which would otherwise become extinct, 52160-3.

MINES AND MINERALS.

The union was very rich in minerals, particularly the division of Curr, Letterfoe, Crumpaun, Cong, and Kilcummin, and Oughterard, and under the care of Government and with modern machinery and appliances, these might be worked so as to give employment to thousands of persons; the Board, after acquiring these estates, should hand them over to the Department of Agriculture, which should be compelled to test them, the profits on minerals going to the reduction of premiums on the estate, 52244.—When an estate was sold now, the mineral rights were reserved to the Land Commission, 52245.—A mine was being tested near to Maam, where witness lived, 52118, 52245.—This was being done by prospectors under a Mr. Bacon; it was said to be rich in lead and silver, and there were other mines in the county, 52246.

AFFORESTATION.

In the union were thousands of acres of bog and worthless mountain land, which would in time become profitable, if planted with timber; profits in this case also should go to reduce premiums, 52246.

ROADS—MAUMEEN-ROAD AND DUNMANUS PASS AND THE CLOOSH-ROAD.

The Board should without delay finish the roads and bridges, which were useless in their present state, and would be of benefit to populous centres if finished, besides giving much-needed employment in their construction; the Maumeen-road, between Maam and Recess, was unfinished, and would mean a short cut of eight miles to persons going from Mayo to Clifden, Roundstone, Cashel, Carna, &c., and consequently improve the fairs and markets in that district, as the chief part of the store cattle reared in Connemara was bought by farmers from Mayo, 52246.—This was a new road begun by the Board and the Clifden District Council, 52246.—Each of which contributed £300 during the last two years, 52253, 52248-9.—It was now abandoned, 52250-1.—No undertaking to finish it was given by the Council or any other body, 52252.—About a third of the road was built, 52256.—That was two miles on the Recess side, 52246, 52248.—The part from Curr to Derryveetamaama was unfinished, 52246.—And most of the unfinished part was in Oughterard Union, and the remainder in Clifden Union; neither union would finish it without further assistance from the Board, because the rates were high, 52252.—The poor-rate was 3*s.* 2*d.* on land, 52258-9. —And 5*s.* or 5*s.* 4*d.* on buildings, 52260.—Witness thought 3*s.* 2*d.* on land very high, 52261-2.—It was a little higher last year, but never before since the Act of 1898, 52263.—The second road which ought to be finished was Dunmanus Pass, between the parishes of Rossmuck, Carraroe, and Spiddal, 52264.—This road involved a bridge over the estuary, 52264-5.—Which would save going round many hours by Scrule; the road had been brought by the Board to the estuary, but it was useless until the bridge was built, when it would be of enormous advantage to persons attending fairs and markets, and to priests and doctors, and would save much pain and suffering, 52264.—The Cloosh-road was begun before witness's time, and never finished; it was begun for relief purposes, and about three or four miles in the centre were left unfinished, while the ends from Oughterard at one end, and Costello at the other, were finished to within three or four miles of Leenane, 52265-6.—Witness knew about the roads in the Leenane district; there was an old road from Leenane to Recess, which would considerably shorten the distance, 52271-2.—Ballinakill was in Clifden Union, as also were Letterfrack and Barnanockhaun, 52268-70.—The £300 given by the Board towards the Maumeen-road, 52249, 52253, was not wasted, as it served people at the foot of the hill, 52258-9.—Considerable period at the work, 52300.—The County Council did not differ much from one three year period to another, 52298.—And if a man was nominated from outside the Council by one County Council its successor would be likely to nominate him again, unless he were incompetent, 52299.—There would not be much danger of want of continuity of policy from this source, 52284.—It was necessary to have men acquainted with the various localities, 52282, and the tendency for local representatives to lay too much stress on local needs, and neglect broad issues would be balanced by other members of the Board, 52281.—A local representative could not domineer over the Board, or act without the consent of the majority, 52283.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness thought the Board was not representative enough, but that it should include representatives of counties, at least one representative from every congested county appointed by the County Council, 52279.—These representatives should be elected for three years, the same term as the County Council, 52280, 52285.—If he were superseded just as he began to learn his work, the plan would not tend to efficiency, but three years was a good time, and experienced members of the Board would give the county representative assistance, 52287.—The present members would have more experience, 52288.—Witness would have no objection to the county representative retaining his position for six years, so that if he lost his seat on the Council he might remain a member, 52289.—And a Council might nominate and elect a member from outside its own body, 52290, 52292.—The man thus sent by the County Council from outside should only sit for three years, as he could be returned again if competent, 52284, 52294.—His competency would not be necessarily judged by the amount of money he obtained for his district, 52295-7.—He would be judged by how he discharged his duties, 52295.—The other members of the Board would not allow him to do jobs, 52297.—There was an advantage in leaving a man for a considerable period at the work, 52299.

FLATLEY, Rev. JOHN.

IMPROVEMENTS BY THE BOARD.

Witness now resided in Clare Island, but had been for many years in the Leenane district, and had served in nine parishes along the coast in the diocese of Tuam, from Spiddal to Achill, 52302.—He had been a priest thirty-seven years, and all that time had worked in congested districts, 52384.—Witness would give evidence as to the improvement of the people during his knowledge of them, much of this being due to the action of the Congested Districts Board; the Board would have justified its existence if it had done no more than its work in Arran; the Board had improved fishing, live stock, cottage industries, and had benefited the people through its Parish Committees, and had done many useful engineering works, 52302.

GALLOWAY CATTLE.

The introduction of Galloway cattle by the Board had been of great benefit, the stock being quickly saleable at a good price, 52306.

LACE-MAKING, CARPET-MAKING, SEWING, &c.

The lace-making classes had been a success, the girls in one valley having earned £1,008 in six months; this was between Leenane and Partry, in the Maamtrasna district; witness had seen the accounts of the lace school at Killiteen, and was astonished at the amount of money earned; few girls would now leave that valley to go to America, or to go to service (though servants were abundant ten or fifteen years previously), as they were now profitably employed, 52306-7.—Witness was aware of the danger of teaching all the girls the same industry, especially if it were one dependent on fashion, and thought the industry should be varied, as at Gorumna Island and Carraroe, where there was carpet-making and curtain-making, 52307.—Mrs. Wanklyn, a lady living in the district, had suggested the teaching of fine sewing and making of underclothing in some districts instead of lace; this was not sufficiently fine as supplied in Ireland, and was got from Paris; witness suggested that the Board should, in some places, substitute this for lace-making, 52307-11, 52313.—Mr. Walker was quite competent to deal with these matters, 52312.

WEAVING.

Weaving was a very useful industry in the district, giving a good deal of employment; it was started by Lady Aberdeen, twenty years previously, and managed by Mr. M'Keown; this employed persons in spinning and carding, as well as weaving, 52347.—The Board had done a good deal in sending instructors to teach people how to weave, and improving the patterns, and they also sent an instructor in dyeing, 52348, 52360.—Mr. M'Keown gave a satisfactory price for the weft and warp brought in, 52349.—It would be useful to have a trade-mark for the tweed, 52351-2.—Since the Leenane tweed was of good quality and a good pattern, and a great deal was sold, 52352.—The demand and the price would be improved by the employment of a trade-mark, 52353.—The wool was chiefly spun in the cottages, but some of it in the hotel yard, 52350.—The weavers worked at present at looms in their own houses, 52354-5.—This worked very well, as the weavers were agriculturists also, and if the looms were all together, and away from their homes, they would have to spend the whole day weaving, 52363.—But in places like Glamagimlagh, it would be an advantage if the Board built a shed which would hold five or six looms; the looms now almost filled the houses, 52365-6.—There was no advantage in having one loom-shed for the whole parish, 52366.—The looms now used were an improvement on the looms used when witness was a boy, 52356, 52358.—Which was propelled directly by the hand, whereas in the present ones the shuttle was propelled by a string, 52357-8.—The improvement in looms was not due to the Board, 52360.—Lady Dudley had helped some men to get better looms, 52359.—An instructress had been sent down to teach dyeing, and witness wished to send the boys from the fifth and sixth classes at school every day for an hour's instruction; he applied to the National Board for permission, 52360.—Which came when the instructor had left the neighbourhood for three weeks, 52360-1.—Witness let the boys go without permission; he thought it reasonable to let the boys go for this purpose, or the girls for cooking and laundry classes, 52362.

COOKERY.

Mr. Walker sent down an instructress in cookery under the Board who was four months at Cornamona, and was now spending four months at Clonbur; she had a good class of girls when she was in the Leenane district; in Clonbur the priest was working hard to interest the girls in it, as Father Cullen had done at Cornamona, 52327.—The girls benefited by the instruction, 52327.—The girls attending the class could do well at the end of the course, 52339.—The instructress was a qualified instructress in domestic science, 52335.—She was in the district from December to April, 52327, 52337, 52344.—She lived in the neighbourhood and taught in the Board's house near the chapel, 52337, 52335.—She cooked vegetables in the presence of the girls, which they ate, 52342-3.—Witness had had only two or three months to see the result of the instruction, and the vegetables had been growing since then, 52346.—But he had no doubt that now the produce was coming in, the lectures would no doubt show the girls how to cook the vegetables properly, 52328, 52340.—The girls had taken an interest in plain vegetable cookery, 52328.—The house used by the Board for classes was built by the help of Board for a lace school, and was very useful; it was arranged for by Mr. Long, who was in the district when he was Chief Secretary, and the Board had granted £200 for the house, 52347.

GARDENING.

Witness thought the people should be taught how to cultivate the common kinds of garden vegetables, with the object of varying their food, depending on something less precarious than the potato, and presenting their contracting debts to the shopkeeper; witness in this and other parishes had collected a small fund and had distributed parcels of vegetable seeds to 150 tenants out of the 240 householders in his district, 52326.—He had six kinds of vegetables, 52326, 52332.—Parsnips, carrots, onions, Swede turnips, and summer and winter cabbage; after Mass on Sundays he lectured with blackboard diagrams at the National school on the natural history of these seeds, and the mode of cultivating them, and on the advantages of variety in food; they took little interest the first year, but more the second and a great deal the third; witness also cultivated his own gardens in a way possible to any poor man, 53326.—This was as an exhibition plot, 52326, 52331.—And people took much interest in observing his gardens; this year he had obtained a teacher from the Department of Agriculture, who lectured at the National schools, and also went from village to village teaching; this lecturer went from holding to holding with the village boys, inspecting the vegetables as they went home; witness distributed the seeds, and the boys sowed them, 52326.—The instructor brought people to witness's garden, and to the farms of those who had had the seeds, 52333.—In this way witness tried to be a practical instructor in agriculture, 52334.—Witness thought that if this method were more general people would take an interest in vegetable culture, 52326.—And having once acquired the taste would continue to grow them, 52338-9.—Witness had distributed seeds for two years, 52331.—The advice of witness and the instructress in cookery had been taken as to attending to the seeds and vegetable plots, and witness thought that soon the people would sow vegetable seeds even if they were not obtained gratis, 52340.

IMPROVEMENTS BY THE BOARD.

The Board had done well in its engineering works as, for example, the pier at Arran, and the bridges leading to the islands of Gorumna and Lettermore, which were a great benefit to the people, 52313.—The Board had found Arran in an impoverished condition and had raised the islands to comparative wealth by the improvement of the fishing industry, 52304.—Witness used to help Mr. Micks and Mr. Green, 52305.—So far as his experience went, the Board had done well in Achill and Arran, and elsewhere, 52306.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

On Clare island witness intended to forward the work of the Parish Committees, but in Spiddal and the district he had not worked with them, thinking that their energies were misapplied to districts not yet ready for such work; the land was not yet striped, 52302.—It was in rundale, so that outhouses and stables if built would be placed too near the dwelling-houses, or close on land belonging to other tenants, 52302-3.—So, until the rundale was abolished, and the land re-striped, the work of providing holdings and removing manure heaps could not proceed; it was objectionable to build stables and outhouses as a continuation to dwelling-houses which was done by the Board in Clare Island when they had not much experience; this had been avoided by the Board in other localities; in Clare Island also the houses were thatched, which was uneconomical, as the straw could have been put to more profitable use; elsewhere the Board had used slates or corrugated iron for roofs, 50234.

SANITARY MATTERS.

When witness was stationed at Spiddal, he attended within six months sixty cases of typhus fever, and himself superintended their removal to Galway hospital; the sanitary conditions round Spiddal were shocking; witness succeeded in getting the Board to send down a committee of inspectors to consider about buying some estates between Spiddal and Costello Bridge, 52366.—He had met with much opposition to this, and thought it well to inquire whence the opposition came; Father O'Hara had informed witness that neither he nor Lord Shaftesbury could go to Spiddal for some time, and that people there were anxious to defer the inspection, 52366.—The land had not been bought, and the fever remained rampant; it was impossible to improve the sanitation without purchasing the estates, as the people were huddled together on the land, 52368.—There was no place in Ireland where sanitation was worse than at Spiddal, 52637.

LADY DUDLEY'S NURSING SCHEME.

Lady Dudley's nursing scheme was one of the best charities in Ireland, and had done excellent work; witness had had experience of Nurse Cusack's work in Spiddal, 52391.—The nurses worked very hard, and the people everywhere spoke in the highest terms of their kindness, and the improvement they had effected in the condition of the people, 52392.

LOCAL SHOWS.

Local shows should be extended to congested districts, but had one drawback, they were not worked honestly, 52392.—They were started by one or two persons who wished to benefit by the funds, 52395.—And it took nine or ten honest men on the committee all their time to watch the rogues, 52392.—One rogue would spoil the whole of it, 52394.—Witness had had great opposition to his suggestion that cottage industries should be awarded a prize, 52395.—Because this prize was taken away from a subject in which dishonest committee men had taken £11 in prizes without paying their entrance fees at the previous show; one of these men had consequently reduced his subscription by half, and deferred the payment of it; he had made £7 that year; the show had been started as a swindle, and was suppressed with the goodwill of all honest men, 52397.

IMPROPER TURF-CUTTING.

In Clare Island a bad practice prevailed of cutting what was known as "scraw sods" instead of turf, and thereby destroying good pasture, as had been done in Gorumna and Carraroe, where acres of pasture had been cut away, leaving the bare rock; the practice had arisen in Clare Island on account of the peat-bog being difficult of access, as no road had been made to it; the practice could be stopped by the action of the Board, and no steps could be too rigorous, 52368.—The people would themselves help to make the road, 52369.—Rynvale was not in this parish, 52370.

BALLINAKILL.

The people here are very poor; witness had reported on their condition to Sir Horace Plunkett when the Board was first established, expressing a fear that fisheries and agriculture would not go well together; subsequent experience in Arran had shown witness that men could do a good deal of both, but fisheries there were in their initial stage, and would be developed till the men became fishermen solely, and would follow the fish instead of waiting for them; much of the land of Ballinakill was in the hands of graziers, and this should be bought as a whole by the Board or Commissioners, and distributed among the congests; under no circumstances should direct sales be made to the tenants; an attempt at this was made two years before, and witness had opposed it strongly, 52371.

THE LUCAN AND KING ESTATE—ILL-ADVISED ACTION OF THE BOARD.

Witness thought the Board had been unwise in their dealings with the Lucan and King Estate, on the north side of Killary inlet, 52313-4.—Though it was the fault not of the Board itself but of its officials; the Board had purchased 6,000 acres of land for the purpose of relieving congestion, 52313-4.—In the village of Glanaghgimlagh, where fifty or fifty-five tenants occupied land valued at £42 5s., and where the congestion was so great that the King and Queen had been taken to see it; these 6,000 acres, if divided among the tenants, would have given them 100 to 120 acres each, 52313.—But the Board sold 580 acres of the best grazing land to a grazier, a Mr. Joyce, 52314-5.—Who already held fourteen large farms in Galway and Mayo, 52314, 52316.—This land should have been kept to relieve congestion, 52313-5.—Mr. Joyce (the grazier) had deceived the officials of the Board, and had also told the bishop that he had only two farms instead of fourteen; and it was said that he influenced the bishop by stating also that he was about to make his son a priest and his daughters nuns; the bishop had written asking witness to withdraw his opposition to Joyce, 52316.—Witness was told by Mr. Vereker, the land inspector of the Board, that counsel's opinion had been taken by the Board as to whether they could withdraw from their agreement with Joyce, which they had entered into in consequence of misrepresentation; the opinion of counsel was that the Board could not withdraw, and the inspector recommended witness to give up his opposition; witness then wrote to the Board offering to supply them with evidence which would warrant them in a withdrawal, but his offer was refused, 52317.—Witness thought it was an evidence of bad faith in some quarter, that the agent who arranged the sale had orders to maintain secrecy until the matter was carried through, 52315-6.—And this official begged witness to do his utmost to upset the arrangement; the official had also informed his superiors that he would not again act in this manner, 52316.—Mr. Joyce also held a narrow strip of land between the land in question and the sea, between Bundorrha and Letterass, 52319.—Bundorrha was not scheduled, being almost entirely uninhabited, but was as poor as any village in Connemara or Mayo; this was an instance of the curious working of the Congested Districts Act, 52320.—This strip of land should have been acquired and distributed in the same way as some of the land further up the harbour, 52319, 52324.—Since seaweed could be obtained on the shore, 52319, 52324.—Some of the houses of tenants who had left the upper reaches could have been built there, and some outside it. 52325.—Witness did not know whether the Board had made any attempt to purchase this strip, 52326.—It was an instance where compulsory purchase would have been useful, 52319, 52325.—With regard to the land actually distributed to congests from Glanaghgimlagh, too much was given to each tenant, the average being between 350 and 400 acres, which was so much that they were unable to stock the land, and had let some of it as grazing to Mr. Joyce; tenants had applied for a loan to enable them to stock the lands, but the first application for £30 was refused; then £10 each was granted to them, and now, witness believed, £30 was lent to one, if not to each of them; if each tenant had had 150 or 100 acres, 52317.—And there would have been 100 acres each for sheep grazing, which could have been held in commonage, 52317, 52319.—And would have made them independent, but instead of this the Board had only relieved six tenants from Glanaghgimlagh; Mr. Edmonds was of opinion that there was not sufficient tillage to supply all the congests from Glanaghgimlagh, but witness thought that there was sufficient land suitable for tilling, 52317.—The land given to Mr. Joyce was at an angle of 45 degrees, and was suited to grazing, though not for building land; it should have been given as common grazing to the tenants, 52317-8.

CAUSES OF POVERTY—IGNORANCE; RELIANCE ON AGRICULTURE; AND THE CREDIT SYSTEM.

Witness attributed poverty in this district to the reliance of the people on agriculture alone as a

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means of support; and to agriculture being undertaken under unfavourable conditions; the people were not sufficiently well instructed in agricultural matters, and if they had land would also require the services of agricultural instructors; the poor had acquired a habit of living on credit and paying exorbitant prices for goods, 52371.—As an example of overcharge, witness was asked to use for the Mass in a certain district vegetable candles sold at 3*s*. 4*d*. a pound which he had been informed by Messrs. Hayes and Finch, of Dublin, could be sold at a good profit for 2*s*. per lb.; this illegitimate profit of 1*s*. 4*d*. per lb. was an indication of the exorbitant prices paid by the poor to gombeen men, 52372.—The credit system also led to the poor man becoming the slave of the shopkeeper in political and local government matters, which resulted in the shopkeepers' nominees being elected to all public positions to the grave injury of the public, 52371.

The Credit System and Shopkeeper Magistrates.

Witness thought the credit system led to the appointment of unsuitable magistrates, who favoured their customers when upon the bench, and coached witnesses as to their evidence, and allowed themselves to be treated with whiskey by litigants; and in some cases had put pressure upon medical witnesses; the advantage of being a magistrate was recognised by shopkeepers, who canvassed for the position; it was well known that the fact of being a magistrate gave a man an advantage over his trade rivals, 52371.

Truck.

Witness believed he was the means of having the Truck Act extended to Ireland in 1896; he believed it was not in operation previously, 52376.—And the origin of many shops in Connemara and Mayo was the payment of his workmen by a contractor entirely in truck, 52375.—No man in the building trade could take a contract at so low a price as the man who looked to making his profit not out of the work, but out of truck, 52376.

Barter.

The shopkeeper often bartered sugar, soap, tea, and other commodities against agricultural produce of poor holders without any money price being mentioned, or any settled rate of exchange being maintained, 52375, 52377-9.—And sometimes in the same way got their cattle, pigs, and small holdings, 52374.—Witness handed in a paper giving instances of shopkeepers seizing lands for debt, 52374, 52388-91.—And was prepared to give specific cases if necessary.

Remedy for Credit System.

It was the struggling poor who suffered from the credit system, 52385.—And improving the position of the small holder would diminish the danger of inflated credit, 52382.—Men who were better off were more wary, and did not buy goods on credit to so large an extent, which tended to economy, 52387.—If they could have ready cash they would live more cheaply, 52387.—Shopkeepers did not actually lend money to customers, 52381.

Disturbances.

Witness considered it surprising that the country was so peaceable, considering the injustice of many decisions of magistrates' courts, 52371.

EDMONDS, Mr. LESLIE.

See also p. 600.

Allotment of Land on the Lucan and King Estates—Complaints, &c.

Witness, acting under Mr. Doran, had been mainly responsible for reorganising the Lucan and King Estates, 52398-9.—He had been on the spot, and carried out the scheme, 52400.—Witness was aware of Father Flatley's statement that there had been dissatisfaction as to the distribution of the Lucan and King estates owing to the grant of a large slice of land to a grazier who was formerly a tenant, 52401-2.—Tobias Joyce and Thomas Francis Joyce were in possession of a tract of land of 3,500 acres as joint tenants, 52403.—The Congested Districts Board bought the land, and had power to terminate these tenancies, and served the tenants with notice to quit, 52403, 52407-8.—Tobias Joyce lived on the land, 52403.—He consented to take a farm in Tuam in exchange for his interest, 52403, 52414.—This he was glad to do, wishing to educate his children at Tuam, 52411.—He was given 180 to 200 statute acres, 52412.—On a large property the Board had bought, and on which it had enlarged all the small holdings; the house, which was too good to pull down, was left with a residue of land, 52413.—But Thomas Francis Joyce refused to move in any case, saying that he would hold out as long as the law permitted of him, and would compel the Board to evict both him and his brother, and witness had been informed by the Board's solicitor that he was to deal with the tenants jointly; witness reported to Mr. Doran, who would put all the facts before the Board, which was anxious to settle the matter at once, without legal expenses, 52403, 52409.—Thomas F. Joyce could have resisted the notice, and the Board, even if successful, would have had to pay three years' rent as compensation, and also compensation for improvements which might be of no advantage to the Board, 52409-10.—There was a good house on the estate for which some use had to be found, 52403, 52409.—Thomas F. Joyce paid £18 for the 581 acres of land and the house, 52417.—Out of the £80, which was the rent for the whole estate, 52403, 52417.—A larger rent, relatively, than any other portion of the estate, 52415.—Witness thought his arrangement a good way out of the difficulty, 52416.—And now, if it were to be done again, he knew of no better way, unless the land along the sea could be acquired compulsorily, 52424.—In which case he would have adopted Father Flatley's suggestion, 52425.—But as things were, he carried out his instructions and treated T. F. Joyce with fairness; he might have charged him more if he had known then that F. F. Joyce was willing to pay anything for the land, 52415.—Tobias Joyce's land would have been no use without the strip of land owned by T. F. Joyce, 52414.—Which was a narrow strip along the bog of about 150 acres, cutting off the rest of the estate on the mountain from the sea, 52403.—And if only Tobias Joyce's land had been taken there would have been too much grazing land in proportion to the tillage, which was very limited, 52403, 52414.—There was only about fifty acres of tillage out of the 3,000 acres; this was valued at 5*s*. an acre, 52404.—The fifty acres were the only tillage lands available for the migrants, and were situated along the shore, 52405.—This was only enough for seven or eight holdings, 52403.—Mr. Doran at first thought there was enough for eight tenants, and after going into the matter eight were put on; this number the tenants had agreed to when consulted, 52419.—The land was valued by a skilled valuer, constantly employed by the Board, and witness prepared a map of the estate; Mr. Doran went over the maps and valuations, 52420.—Each holder had some tillage in amounts varying from five to eleven acres, 52421, 52432.—Witness thought Father Flatley was right in saying that the tenants had holdings larger than they could stock; they would gradually get stock, and in the meantime it was a good thing they should take in grazing if they were paid for it; witness had advised them not to burden themselves with loans at the outset when they were paying annuities larger than those to which they had been accustomed, but loans had not been refused when they were asked for; he had advised them to stock the land gradually, 52422.—Migrants generally had a hard struggle for the first two years, and had to take in grazing, but soon did better, 52423.

Compulsory Powers.

If the Board had had compulsory powers, it could not have made a much better settlement in this case, as not more than four additional holdings could have been put on the land bought by Thomas F. Joyce, 52427.—If the land by the sea could have been acquired compulsorily, witness would have

EDMONDS, Mr. LESLIE—*continued.*

waited and would not have sold the 500 or 600 acres to Mr. Joyce, 52429.—It could have been used as commonage for the holders on the lands bought compulsorily, 52427-8, 52430.—It would not have been too large a proportion of mountain land to arable land, the present holders having from 250 to 375 acres for their share, and from six to eleven statute acres of tillage, 52431-2.—This would have been less than the proportion obtaining now, 52434.—It would have gone to four extra tenants, giving them 150 acres each, or into the common lot, 52433.—The object of the Board had been to relieve congestion; there were fifty-one congests, 52435.—And if all conceivable powers had been available, the effect would have been to acquire hundreds of acres to relieve eight congests, 52436.—The land was very bad, 52437.—If they had compulsory powers they could still acquire the 500 acres sold to Mr. Joyce, 52427.—Glanagimlagh must wait now till the Board had more land, 52432.—Land not far away could be found easily if the Board had compulsory powers, 52439-40.—Witness could not say that compulsory powers were necessary, 52441.—He had nothing to do with buying land, 52442.—But if the Board owned the land it could make better arrangements however the land were acquired, 52444.

JOYCE, Mr. MICHAEL.

Acreage, Valuation, and Population of Coshkillery Division of Clifden Union.

Coshkillery Division had an area of 15,079 acres, the valuation of which was £469, with a population of 465. There were seventy-six tenants, thirty-seven of whom were valued under £2; seventeen under £4; sixteen under £10; two under £15; three under £25; one under £40. Nine tenants, occupying the principal parts of the land, were non-resident, 52448-9, 52452-53, 52460-1.

Land available for Enlargement of Holdings, &c.

Small holdings should be made economic and greatly enlarged by the acquisition of grass lands, *e.g.*, those on the road to the Coshkillery division; there ought to be enough land in the division available for this purpose; the chief landowners were Colonel Thompson and the Duke of Manchester, while Lord Ardilaun had some property; the land now carried sheep; at one time it had been let out on the eleven months' system; part of it, on the north-west side by the sea, to the back of Kylemore Castle, might be made suitable for tillage if money were expended; Letterfrack was not in that division, 52446-56, 52462-3.

Grants for Reclamation of Land from Parish Committees Advocated.

Granted the enlargement of their holdings by the acquisition of new land, tenants would probably need financial help for reclamation; a Parish Committee might be established which would recommend the people deserving of land and money; the present Parish Committee only existed to help in the building of out-houses, farm-buildings, and soforth, 52464-7.—The amount of money needed to start a tenant would depend on the size of his holding; probably £50 would mean a good deal to him, but for a large holding he would require £100, which should be made payable over several years. It was, however, chiefly the poorer man who ought to be helped, 52468-70.—There might be agricultural banks in Carna or Roundstone, but there were none convenient for Clifden, and though it might answer to get loans from such places, the Parish Committee would get very good security, 52478-9.

Land no longer Let in Con-acre owing to decrease of Population.

Though they made the most of what little they had, the people could scarcely till their own land, and con-acre was not needed, 52483.—Owing to the great decrease of population of the town the class of labourers who had once gone in for con-acre were no longer there, 52483.—Witness could not speak for the country, but no land was let in con-acre in the neighbourhood of the town, 52484.

No Employment in the Town.

There were few—practically no—labourers in the town now, as nearly all the lands in the neighbourhood were grass, and there were no industries, 52485-7.

Accommodation Land held by Witness.

Witness was a shopkeeper (without a spirit license), but had a bit of accommodation land near the town of between 11 and 12 English acres, on part of which he kept a few cattle, while the rest he let for grazing; that seemed to pay better, for it was hard to get labour, and he had no time to look after the land himself, 52457-9, 52471-7.

KELLY, Rev. JAMES.

Congestion in Connaught in spite of Decreasing Population.

Connaught still suffered from Cromwellism and its after effects, viz., a bad system of land tenure. In spite of the appointment of this Commission two years ago, in spite of the sixteen years' work of the Congested Districts Board in Connemara and elsewhere, the fringe of the economic problem had not as yet been touched; about one-third of the 190,000 acres in Clifden Union were held by ninety graziers, while the valuation per head was only £1 0*s.* 1⅜*d.*; population was decreasing, the able-bodied emigrating, the weak and sickly remaining, but there was still congestion owing to this undue occupation of land by a few persons, 52489-93, 52497, 52499.

The Eleven Months' Grazing System the chief cause of Congestion.

The system of eleven months grazing, especially when non-residential, was the chief cause of congestion; throughout Connaught this system aggravated the problem socially and politically; there was expert evidence as to the relative value of grass and tillage, and everyone would agree that the graziers were an inveterate class, whose existence was ruining the country; they grazed cattle chiefly in the valleys and lowlands, and sheep on the mountains, 52493.

Every Holding should contain some Tillage Land.

A man should not be given a holding without some tillage land attached, so that holdings could not be established on certain mountain slopes unless they were connected with lowlands, 52495-6.

Land suitable for Reclamation.

All the land occupied by graziers was not suitable for small holdings, but the low-lying land, the arable part of it, with mountains run in, would be eminently suitable for the relief of congestion, as it would give the people the reproductive work of reclamation; there were many mountain bases already reclaimed, 52494-6.

The Western Sea-board must be considered in connection with Congestion.

There were vast tracts of reclaimable land in Connemara which was not even fit for game now, and if the whole of Connaught were divided up, except the residential parts which no one demanded, the people would not be economically relieved, but would still go to America or Scotland, few from that part migrating to England as harvesters; in order to settle the question on a sound economic basis, the western seaboard, as well as the land, must be taken into consideration; the remedy must be two-fold, 52489, 52498, 52598, 52639.

Compulsory Powers for acquisition of Land advocated.

Whatever body dealt with the problem of congestion must first get and use compulsory powers to deal with all graziers unless residential, and with landlords; these last should at least be threatened with the withdrawal of their bonus, 12 per cent. or whatever it was, and the threat carried out; if after due notice they were still unreasonable in their refusal to sell, compulsion within the law should be used after, say, five years, but it would probably be to their advantage to keep the bonus, 52500, 52525-30.—Compulsion should probably not be used in the case of a practical farmer if residential, as such men were useful as buyers of cattle from small holders, and had their place in the general scheme, 52531-4.—Compulsion should be used in the case of shopkeepers holding grazing land on which they did not live, and should be applied to all classes where it was necessary for the relief of congestion, even to tenant-purchasers, with due regard to title and recoupment, 52535-8.—Compulsory powers should be used in regard to all estates in Connaught, whether tenanted or not, because tenants on one property would need to be migrated to untenanted land elsewhere, *i.e.*, if there was to be a plain map; the need for compulsion was shown by the complaints of the Board's successors that they had no power to deal with congestion, 52501.

Evils of Acquisition of Land by Shopkeepers.

Witness regarded the shopkeeping landlord as one of the greatest evils in the country; he was not a fair factor in the land question, because he could fall back on the shop if the land were a failure, and *vice-versa*, and the people were ground between the two interests, 52536.—When there had been more people on the land shopkeepers had stayed in their shops, but now shops were starving; it was unfair to make an income at a shop out of the people and then take up patch after patch of land, sometimes certainly by fair means, till they had become landed proprietors; a shop-man should have a garden if he could, and a small meadow or place for a cow, 52540, 52543-5.—Witness did not know much about the case at Athenry, 52541.

Fair Price.

The question as to what was a fair price in case of compulsory purchase was really one of principle and of general application, but the value of land in Connemara probably differed widely from that of the inland country; witness thought the Board had bought estates there, some at twelve years' purchase, and considered the prices then given by voluntary arrangement would be a fair basis for compensation; the refusing landlords wanted to get their own price, but should not be allowed more than they had claimed before the Act of 1903, 52503-7.—It would be unfair if a landlord were left in a worse position than before; he should get his net income as ascertained by his rental and an auditing of his books; he should be allowed a reasonable investment, not one that would rob the State, and he must take his chance in the money market as he had in the land market; landlords were usually "limited owners," who could not invest as they pleased, but there was a public trustee, and they would have to follow the law, taking advantage of the extension of securities allowed by the Act of 1903; owners of lands not settled might invest as they chose; it would be good for their friends and their own health if they had anxiety and laboured in the money-market, 52508-25.—In compulsory purchase value for value should be given, but in fixing this both experience and future competition must be considered, 52539.

Any Small Loss to be borne by the State.

It was, of course, possible that in order to give the landlord his net income, the number of years' purchase to be given by the Board might be higher than in some cases had been paid under the Ashbourne Act; in that case the Board should consult an advisory committee of the tenants, or at least take these into its confidence, so that compulsion would be on their requisition, they clearly understanding its terms; it was a difficult question, and witness had not thought out the many possibilities to which it might give rise, 52583-8.—When the net income was really a ground for eighteen years' purchase, the tenants should not ask the Board to give it them for ten, but the State, too, should be dealt with fairly; such a net income would mean that the tenants had paid, and consideration should be shown such good people in the price demanded of them; the landlord, too, should have been able to make capital out of all he had got from them; certainly the Board should not be forced to buy at a price which would mean re-selling at enormous loss; the tenants would have to understand beforehand that they must repay the loan through the Board on the same terms as the land had been bought, their rents being fixed by the court upon the purchase price; this was on the hypothesis that someone had determined what was the net income, 52589-93.—In the event of an annuity agreed on by the tenants not being sufficient, the loss should be borne equally by themselves and the outgoing landlord; it would be an economic evil if loss were entailed on the Board; they should judge whether the price demanded were reasonable, and if it were the payment of it should be made compulsory; any inevitable loss, if small, should be borne by the State, which should also take care that the fixing of the price should minimise the amount of the compensation, 52594-8.

Limits within which Dual Ownership of Untenanted Land should be recognised.

Witness believed that the recognition of actual interest, or rather ownership, being vested in the owner of untenanted land had been declared in the Land Court to be a legal absurdity by so high an authority as Judge Ross; obviously the principle was fraught with economical disaster to prospective tenants, for it would make the price of the land prohibitive; a man could not own a thing twice for the purpose of contract or sale; witness admitted that dual ownership existed in the case of tenanted land, because there were two parties; a landlord might create tenancies on untenanted land, though it was doubtful whether he could do so legally at present, as such land was regarded as "slobland," 52546-53, 52557-9, 52564.—A man should certainly receive more for land on which he had bought the tenants' interests than for tenanted land, but it did not follow that he should receive twice as much in one case as the other, and any public body should refuse to recognise such a claim. He had a bigger interest in untenanted land, but a tenancy created since the Act of 1903 would not be recognised by the purchase clause; as the law recognised dual interest, competent judicial land authorities should fix its value; this was in the case of land "legitimately possessed," but it was doubtful if there was any such in Connaught, 52569-75, 52581-2.—The question of dual interest might come up in relation to the proposed Act of compulsion, but witness admitted it was not of great importance if the landlord received his net income whether the land were tenanted or not, 52560-3.—No dual interest should be recognised in land from which the tenants had been evicted without compensation for tenant-right; any improvements on the Ffrench estates were the result of the labour of the tenants, afterwards evicted, 52554-5, 52565-8.—It was true that tenant-right had only received legal recognition in 1890; witness could not deal with the academic question as to whether the State should take into consideration the condition of affairs existing before that time, 52576-81.

All Connaught should be Scheduled as Congested.

In order to carry out their scheme of purchase, the Board should demand that all Connaught should be scheduled as congested, as there were complaints in the published report of difficulty in regard to the State purchase and settlement of isolated estates, 52582.

KELLY, Rev. JAMES—*continued.*

AMENDMENT OF THE ACT DEALING WITH MINERAL RIGHTS ADVOCATED.

The Act dealing with the vesting of mineral rights should be thoroughly amended in favour of the tenants, 52598.—Apparently the landlords had a royalty at present and made a heavy charge for opening mines, 52600.—At any rate the landlord at Cleggan had put on a sliding scale; capitalists were kept away by this and prohibitive tariffs, but the Estates Commissioners should offer them inducements to come and open mines, 52601.—There was granite on the coast, exhibited on account of its high polish, which the landlord, Mr. Frere, refused to sell to would-be buyers in Chicago; this granite was also at the north of Clifden and round Roundstone, 52605.—On another estate a mine opened with great difficulty was now closed, though experts had pronounced the shaft to be very profitable, 52598-606.—At Maam Cross there was a lead and silver mine, and 2,000 tons of pure ore were ready for shipment to Galway, 52603. —The lead of another mine in Connemara was said by the Assistant County Surveyor for the Riding to be almost pure. In the exhibition recently was a rare specimen of fine black marble with white streaks, and there were copper and soapstone besides, 52606.—If ore were struck or a mine opened, the owner of the land should be given some sort of royalty while he was compelled to allow the development of this mineral wealth, 52603, 52605.—The fishing of the numerous inland lakes between Ballinamoy and Roundstone might be developed. Witness thought the sea flowed into the Doughole side of the property, where fisheries might be developed to the country's great profit, as it was otherwise a waste; experts should advise and experiment; the Ballinahinch fisheries were just opposite, 52606.—The perilous condition of piers and harbours in the union constituted a very grave question; the state of Cleggan Harbour made fishermen very slow to take boats from the Board on the purchase system; a man who had had his boat built at Boffin, and had been unable to pay for it, could not bring it into harbour and it had been wrecked. Sometimes men could neither lock nor unlock, and had to land away from the pier as the approach was ruinous; Cleggan, though not improved by the late addition, might be a first-class harbour for the All-Red Route were the pier extended further; it was a pity Cleggan was neglected, at any rate for direct sailing, 52625, 52640-2.—The people of Connemara had the sea with its fish, but they had waste lands, locked up harbours, and piers which were either dry land or ruinous; Boffin Harbour had been protected by Government in the time of Charles II. by twenty-four guns, and foreign fishermen had been precluded entering; owing to circumstances it was thought well to blow up the harbour, but the contractor, a foreigner, had stopped short at destroying the fort; the present Government should show at least as much interest in the islands along the coast as had been shown in the past, 52639, 52644.

INSTRUCTION, NEW MARKETS, AND IMPROVED TRANSIT FACILITIES NEEDED TO DEVELOP FISHERIES.

There was, too, need of a local school of fishing, and, better still, of a practical instructor who would take the fishermen out to sea and teach them sympathetically. Something had been done in this direction during the season, but very little. It was a waste for a man to buy a big nobby and fish for only six or seven weeks. A fisherman should be one thing or the other, and there ought to be a fleet of fishermen to take the riches lying at their doors; only teaching was needed, 52639, 52646.—The Department of Agriculture should find a market, both home and foreign, for fresh fish. They should send their many assistants now going about the country to find people ready to buy fish, and they should obtain railway facilities for tenantry and even get a steamer, as transport and a better system of transit were essential to the development of fisheries along the western coast, 52644-6.

VESTING OF SPORTING RIGHTS IN THE TENANTS "IN GLOBO" ADVOCATED.

Witness believed that the Irish Game Protection Association had intimated to the Congested Districts Board that it would be well if in the transfer of property, the sporting rights were vested in the tenants for the better protection of game in Ireland. The tenants were the best gamekeepers, and would be unpaid except by the productiveness of the business; this recommendation in the prelude to the report had great weight considering the quarter whence it had come; the arrangement by which a tenant-purchaser would be paid so much bird-money for every bird shot on his farm was a good one, and witness believed the Game Association had suggested that tenants should have the right for sale, and let it to the highest bidder, 52606-10.—On the Dillon Estate of 12,000 acres at Aughmore, sporting rights were vested in the tenants, and witness thought they had a Game Protection Committee which was considered an improvement, 52611.—This should be done legislatively in all cases of purchase, at the wish of two-thirds or even one-third of the tenants. Whether the sporting rights had previously been in the tenant's or the landlord's hands, they should in the act of sale or transfer go first to the public body and then with the property *in globo* to the tenants, being vested in a local committee which should have the power to lease them, and also the right, through trustees, to prosecute for poaching, 52612-7.—Game and fish were by no means the least important national asset. What was desired was to secure the goodwill of the tenants, who would benefit both by the preservation of game and by the presence in the district of sportsmen, whether landlords or not, 52617-9.—It would be equally good, no doubt, if the sporting rights were vested in the Board for the benefit of the tenants who doubtless would recognise this as having been instituted in their interest; but whether the rights were vested in a committee or were in trust the tenants would be the beneficiary owners. Tenants should not have the power to reserve rights thus conveyed; only possible "cranks" amongst them could wish to do so, 52620-5.

STATE AID FOR RE-AFFORESTATION ADVOCATED.

The County Councils should be State-aided for the purpose of re-afforesting the country, especially picturesque Connemara, improving the waste lands, and for providing shelter belts, which would protect the game, *e.g.*, woodcock, in the western highlands and in places at present lying useless, 52625.

NEED FOR A LOCAL SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE—TRAINING OF PRIESTS IN AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Lyle, the ex-landlord of the island where witness lived, was a good agriculturist, but it was certainly very important that someone who was to some extent an expert should live amongst the people and advise them; at present they followed their own agricultural methods, 52627-31.—Witness admitted he would be able to keep his people in this direction had he gone through an agricultural course; it was difficult to say whether time could have been found for this at Maynooth, where the course—seven years —was long and very full; this might perhaps be lengthened, or in some way altered, to allow time for the study of agriculture to students with a bent in that direction; it would certainly be a great advantage in many out of the way or congested districts if the parish priest were a trained agriculturist, and it would be good for the priest himself, 52632-9.—Experts would have to come from other districts to Connemara to study the local needs of the place, *e.g.*, the nature of the soil, and the effect of the salt on the land; it was said that sea-weed was more beneficial to the soil inland than on the coast where it was all waste land; there were many places suitable for an agricultural school which was a necessity for Connemara and the seaboard generally; at present sick people were actually able to till the ground, 52626, 52639.

LYDEN, Mr. JOHN M.

THE COUNTY COMMITTEES WERE TOO MUCH CONTROLLED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Witness was representative on the County Committee for the area including Roundstone, the south part

LYDEN, Mr. JOHN M.—*continued.*

of Clifden Union, down towards Kilkerrin, and up to Recess; as a shopkeeper, and one who travelled a little, he knew fairly well the needs of Connemara, in which one place was much like another, 52651-5.—He did not think the agricultural schemes worked very well owing to the Department exercising too much control over the local committees; witness thought the County Committee had twice elected a poultry instructress, and the Department had refused to sanction the scheme on the ground that it was unnecessary, 52647A, 52681-3.

County Committee Places inconvenient.

Witness, living at Clifden, was unable to attend many County Committee meetings because they were held at such inconvenient places; there was to be a second meeting in Galway for the present year, but every previous meeting had been held in Athenry; apparently there had been no attempt to work by sub-committees, 52648-51, 52659.

Unequal Representation of Rich and Poor Areas on the County Committees.

Witness thought the richer parts of the country received more consideration than the poorer areas, and that the representatives, though equally good, had less power, because they were very much in a minority on the committee, 52656-8.—The election of County Committee members should not be entirely in the hands of the County Council; the District Council should be able to nominate some, and that would give a larger representation. ; witness believed Clifden to be one of the largest unions, and it should have at least eight or nine representatives instead of, as now, two or three; there was no hard-and-fast rule as to representation; the County Council settled the matter and usually made no changes, except in the filling up of vacancies, 52660-71.

Discussion of Plans between the Department and the Representatives of the Poor Areas suggested.

Witness was not certain, but believed that schemes were initiated by the County Committees and sent to the Department for approval, 52672-8.—It was a good suggestion that when the new Department were sketching out a plan they should summon to Dublin (paying travelling expenses) the representatives of the district concerned, now inadequately represented, and confer with them, 52679-80.

Agricultural Needs—Loans for Seeds and Plants.

Agricultural work had been decidedly better done since the adoption of the County Committee scheme, but there was still room for improvement; much could be done by local committees, which would know something of the needs of their own districts; loans for seeds in the spring were required, also plants, 52684-6.—The Department had certainly done something for the district, but no more than had been previously done by the Congested Districts Board; the bulls on the list read out belonged to three unions, a large area, and witness did not think the supply had been increased this year, 52687-90.

M'ALPINE, Very Rev. CANON.

Government Neglect of the Congestion Problem.

Witness did not wish in any way to impugn the *bona fides* of the Commission, but feared its work would be as fruitless as that of the other remedies put forward during the last thirty years; everything connected with the problem had been brought, scores of times, to the notice of a neglectful and faithless Government, 52691.

Unequal Distribution of Land in Clifden Union.—Compulsory Purchase advocated.

In Clifden Union alone 1,770 families were rated under £2, and 1,300 more from £2 to £4, *i.e.*, 3,000 families living on bogs and marshes were valued under £4, while 88 non-resident graziers held between them 68,830 acres of the best land in the district; the results were destitution, discontent and emigration, 52691.—The landlord's exorbitant demands had made the Act of 1903 inoperative, and land purchase almost impossible; there were landlords in Connemara who asked from 25 to 30 years' purchase, and when the Clifden District Council had sent a respectful request to local landlords to make an amicable arrangement with their tenants under the Act of 1903, only a few had deigned even a bare acknowledgment of the resolution; compulsory sale was absolutely necessary; this, too, was placed beyond doubt by the prevalence in many places of the rundale system, by which little holdings were split up into sixty or eighty patches, 52691.

Abolition of the Statute of Limitations in certain cases advocated.

People would for peace and for reasons of sentiment give more than was fair for grass lands, but landlords should not unduly press claims for compensation considering that these lands had been made fertile by the tenants, and that these men or their fathers had been evicted without compensation; justice and common sense demanded that in such cases there ought not to be a Statute of Limitations, 52691.

Unrepresentative Character of the Board.—Its Dilatoriness.

The Congested Districts Board had done much good along the western seaboard, but more representation, greater activity and despatch were needed; the worst and most congested districts from Blacksod to Galway, comprising such places as Achill, Westport, Cleggan, Clifden, Carna, Roundstone and Arran were unrepresented on the Board; in the few sales which had taken place in this wide area, there had been great delay in bringing matters to completion; for this, however, others had most probably been more to blame than the Board, 52691.

Lack of Proper Piers at Clifden and Cleggan.

The need of proper piers in Clifden and Cleggan had often been admitted by Government, and had formed the chief recommendation of the Piers and Harbours Commission in 1885, Colonel Nolan being chairman; last April a promise had come from Dublin Castle of £3,500 for Clifden pier, and £7,000 for Cleggan pier, with £750 from the Board if a small local contribution were given in accordance with section 2 of the Marine Act; this the Galway County Council had generously promised, but Government had done nothing; the Board should have urged upon Government the duty of fulfilling its pledges, those of Mr. Wyndham and many others, 52691, 52746.—The want of proper piers resulted in large fishing boats, built at public expense, lying idle for eight months, and made the spring work hard and not always profitable, 52691-6.—Herring-fishing might be developed if the fishermen were helped; many of the crews lived eight or twelve miles from Clifden, and it was not easy to get them all at once to come and risk a storm for a few hours' fishing; herring-fishing needed capital for its development, 52741-5.—When not at sea the men worked on their wretched holdings, but given the chance they would be good fishermen; it was a pity the fishing was mainly mackerel; the spring herring-fishing only lasted a few months, and the autumn fishing was made difficult by the sudden storms of the west coast, though men had risked these and sometimes lost their lives, 52747-53.

Extension of Time for Repayment of Loans for Boats advocated.

The Board should extend the time allowed for payment for boats so as to greatly reduce the half-yearly instalments, 52691.—A boat generally lasted from 20 to 25 years, but payment was required at the end of 7 years in continuance generally, 6 or even 4 years; the desired extension referred to boats bought on the security system, *i.e.*, when a man got three or four people to go security for him, 52699-703.

M'ALPINE, Very Rev. CANON—*continued.*

IMPROVEMENTS IN FACILITIES FOR FISHING.

A share in the profits instead of, as now, a weekly wage would be an inducement to fishing instructors to go out on many evenings when they would otherwise not go, 52691, 52697-8, 52722.—To make the fisheries a success a fishery school should be established and facilities given for the curing at Cleggan and other places, *e.g.*, covered sheds for bad weather, 52691.

SALE OF BOATS TAKEN UNDER THE SHARE SYSTEM WITHOUT NOTIFICATION TO THEIR CREWS.—CASES OF THE "HERMON" AND "TOPAZ."

The Board kept a part of the gross earnings of boats taken on the share system in the hope that the outlay would be made good in time, and Clifden and Cleggan crews who had worked 5, 6, or 7 years complained, and naturally, that these boats were sometimes sold to other people or sent elsewhere without notification, though there were no arrears, 52691, 52703-5, 52732.—The Board's attention had been called to this anomaly by a resolution passed unanimously at a meeting of Clifden Union priests, presided over by the Archbishop of Tuam, and though no particulars, *e.g.*, names or dates, had been given, the fact of sale had been made quite clear, 52706-11.—This was not a matter of recent growth, and had not come up with reference to the Commission, 52737-8.—On page 76 of the Board's report for 1906 were particulars of the boat "Hermon," on which the total outlay had till then been £328 12*s*. 11*d*.; page 77 stated that the Board had already received £217 3*s*. 6*d*. of the boat's earnings, yet the "Hermon" had been sold without the crew being consulted or even notified, 52712.—The crew had worked for seven years under James Sweeney, the nominal owner, through whom the weekly payments had been made to the Board; an agreement was made between the crews of share-boats and the Board, and the catch made known to the Board's officer, 52713-21, 52724.—Witness did not know if the Board gave "grub-money" when there was no catch, something was given towards the crews' maintenance, and afterwards deducted; the amount could not have been large, and in any case would be included in the total accounts, the "etc." after "boat and gear" being significant, 52725-30, 52736.—This was one of many cases and should be inquired into; the "Topaz," according to the statement of its crew, had not been sold, but sent into Boffin, 5273-4.—Neither crew had ever refused to go out with the instructor, complaints being the other way, 52721-3, 52735.

DEVELOPMENT OF MARBLE QUARRIES BY THE STATE AND CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD ADVOCATED.—SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS IN REGARD TO EXTRACTION, ETC.

Hundreds now emigrating might be employed in the splendid marble and granite quarries of the district; these were close to a railway station, and there was an abundant water supply, but neither the Board nor the Department had done anything towards their proper working except place a few specimens in the Cork, Limerick, and St. Louis Exhibitions, 52691.—Every month large blocks of the finest marble were sent from Clifden and Recess to America and the Continent, and the fact that the chief market was in America and that an American worked the quarries was proof of their commercial value, 52755-8.—The development of the quarries, left to one individual, was hindered, as other Irish industries had been killed, by lack of capital, the supply of which could not have been prevented, as stated, by anything so trifling as those with grazing rights objecting to the dumping of material on their land, 52759-65, 52768-9.—If people proved so obstinate—which witness did not believe— they should be compelled to surrender their rights, due compensation being given, 52771, 52776-7. —The State should contribute money, and some public body, *e.g.*, the Department or the Board, should spend capital and see at any rate that the quarries were properly worked; this matter, like the fisheries, would be quite within the Board's province, 52754, 52766-7, 52775, 52778-9.—Scores of experts had said publicly that the Recess, Streamstown, and Creggs quarries were of commercial value, but with little result; it would be well if the Board would send experts, not, as hitherto, connected with companies, to investigate the mineral resources of the congested districts; the reports being favourable, it would be most excellent if the Board could give a capitation grant in a remote district to apprentices, 52774, 52780.-8.—Methods of extracting the marble could be much improved; at Streamstown quarry this was done by powder or by crowbar and pick, but the Recess methods were less primitive; at the former quarry was a splendid water supply, and if a mill, now disused, were turned to account, the stone could be chiselled before being sent away, 52772-3.—A landlord owning quarries might leave them undeveloped for a time in the hope of making more money later, 52791-2.

M'ALPINE, Very Rev. CANON—*continued.*

STATE AID FOR COPPER MINING ADVOCATED.

Copper-mining in so poor a district needed protection and support in its initial stage to convince the people of its commercial value, and it was a pity something was not given from public funds for the mines at Kilcoon or Derrylea, 52789-90.

UNFAIR CREATION OF FUTURE TENANCIES.

A landlord or agent often took advantage of the ignorance of tenants by offering a reduction of rent conditional on their signing a paper making them future tenants; the reduction was given for the time agreed on, but afterwards the people found they could not get judicial rents, as they had no status in the court; witness could give particulars in one case, but did not know if the people had been judicial tenants when signing the agreement; Mr. Litton Falkiner, presiding chairman of the Land Commission, had expressed surprised at such a thing having occurred, the rent of the tenant had been raised, 52691, 52793, 52797-803, 52806-9.—In another case a man had held under a middleman, who was evicted, and the tenant, poor, and ignorant of Land Commission procedure, had been made a future tenant by the incoming landlord; the middleman's tenants could have got their rents fixed in court, but had not done so; they were almost certainly present tenants; the rent of some had been raised, and that of the others left as it was, 52793-5, 52803-6.—These transactions had taken place within the last six years, 52796.

SULLIVAN, Mr. PATRICK.

TERMS ON WHICH THE "TOPAZ" WAS LET BY THE BOARD.

For eight years witness had worked with four others and an instructor on the "Topaz," taken on the share-system, 52810, 52812, 52817-19.—The Board kept four-ninths of the value of the catch and had received about £400 in the eight years; the spring fishing had been constant and there were no long periods of failure, except one year, when there had been no catch, but then there had been little loss to the boat, save for the instructor's wages; witness did not know if the boat had been going to the bad, 52820-6.—When there was no fishing grub-money, sometimes 30*s*. a week, had been advanced, amounting the first year to about £25; this was stopped as soon as there was a catch and was deducted from the earnings, 52827-33.

THE "TOPAZ" GIVEN UP BY THE CREW.

Last spring, when fishing at Boffin, the crew had had a letter from the Board stating that the "Topaz" was in arrears of debt, but witness had not been notified to stop working; finding they could not buy the boat and so clear her, no matter what they gave, the crew unanimously decided to give her up, 52813-16, 52834-41.

GREEN, Rev. W. S.

See also pp. 13 *and* 169.

REFUTATION OF THE CHARGE *in re* THE "TOPAZ" AND OTHERS.

The "Topaz" had been worked some years, but witness could not remember the exact terms of her surrender; the Board never resumed ownership of a boat except by request of the owner or men, but year after year had kept the crews going, buying nets, etc., and giving them every chance they could, 52842-3.—The Board always sold either on the share, the instalment, or the cash system; in this case the first had failed, and if the securities had not been forthcoming for the second the third must have been the only alternative; witness did not know if the second would have satisfied the crew, 52868-72.—The boats in question were two out of many worked on the share system, by which a boat paid automatically, so that though the Board might be out of pocket it would never be in arrears, and there was no inducement to take up a boat without consulting the men; the Board might have to re-sell a boat taken on the instalment system if instalments were not paid, so the first system would be less apt to come hard on the crews than the second, 52844-9

WORKING OF THE SHARE-SYSTEM IN CONNAUGHT.

The share-system here was different from that in Donegal; the men insisted on the Board giving grub-money when fishing was bad, and thus if the earnings were insufficient a debt often accumulated; the crews were practically, as well as legally, co-equal, and though one man was supposed to be skipper he could not, with the Board's recognition, enrich himself at his colleagues' expense; the crews were always changing, and discontent might arise through one man regarding himself as skipper because he had been longest on the boat, 52849-53.

REASON FOR BOATS LYING IDLE AT CLIFDEN EIGHT MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

The boats lying at Clifden for eight months were mostly instruction-boats, which were not idle for want of proper piers, but because the Board could not well afford to give instruction except in spring, when the fishing was sometimes very good; it would be hard or impossible to get crews on any system at other seasons if they could not make money; the autumn fishing was poor, but two large boats had just been fitted out and sent to Boffin and Cleggan for the second season, and if they succeeded the Board hoped other boats might stay out the two seasons, 52854, 52862-3.

QUESTION OF PIER ACCOMMODATION AT CLIFDEN AND CLEGGAN.—IMPROVEMENT OF CLEGGAN HARBOUR ADVOCATED.

Clifden harbour was very dangerous for big boats at night, practically the only time for fishing, but a pier could only be built if all the reefs between Slyne Head and High Island were abolished—a big undertaking; row-boats from Turbot Island, etc., could land their fish here, 52855-7.—Cleggan was the most likely place in the district to become an important fishing station, and anything done there to protect boats, improve accommodation, enable men to land fish at low water, allow a steamer to come and take away the fish and land barrels and salt, would tend to develop the fishing; the boats were owned by people in Clifden, Ballinakill and all about, 52858, 52866.—Cleggan was a bad place for anchorage in rough weather, and it was possible boats had been lost there; if, as was inevitable, they went aground in the harbour they lost the next night's sitting, and they had a bad time now, kept off the bar trying to land fish at low water for transport from Clifden; Cleggan could be made a reasonably good harbour if its pier were extended, 52859-60.—Granted a safe harbour and pier behind which boats could lie afloat, more fishermen would probably go out in October and November, when the weather was doubtful, 52865.—There had been an estimate for Cleggan, and plans had been made out at various times; the letter from Dublin Castle read by the Chairman seemed to be an inquiry regarding expenditure, not a definite promise of help, 52861, 52867.

REFUSAL OF INSTRUCTORS TO COME UNLESS GIVEN A FIXED WAGE.

Cases of refusal by instructors to go to sea had been reported, but complaints had also reached the Board of crews declining to go out, and this probably happened oftenest; the Board had been most anxious to get expert fishermen as instructors on a share of the profits, but these men preferred a berth in one of their own boats in the height of the fishing season unless given a fixed wage; if a man with, say, a boat on loan, wanted to send out a crew, the Board gave him instruction free for one set of fishing seasons, after which he had to pay a proportion; for £2 a week he had to pay 10*s*. a week for the first year, and £1 the next, and if he wanted to keep on an instructor he might make any arrangement he liked as long as the Board did not have to pay the whole of the salary, 52864.

BLAKE, Mrs.

OVERSTATEMENT OF AMOUNT OF GRASS LAND HELD BY PEOPLE ON RENVYLE ESTATE.

The list made out by the Clerk of Clifden Union of grass lands and holdings in Renvyle Division was incorrect as to names, and overstated the amount of grazing land held by many people, *e.g.*, in regard to Peter Nee, Henry Robinson, Peter Lyden, James Cawley, and witness's son; there were not so many absentees as stated, all witness's grazing tenants being resident, except one holding, a very small part of the home farm, 52874, 52882, 52957.

FERTILITY OF GRASS LANDS NOT DUE TO EVICTED TENANTS.

It was not true that the fertility of grass lands was always due to the labour of evicted tenants, the expenditure, etc., on witness's home farm having been incurred by her predecessors; no one had been evicted from this land, and the one tenant who was removed had three other holdings; people had died off because of the failure of the potato crop, and said they must either go into the workhouse or emigrate, 52883-5.—There was no rundale, the land having been carefully striped by the Blakes years before, sometimes they had not succeeded in their frequent attempts to induce a tenant to take perhaps two stripes instead of one, and both tenants and estate-managers had said it was hard to get people to take land because of the depressing effect of the Famine; the landlord wanted tenants, and people needing work were given it on the land; £2,000 had been spent cropping the land, and as it did not pay to till it all, it was put down in grass, now the best for the country, 52892, 52956-7.—Witness had borrowed £1,300 from the Board of Works and had probably spent £900 on the land—£130 on another part of the estate; she did not have to pay interest on the money not used, 52953-6.

CULTIVATION OF WITNESS'S HOME FARM.

Witness's home farm, bought solely for business reasons in 1896 with the help of the Land Commission, was 247 acres, and adjoined a very small demesne; they had oats or potatoes, or the land was grazed, sometimes it was let to respectable graziers, often local jobbers, her son's tenants, who had nothing else, except perhaps a six-acre holding, *e.g.*, Peter Nee, whose father and grandfather had been cattle dealers, and witness strongly objected to sell even for a sum giving her her income, both in her own interest and in that of these respectable people dependent upon grass and mountain lands; she did not at all approve of compulsory powers in any case, 52875, 52881, 52886-92, 52899A-911.

SIZE, ETC., OF HOLDINGS ON RENVYLE ESTATE.

The distribution of land on the Renvyle Estate was very good, it was all tenanted and mostly worked by spade; some holdings were thirteen, some fifteen; one was 100 acres, 52893, 52893A.—There were a great many small holders with four or five acres who were able to rear families, sometimes of fourteen or fifteen; before the Famine a great herring fishery at Renvyle had employed 300 boats, but since then a great many people had emigrated; they did not do as much as they might with their land, being sometimes unwilling to put down a full crop; they were very happy, and some would not at all like to move, but if any cared to migrate and there was land elsewhere, well and good, there was no land for distribution here, 52894-91A.

BLAKE, Mrs.—*continued.*

MOUNTAIN LAND UNFIT FOR DIVIDING.

Some mountain land in the return was quite unfit for dividing; people paid for grazing sheep on it, as it would not do to make it commonage; witness was tenant-proprietor of a mountain and had bought certain bogs, owning considerably over 600 acres, 52893A-8A.—Witness had only three tenants who had been on the lot she bought; she sometimes took in grazing from the tenants about, and had vainly urged them all to join in taking the land, where they should have the sole right of grazing, 52952-3.

KELP INDUSTRY.

The small holders round witness's farm made money by fishing and kelp; the latter had not done well this year, because, though repeatedly warned and lately threatened by the agent, the people put sand into it, and consequently received less for it, 52898, 52912-3.—The price per ton varied according to quality; for a time witness had had a royalty of one-third, then at the agent's request had settled on a fixed sum; he, as kelp-agent, had proposed 10*s*., but had approved of witness's insistence on 12*s*. 6*d*., because of the high price she had paid, 52914-18, 52924-5, 52943-9.—The question of getting a royalty depended on what terms the land was owned; the weed belonged to the land; Colonel Nolan had fought that out in the Land Courts; he and witness believed certain other included seaweed in the value of the land, but others, *e.g.*, Lord Sligo and witness, kept the two values distinct; Renvyle weed was particularly good and very valuable, 52938-42.—If the price of kelp went down people would not make it, but witness thought she could sell it for manure elsewhere, 52951.—Witness supplied spread-ground for the kelp, both on land in her own hands and on that let to graziers; it was a loss, especially to the graziers, but they took the land on those terms and she had the royalty; the kelpers paid no rent for the spread-ground, 52918-23.—They did not pay for the weed, except 1*s*. a year for that on certain rocks owned by witness, 1*s*. for weed for manure, of which they might have any amount, and a little for black weed, 52926-35.—They only burned weed washed in by the sea, but might have made a fortune had they troubled to use the boats witness had made them for cutting the best weed, when kelp had been up to £7 a ton, 52936-7.

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CLOHERTY, Mr. JOSEPH.

THE CREDIT SYSTEM AND POVERTY IN ROUNDSTONE.

The people of Roundstone were gradually falling into debt; their poverty made the credit system a necessity; witness might refuse to increase a man's credit, but might yield to some extent to tide him over a hard time; there was no fixed limit to the credit given, for the people paid when they could, 52962-8.—Some years they were more in debt than others; this year had been bad, the fishing had failed, and there was no employment; apparently more money had been in circulation ten years ago; the Congested Districts Board and the fishing seemed to have had rather a paralysing effect, because the latter had been disappointing, 52968-3.—There was a lace class at Roundstone, but the factory children were very young, and the skilful ones went to America; emigration was increasing, 52974-7.—Witness's turnover was about £2,000; he did not think there was as much owed to him in the district; there were five or six other provision merchants in more or less the same position, mostly less well-off, 52978-83.—People did not pay debts in kind, witness had always paid them cash for oats, eggs, etc., 52984-9.—Witness received £200 annually from emigrants to pay debts of parents at home, and the sum scarcely varied, 52960-1, 52990-2.—The waterworks scheme was fairly successful, 52993.—Witness had got a big boat built under the Board's direction, and another one to employ local fishermen; he had not been wholly successful, but had always paid instalments when due, 52994-7.

CULLINANE, Mr. MICHAEL.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF BERRIDGE ESTATE ADVOCATED.

In witness's locality four very small estates bordered on Mr. Berridge's big estate, and the Congested Districts Board should acquire this last by compulsory purchase, as there was no room on the smaller properties to improve the tenants' condition, while much might be done on all five treated as one; three or four other estates were privileged to share commonage on the Berridge Estate, but this should be theirs by right, 52998-300A, 53045.—It would be better if all Roundstone, better still if all Connemara were bought and treated as one estate, royalties, game and fishing rights to be vested on behalf of the tenants in their elected trustees, or these might be partly nominated; there were valuable salmon fisheries in the hands of landlords, 53001, 53044.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS PRACTICALLY USELESS OWING TO POVERTY OF THE LAND.—MIGRATION ONLY ADVOCATED TO A LIMITED EXTENT.

In Murvey, on the Hallam Estate, the smallest holdings were a little less than four acres, rent, £2 odd; witness held 29 acres, of which the second judicial rent was £1 12*s*., of a wild kind of bog, and it would not greatly improve a tenant's condition to give him more land of the same sort; to some extent he would be worse off, for a plough was useless, and the scarcity of labour would prevent a large tract being tilled by spade, 53002-8.—Much might be done perhaps in the way of migration to other parts of the coast, but people should not be taken from the sea altogether on account of the fisheries, 53009-11.

POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING FISHERIES.—A COMBINATION OF SHARE AND LOAN SYSTEMS ADVOCATED.

There were great possibilities in South Connemara, and the deep-sea fishing was the most important asset, 53011-2.—All the Roundstone boats had been taken on the loan system; witness had agreed to pay half-yearly instalments of £30 for one, just to start the enterprise, but though he had paid the boat's entire earnings for four years, there was still a balance owing, which the Board had kindly forgiven when he had to give up the boat; he had been responsible for keeping the boat manned, while the Board had supplied an instructor for two or three years; seeing boats were unable to earn enough to pay instalments on the eight years loan system, men were afraid to go security, although the Board dealt leniently when there were bad seasons, 53012-9.—The individual members of the crew had generally been well paid, but the owner was not, yet boat and gear were better looked after if one man were directly responsible; witness's failure had not been due to his inability to go out with his boat, because he had had an excellent instructor, and he had seen boats worked as conscientiously in the absence, as in the presence, of their owner; the transfer of the security for the loan to an actual fisherman would, however, help matters to some extent, as the Board could not supply instructors for an indefinite period, and the actual fisherman would be free to take his boat to places where the most trustworthy skipper would not like to send her, 53020-7.—Witness, unlike Father Gleeson, approved of the loan system, a boat being "leased" by one man from the Board, but he thought instalments should be paid as far as possible on the share system, much like that prevailing at Cleggan, *i.e.*, the payments not being fixed by the year, but varying with the catch; then the owner, if he were doing his best, would be relieved of anxiety in bad years; Roundstone boats were larger than Cleggan ones, and cost from about £500, with gear, 53028-37.—There was any amount of coarse fishing off the land, but that had not paid so well; they had got long lines for deep-sea fishing, which was hard on the sails; with care sails might last five years, but could not last more than three with deep-sea fishing; the intructor had failed, though doing his best for an individual boat, but the fishermen themselves were now learning to manage better; past failure had been due to their absolute ignorance, but with their eight or ten years' experience they could now fish anywhere off Connemara without an instructor, 53038-43.

CULLINANE, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR COOPERAGE, ETC., NEEDED.

They had not succeeded in getting a technical school for cooperage, etc., in Roundstone, and there were no industries; there were many little things which, if combined, would keep the people materially, 53044.

M'ANDREW, Rev. B.

DEPOPULATION DUE TO FAMINE AND EVICTIONS—COMPULSORY PURCHASE ADVOCATED.

Letterfrack, formerly densely populated, was now, owing to the Famine and evictions, in a state of desolation; valuation of holdings varied from 15*s.* to 18*s.* and 30*s.*, so that people could not live by the land; there had once been seventy tenants on the Prior Estate, now there were two; the Congested Districts Board had sent someone to value it, but Mrs. Tulloch, though rich and owning 400 or 500 acres, discovered what the Board had offered, and outbid them, and obtained the property without their knowledge; there were about 1,030 acres, all arable, adjoining the Twining Estate, between Cleggan and Ballinakill, and it was a wilderness with signs of previous cultivation everywhere, 53046-52.—This should be acquired and re-divided; also the Thompson Estate of 1,400 acres towards Leenane, all arable; the eighty tenants who had once lived there had died of starvation; they had been evicted, having no fixity of tenure; the Cleggan property too was unoccupied, 53053-5.

RE-TILLING OF LAND ADVOCATED.

There were 5,000 acres of fine arable land, from the road near Leenane (about Bunowen on the Thompson Estate) sloping down to the rivers; this land had been under cultivation, as could be seen by the hillsides along Killery Bay, and should be re-tilled, especially now, when there was competition with foreign cattle; there would not be any difficulty in getting the people to till their own land; their industry had made the grass lands what they were, 53092-7.

MIGRATION ONLY NECESSARY TO A VERY LIMITED EXTENT.

Witness was sure people would migrate, for in the time of Mr. Micks some had been removed to a small property from a remote part of the parish, and there had been great eagerness to obtain holdings; there was no need to migrate any distance, as there was plenty of room to give everyone economic holdings in the parish if the untenanted lands were acquired, 53092.

ROADS NEEDED—REFUSAL OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD TO DO THE WORK REQUIRED.

Witness had asked the Congested Districts Board to join the two important roads running towards Loughnahilian in his parish, and so connect North and South Connemara; the roads were probably relief works originally, and had been extended in that way by two miles during the last twelve years, but the Board would not finish the remaining mile and a half; witness had been asked if the Grand Jury would pay half the cost and keep the road in repair, and they had ridiculed the idea; it was equally hard now to induce the County Council to contribute to public works; the probable cost would be about £500, 53056-63, 53068-70.—There were no tenants to complain that the district was not scheduled, but though untenanted, its poverty and wretchedness should be sufficient reason for the Board to work there; witness had asked the Board to make another most necessary road on the Renvyle Estate, which the people had to reach by sea in canoes to bring in their meal, &c.; these were divided on the rocks and carried up the cliffs; the Board's engineer, Mr. Oliver, had reported there were no engineering difficulties, but the Board had written they would not make more roads unless a few of the members came to see what was to be done; they were to have come in a few days, but about twelve years had passed; the Local Government Board had supplied the funds through Sir Henry Robinson, who knew the place well, 53069.

M'ANDREW, Rev. B.—*continued.*

UNREPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

All Connemara, including witness's parish, should be represented on the Congested Districts Board, and by more than one person, because members were needed with a practical knowledge of the country, class of land, means of living, and the people's wants generally; it would be very advantageous if sittings were sometimes held in the district, 53071-5.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE WORKING OF PARISH COMMITTEES.

The Parish Committee, with £100 grant, *i.e.*, £50 for each district, alone worked satisfactorily; there were no practical difficulties; but the houses were very bad, and they were trying to get out-houses built; the people who most needed grants were too poor to use them; the £7 valuation limit should be altered to £10, as some houses over £7 were worse than those below the limit; the rule of not giving money before completion of work kept those from working who most needed the improvements; mason's labour, &c., iron for roofs, should be paid for as it was required, 53076-87.

THE REVIVAL OF BASKET-MAKING ADVOCATED.

A basket industry, the private speculation of an English lady, had worked for some years till she had gone away for reasons of health; the Board, thanks to her, had subsidised it for two years, and then left it entirely in the hands of a Birmingham basket-maker; he had put his son-in-law in charge and allowed him £150 a year, whereas £1 a week would have been enough, and the thing had failed under his management; witness thought the place most suitable for basket-making, but the Board, thinking otherwise, had withdrawn support; osiers grew luxuriantly but were uncared for; witness thought the industry a possible one for the West of Ireland, as Miss Sturge had made it pay, though importing osiers from England, 53088-91.

M'HUGH, Rev. MICHAEL.

SOME PARTICULARS OF CARNA PARISH.

Witness was parish priest of Carna, and had been nominated by the District Council and by the Archbishop, 53099-100.—Carna was in three electoral divisions, namely, Scarriff, Knockboy, and Owengowla; the union was Clifden, 53320-21. Carna parish contained about 300 families, the heads of which were all tenant farmers; only about 10 per cent. of the holdings were economic, 53100-1.—Congested Districts Board had purchased an estate in this district, 53102-3.—The tenants had purchased the holdings and lived by fishing and kelp-making, depending partly also on American cheques; about £2,500 had reached the parish from America within twelve months, 53104.—The land in Carna should be bought, because though the holdings were inadequate, Board could make improvements by building new houses and making roads to the sea and to the hills where stock were kept, 53319.—Unless employment were provided migration must take place, 53328-31.—A certain number of the people would be willing to migrate immediately, and others would follow if satisfied that doing so would improve their condition, 53332.—The better-off parishioners should be migrated first and their lands given to the poorer ones, 53333-4.—The fact that 86 per cent. of the holdings in the three divisions were under £4 was partly the result of sub-division, 53361-2.—The tendency to sub-divide was decreasing, as the people were alive to its evils, 53363-6.—When the Board purchased property in the neighbourhood they had enlarged some holdings, 53484-5.—There was no more land available for enlargement except some mountain farms; there was a cattle tract along the shore on which cattle could live part of the year, but they would die if not given a month or two on the hills, 53486.—If any mountain land were available it should be given to the tenants as commonage, but land of fair quality would be best utilised to enlarge holdings and grow crops, 53487-8.—Even if it were used as commonage there would not be enough

M'HUGH, Rev. MICHAEL—*continued.*

land to provide all tenants with grazing, 53489-92.—The mountain land should be divided into stripes, one for each village, everybody in a townland having a certain right as far as the land would go, and those to whom the land was most convenient having the first claim, 53493-8.—Board would not give a new house to a tenant unless the tenant had moved to a new holding; some of the dwelling-houses were in a wretched condition, 53498-501.—Board offered a grant of £10 for improving the old houses, but the people were too poor to make use of it, 53502-3.—A loan of £10 could be obtained in addition, 53504-5.—When lands in Carna parish had been sold to tenants the latter's condition had somewhat improved partly as a result of the reduction, partly owing to the sense of ownership, 53506-8, 53518.—The amalgamation of three holdings into one would be a great advantage; one tenant could work three holdings of the size usual in Carna, 53509-14.—Spraying was done generally on the estate Board had dealt with and most successfully by machine, 53519-22.

PARISH COMMITTEE OF CARNA.

Carna Parish Committee was working well, and had a grant of £100 a year; many parishioners were too poor to avail themselves of the grant, 53322-4.—Committee was empowered to make grants for iron roofs which only amounted to half the price of the roofs; it would be well if they could grant the full price of the iron; stone and everything else the people could supply themselves, 53325, 53327.—Board had offered to supply the iron at a cheaper rate than Committee could obtain, but this system needed development, 53326.—Committee gave grants up to £5 for building new dwelling-houses, and the old ones were utilised for cattle, 53355-6.—These grants were only allowed to actual tenants and did not encourage sub-division of land, 53337-9.—Committee gave assistance to construct windows, &c., 53340.—Another five years would probably suffice to effect all necessary improvements of this kind, but all that time there would be some tenants unable to avail themselves of the grant, 53342.—Committee had received their £100 grant during the past four or five years, 53341.—It was as large a grant as Committee could utilise, 53359-60.—Committee did not always adhere to the rule that grants could not be given till work was completed, 53343.—Grants could not be given where valuation was over £7, but almost all valuations in Carna were under £7, 53344-5.—Committee had done a little road-making, 53346.—Improvements carried out with Committee's assistance should be maintained by tenants, 53471-2.—Board's inspectors should visit the holdings, and should have power to prosecute if improvements were not kept up, 53473-5, 53478-80, 53482.—In most cases tenants would be able to pay cost of repairs, 53477.—If after a manure heap had been removed by Committee, and an outhouse built, the practice of keeping cattle in the house were reverted to, the sanitary law should be put in operation, 53481.—Distribution of vegetable seed by Committee would be useful in Carna parish, 53347, 53353-4.—Agricultural Board had lately done something of the sort, and had sent an instructor who lived at Carna, 53347-50.—The seed should be distributed at a reduced price, the reduction being regarded as an educational contribution, 53355-7.

EMIGRATION.

Within the twelve months preceding September, 1907, eighty young people had emigrated from Carna parish, 53366.—In the same period thirty-eight emigrants had returned, and fourteen of those who returned went back again, 53367.—Those who returned intended to settle down and marry, but some, failing to do so, went back, 53368, 53370.—The returning emigrants brought money, 53369.—Some of the returned were girls, who married, and some were men who bought holdings, 53371.—The girls brought £50 to £200 with them, and when they married put this additional capital into the holding which was generally a purchased one; improvements would be made about the house, and stock bought, 53399, 53404-7.—If all the money could not usefully be so employed the balance was placed in the bank, 53408.—There were no agricultural banks at Carna, 53409-10.

M'HUGH, Rev. MICHAEL—*continued.*

LACE-MAKING, AND ITS RELATION TO EMIGRATION.

The lace-making industry was hampered by all the girls going to America, 53373-5.—There was always a fresh supply of learners for the lace class, 53375-6.—The class had been established about seven years, 53377.—By hard work lace workers could earn 10*s.* a week, 53378.—Girls would not stay at home, because while they did so their parents got all their earnings in accordance with Irish custom, 53379-80, 53387.—Girls showed a greater tendency to go than men, because girls did better in America than boys, and saved more, 53380.—To avoid the parents taking the earnings, the money might be stopped, and a savings bank established; witness thought this plan had been tried by the nuns without much success, 53383.—It was a method that might be resented, 53386.—At present the money earned was paid through the agency of the instructress, 53384.—Lace-making tended rather to check than encourage emigration, 53430.—At present girls generally waited to emigrate till they could get their passages paid, 53388.—If the money they earned were accumulated in a bank it might not necessarily be employed to buy a passage, but might serve as a dowry, 53390.—The eighty emigrants referred to included several families, and of the remainder two-thirds were girls, 53396-7.—The remittances sent home probably came mostly from girls, 53398.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

There were ten schools in the parish of Carna, the attendance of which was 60 per cent., or less, of the number on the rolls, 53411-7.—Bad attendance was attributable to the illiteracy of parents who could not appreciate education, and to the need for the children on the holdings, many of which were in rundale, so that the cattle needed watching; Board had effected improvement by dividing the holdings into squares, and school attendance had since increased, 53418-9.—None of the children had far to go to school, 53420-1.

FOOD OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The provision of food for the school children would be a good thing, as they had nothing to eat from their arrival in the morning till their return home at five o'clock, 53422.—There was little milk in the district, and many of the children had none during winter, 53457-62.—Potatoes and fish, as well as bread and tea, were their food, 53463-5.—They never had oatmeal porridge, but sometimes ate Indian meal porridge, 53466.—The oats grown were sold to shopkeepers, 53467.—Long ago porridge was given, and then there were mills to grind oats, 53468.—Instruction in agriculture and other industries would be better than instruction in the higher standards at the National schools, 53423-5.—Such instruction in practical matters had formerly been given, but never efficiently, 53426-7.—Emigration was not more common among illiterate than other boys and girls; all wished to emigrate, 53428.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY INSTRUCTION.

Domestic economy classes had been held in Carna with good results, 53432-3.—Instruction in domestic economy did not stimulate emigration by enabling girls to earn better wages, 53434.—Instruction in cooking the vegetables to be raised from the seed distributed had not yet been given; distribution was only begun in the spring of 1907, 53435-41.—The prevailing diet was potatoes, bread, and fish; a few cabbages were used, 53442, 53445.—Girls had been taught to cook potatoes and plain dishes such as herring or lobster, 53444, 53446.—Since the instruction in domestic economy better bread was to be seen in the houses, and the houses were better kept, 53447-50.—Housekeeping and keeping a house in order, as well as washing and ironing, were taught at domestic economy classes, 53451-3.

NURSES.

There was a nurse in this district, 53515.—The influence of nurses was elevating and humanising, and the appointment of nurses was an important element in improvement of the people, 53516-7.

FISHING IN CARNA PARISH.

Fishing was not a success, though the people were anxious to do that or anything else to make money; mackerel and lobster were the only fish caught, and the mackerel season only lasted two or three months in spring, 53104-5, 53115, 53121-3, 53142.—The want of a curing station alone prevented fishing in autumn and winter, or rather in September and October, 53106, 53116, 53237-80, 53247-51.—Such a station would create a market for fish caught in autumn, 53252.—Autumn fishing could only be carried on from small boats as the mackerel came inshore in autumn, 53107-8, 53236.—If Carna fishermen exploited the same grounds as Arran fishermen, the bad weather would often prevent their going to fish, and would keep them imprisoned in their large boats, 53114.—During spring it would be possible to exploit these Arran fishing grounds, 53116.—In Boffin, where there was a very successful fishing, only small boats were used, but there the fishing was almost entirely the inshore autumn fishing, 53118-20, 53133.—The establishment of a curing station had been the starting point of fishery development in Arran and Boffin, 53123-4, 53126.—Witness thought the curing stations were established by Congested Districts Board, 53125-6.—Witness had lived seven years in Boffin, and had heard no complaints from Boffin fishermen that lack of competition kept prices of fish down, 53126-8.—The rocks and islands about Carna would not militate against fishery development; during the autumn fishing the fishermen would go out in the small boats in the evening to set their nets, return home at night, and in the morning go back to take the catch, 53109, 53130-2.—In the spring fishing the men did not come ashore after the nets were cast, 53118.—The aggregate catch of these small boats would be sufficient to make a curing station at Carna profitable; the bulk of the fishing in Carna parish was carried on from the small boats, 53129, 53133, 53150.—The people using small boats used them exclusively for sea fishing, 53225.—Most of the Carna boats were small boats, 53233.—No steps had been taken to supply instructors or nets for small boats, 53242-6.—Most of the small boats were built on the loan system not for fishing but for collecting seaweed and similar purposes, 53253-7.—The late Mr. Duthie was in favour of establishing a curing station at Carna, 53134-7.—Mr. Shimmin had dealt with the fishing question on this part of the coast, 53138.—He had not been very successful in developing the fishery there because of the lack of facilities for inshore autumn fishing, 53139-48.—Curing stations should be established at Masson and Carna, and at Kilkerrin, 53151, 53234.—The market for cured mackerel had been less good than usual during 1907, but the market was getting steady, 53152-5.—An autumn herring fishing would go hand in hand with the mackerel, 53156.—There was a small local demand for herrings, 53246.—Autumn herring fishing was done from canoes in Arran, 53157-8.—Arran fishing was mainly mackerel, 53159-62.—There were large boats in Carna which regularly fished outside, 53202-3.—They were acquired with assistance of Congested Districts Board, 53205.—The men earned some money with these boats, but not enough to pay more than half the instalments on the loans, 53204, 53206.—Large boats could not touch the inshore fishing, 53206, 53219.—Both small and large boats should be used, and the small ones should be supplied with nets, 53220, 53234.—Both large and small boats were built very well at Mweenish, 53228-31.—Instructors had at first been placed in the large boats, but their services had since been dispensed with without any consequent diminution of the catch, 53239-41.—There was still a demand for the larger boats, 53258.—In Galway Bay steam trawlers competed with the boats, 53261.—The big boats at Carna were not used for trawling, but for mackerel and herring, 53262-5.—Long line fishing would have to be done from small boats, 53266.—There was not much turf transit at Carna; hookers probably came with meal and flour from Galway, 53224-7.—It would be an advantage to have a resident officer to superintend the fishing of Carna; after a time it would not be necessary for him to devote his whole time to the parish, 53163-4.—The coast line he would have charge of extended from Kilkerrin almost to Cashel, 53165-6.

TRANSIT FOR FRESH FISH.

Fishing for ling, cod, skate, conger, plaice, and sole could be made a success if quick transit for the fresh fish were provided, 53169-71.—There were no railways but fairly good roads, 53167-8.—Recess was the nearest point of railway communication, 53172.—The steamer from Arran formerly touched at Kilkerrin, but was of little use as she came very irregularly, 53173-6, 53189-90.—The steamer to be of use for the fresh fish would have to call regularly at least three times a week, 53187, 53196-9.—A motor service would be preferable, and would overcome the difficulties in disposing of lobsters, which suffered much in being transported in carts to Recess, 53174, 53177-9, 53182, 53183-4.—Witness thought the County Council had refused to give the roads the repairs necessary before starting a motor service, 53192-5.—The fishermen only made £10 to £15 per season by lobsters, 53180-1.—Lobsters were caught along the rough coast just outside, 53182.

KELP.

Kelp sold in Kilkerrin amounted to about 1,000 tons per year; about the same quantity was sold in Cashel, 53267.—The price in 1907 was not so good as at one time, but as good as it had been within the last ten years, 53268.—£4 per ton was the highest price, but about £3 was the average, 53269.—Taking not only Carna parish, but the whole district, about £3,000 a year was made out of kelp, 53270.—More could be made if the people abandoned the present wasteful method of burning, in which 50 per cent. of the ingredients was lost; local works should be started for treating the weed and extracting the products; this would both utilise the large quantities of raw material on the spot and supply the need for employment, 53271, 53274.—The condition of the iodine market was precarious, but the kelp contained other things and was used in soap manufacture, and witness thought also in manufacturing paper in America; kelp contained potash and algin; the latter was said to be very valuable and was used in the cotton trade, 53278-9.—Kilkerrin would be a suitable site for a kelp factory, with appliances for burning kelp economically, 53282-4.—Congested Districts Board should endeavour to induce a private firm to open works at Kilkerrin, 53285.—This firm should purchase seaweed, and give employment in extracting the products, 53286.—The quantity of seaweed available was sufficient to enable the works to be carried on at a profit, 53287.—Witness had been in communication with a company who were willing to open works at Kilkerrin, 53288.—If the kelp manufacture were done on a co-operative system more of the profits would go to the workers, but the latter had no experience, and could not be got to adopt such a system, 53290.—But there were no co-operative societies in Carna, 53469.—Under the existing system the kelp was bought by the ton after burning, 53292-3.—As a rule all that was bought was purchased, 53294-314.—Buyers applied a chemical test to the kelp; they rejected what was below a certain standard and gave a reduced price for what was of inferior quality, 53295-6.—The people were not satisfied with the test, 53298.—The price of weed sometimes fell from £4 to £2 10*s.* at the end of the season; it was sometimes lowered by the buyer on the grounds that kelp was not up to standard, 53311-2.—An official inspector to test kelp would be no use as the buyer would insist on his own test, 53313.—It was difficult to test kelp, 53317.—An official test might give the public more confidence regarding prices, 53318.—There was only one buyer in the district; witness believed the buyers had formed a sort of ring or syndicate so that there was a monopoly, 53299, 53315-6.—Witness would be surprised to hear there was only one purchasing firm, 53301.—The kelp was sent to Glasgow; ten years ago a Sheffield company purchased kelp which they used in the manufacture of glass; at the end of the third year the syndicate offered to supply this company with kelp at a cheaper rate than they could buy it, 53302.—This offer concerned glue, 53303.—The principal firm of the syndicate was an iodine company, but other companies were connected with it such as the Sheffield Glue Company, which had nothing to do with iodine, 53304.—The kelp-burning season lasted from the middle of April to beginning of

October; kelp-burning was dependent on the weather and varied with the season, 53305-8.—No royalty was charged on the weed, but witness thought the Land Commission added something to the rent in view of the facilities for getting the weed, 53309-10.

WALKER, Mr. W. J. D.

See also p. 175.

Lady Dudley's Nursing Scheme.

Lady Dudley's Nursing Fund was affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute, 53523.—The institute provided trained nurses for district nursing, but no funds for their support; Lady Dudley organised a scheme to provide district nurses and collected money to maintain them in these poor parts of Ireland; in 1907 there were fifteen of these nurses all maintained from funds raised under Lady Dudley's scheme; the future development of the scheme depended on funds and for lack of them many applications for nurses had been refused, 53524.—Nurses intended for district nursing received an additional special training, 53525.—All Congested Districts Board had done for this scheme was in a few cases to give grants for furniture and to build houses at Annagry and Aranmore in County Donegal as well as at Glengariff in County Cork, and at Caherdaniel and Dooks in County Kerry; a house was being built at Spiddal, and another projected for Belladangan; rents for these houses were paid from Lady Dudley's Fund, 53526, 53542.—Witness thought assistance for the nursing scheme would be well within powers of Congested Districts Board; the nurses saved many valuable lives, were efficient in inducing the people to adopt better sanitary methods, and had a humanising effect on the people; they were always well spoken of by those among whom they worked; £1,500 a year was expended by Lady Dudley's Fund on the nurses, and was raised by outside subscriptions collected by Lady Dudley, 53527.—In dealing with congestion the greatest importance should be attached to this scheme, which should, therefore, receive great attention from Board, 53529-30.—In districts like that about Carna nurses' expenses were greater than in a town owing to the distance traversed, involving cost of conveyances, 53543.—In towns local subscriptions could be got, but Board might reasonably help where these were unobtainable; in towns of 5,000 inhabitants five doctors might generally be found, while in country districts one dispensary doctor might have to attend to 8,000 people, 53544-5.—The nurse at Carna, Nurse M'Coy, from her experience of typhus, concluded that disease in the West of Ireland originated from the time the manure heaps near the cottages were cleared away; at Dooks, County Kerry, there were twenty-five or twenty-six cases of typhus in 1906, and eighteen or nineteen in 1907; the 1907 cases had been traced to a single case originating in a house where the manure was cleared out from close to the door, 53530.—The fact that in the vine districts in Switzerland typhus also occurred when the manure was put out should be better known, 53531.

Cottage Hospitals.

Cottage hospitals would benefit such districts as Carna; they had been advocated by the Poor Law Commision; at present Carna fever patients had to be driven a long distance over the hills to Clifden; the people would have more confidence in an hospital on the spot, 53548.—The chief objection to expressing a strong opinion as to desirability of Board's contributing to an extension of the nursing system and the establishment of cottage hospitals was the insufficiency of Board's funds, and the expense that would be involved; the cottage hospital question concerned Local Government Board, which had considered it, 53549.—A poundage rate for medical charities would have to be very high to be effective in Carna as poor law valuation was low; a penny in the pound would produce about £10, 53534.

Lace-making, and its Relation to Emigration.

The lace class-room at Carna was erected by a Manchester Relief Committee; the success of the class was checked by emigration; one year the turnover was £900, but the next year emigration reduced it to £400; since the class-room was opened no applicants had been refused work; new girls were constantly coming forward; attendance might be better; girls could easily make 8*s.* or 10*s.* a week, 53532-6.—This industry might give permanent employment; at Clones the married women did a lot of work at home, 53536-8.—Attendance at lace classes was purely voluntary; classes had no connection with the educational system under National Board, 53539-40.—Thorough instruction in drawing and plain sewing at the National schools would prepare for lace work; the Factory Act prevented girls attending under fourteen years of age unless they had passed the second stage of fifth standard, and were over thirteen years old; teachers were instructed not to take girls whose absence from home would prevent the younger children there from going to school, 53541.—In many districts emigration had been reduced in consequence of establishment of lace classes; Banada and Derrypark were instances, 53550.—In a few cases girls who went to America worked there at lace, but generally they entered domestic service, 53551-3.—The advantage to emigrants of having attended lace classes were generally confined to the results of a good influence, 53552.

Kelp.

Witness had forwarded to Commission a letter from a gentleman in London suggesting the possible development of a process for the treatment of kelp, 53546-7.

HAZELL, Mr. THOMAS.

Alleged Carelessness and Adulteration in Preparation of Kelp.

Witness lived at Cashel, and was kelp agent there, 53555.—The outlook for kelp was very bad owing to severe foreign competition in iodine, which was obtained elsewhere as a bye-product; in South America and Germany it was got out of the ground, 53556-8, 53560.—In Japan iodine was made from seaweed, as in Ireland, but more cheaply and honestly, 53558-9, 53641.—Japanese were more industrious, and burned kelp more carefully, 53643.—Witness had heard the Japanese could place kelp on the English market at the same price as the Irish kelp in spite of the cost of transit, 53643-5.—Kelp could be made equally well in Ireland, and 25 per cent. better than at present, 53642, 53645.—Much of the kelp was very carelessly burned, but an alteration in the system of burning would effect no great saving, 53584-6, 53650.—The bye-products were less valuable than ten or fifteen years ago, some of them being obtainable cheaper elsewhere; the iodine was the main product, 53588, 53662-3.—By working honestly and keeping out sand and stones, and giving better weed, burners could make 25 per cent. better; if this were done witness's firm would probably raise the price 15*s.* or £1 per ton, 53589-91, 53595, 53682, 53685-6.—Sand and stones were put in on purpose to make weight; witness had seen 30 per cent. of gravel in kelp; on two shores in Ireland the company had stopped buying on account of the adulteration, 53592-4, 53609-13, 53651.—The worst adulteration was that with inferior weed; the gravel and stone adulteration was more easily checked, 53677-80, 53682.—The kelp-burners knew well how to burn kelp, and what weed to look for, 53646-7, 53683-4.—The May weed was the best at its own time of year, but useless at other seasons; each kind was good at its season, 53596-7.—There was less danger of adulteration when the kelp was run into the solid than when it was run into dry ash, 53598-9.—An inspector for testing kelp would be no use, as buyers would insist on their own test, 53600.—Witness had tested kelp thirty years, and had no doubt of the accuracy of his method, 53601-4.—The test was a scientific one based on chemistry, 53606-7, 53608.—The kelp was not tested in the factory; witness tested on the spot and fixed prices, 53607A.—The test was private, and was checked

HAZELL, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

at the works by a private method, 53664-6.—There was no check of the test on the sellers' behalf, 53667.—About five tons of dry weed went to a ton of kelp, 53615.—Witness could tell pretty well the value of five tons perfect weed brought to him, 53616.—Though the foreign iodine was undercutting the home manufacture, the company witness worked for could just keep the industry in Ireland alive and make a small profit, 53561-2.—Three or four companies were engaged in making iodine, 53563.—Witness represented the Glasgow company, 53564.—There were no other agents buying kelp in the immediate neighbourhood of Carna, but others bought it in Clare and Mayo, and Donegal, 53568.—Every agent had his own district, 53569.—The Glasgow people bought all the kelp in Clare, 53570.—A company was buying kelp at Aran; witness bought kelp out of the Aran district at Kilkiernan, 53571.—Witness's company bought kelp in Norway, and the north islands of Scotland, 53670.—Sandford's firm was one of the two which bought in Uist, 53671-3.—There had been complaints of adulteration in kelp from the Hebrides, 53675-6.—Within the last ten years witness had not had to raise the price of kelp in consequence of competition from other firms, but in September of 1907 he was paying more in Carna than anyone else in Ireland, 53572-81.—Buyers preferred high prices, as they meant the stuff supplied was better, 53582-3.—Witness had instructions to buy for the company all the good kelp he could get in 1907 at £4 a ton, 53619-20, 53623-4, 53634-7.—The company would not buy inferior kelp, as it was worth nothing, 53623-6.—Witness wanted only the best, but bought down to £3 per ton, 53638-9.—The company manufactured the kelp when bought, 53621.—Any interference in the industry with Government money would in view of foreign competition compel witness's company to cease buying kelp, 53617-8, 53631.—Witness spoke for his company in saying this, 53655-8.—If there were anything to be made from kelp more companies would be buying, 53631.—If kelp were burned by Congested Districts Board in the proper way, and a lot burned in the usual way, witness would take the best and give the highest price whoever burned it, 53654, 53660-1.—Witness did not think it was competition for the Board to supply the best quality of kelp, 53659.—Witness thought no iodine was imported, 53627-8.—He thought his firm held enough iodine to supply the world for years, and so did the South Americans; the supply of iodine exceeded the demand, 53628.—Kelp alone would probably supply the iodine market, 53629.

O'CONNOR, Mr. CHRISTOPHER.

Carna Parish—Land Question.

Witness resided at Letterard, near Carna, in the Clifden rural district, and was familiar with the condition of small landholders in Carna parish, and on Berridge and Nolan estates; he gave evidence on behalf of Carna branch of United Irish League, 53687.—Carna parish was comprised within electoral divisions of Knockboy and Owengowla, and Skannive, and comprised 32,769 acres, with a population of 4,180; it contained thirty-five townlands, of which twenty-six were inhabited; the uninhabited townlands were mountainous and the tenants graziers, 53687-8.—Richard Berridge, Esq., and Colonel Nolan and Mrs. Newtown were the landlords of the uninhabited townlands; fourteen islands off the coast varying from two to sixty-one acres in extent were owned by graziers, and had a total area of 268 acres, with valuation of £115 15*s.*; total area of grazing lands in the parish was 7,894 acres, with valuation of £110 15*s.*, but only 200 of the 7,894 acres were fit for tillage, 53689, 53721.—The inhabited townlands bordered the sea, and six of them had been purchased by Congested Districts Board; in the other twenty the holdings were small and uneconomic, especially on the Berridge and Nolan estates, and principally because sub-division was permitted on those estates; few Nolan estate tenants had more than five or six acres each; in other parts of Clifden rural district there was plenty of grazing land; Congested Districts Board should have power and money to buy out the landlords, purchase the grazing lands from the graziers throughout Clifden rural district, and migrate families from congested areas to such grazing lands as were suitable for tillage; holdings on congested townlands should be enlarged by striping the grazing farms suitable for tillage, and changing some of the tenants to these new farms; grazing farms to which seaweed rights were attached should be purchased for migration purposes; one such farm was the townland of Roscoe, containing 1,000 acres, which could supply land and seaweed to twenty-five or thirty tenants, 53690, 53692, 53898-9.—This farm was on the Berridge estate, which Board had refused to buy on the grounds that the land was already striped, and contained no grazing farms for distribution; the Roscoe farm was all arable land from which tenants had been cleared out during the Famine, 53691-2, 53721.—Boundaries between the holdings and improvements in housing would be needed on Berridge and Nolan estates, 53721.

Question of Migration.

Holders who had only four to six acres lived chiefly by kelp-making and fishing, and on money received from children in America; they should not be moved inland, but to some other maritime townland where their knowledge of kelp-making and fishing could be utilised, 53692-4.—Other landholders who made no use of the sea except by collecting seaweed for manure could be moved inland, 53695.—One-third of the Mweenish people should be migrated to a maritime townland, 53695.—In Mweenish and elsewhere constant cropping had worn out the land, and this was a chief cause of potato failure, 53696.—One man could work about forty or fifty acres; two or three of the holdings amalgamated could be worked by one man; a holding should be large enough to allow of rotation of crops and of portions being left fallow for several years, 53698-702.

Provision of Grazing for Cattle and of Turbary.

Owing to the nature of the land, cattle on maritime townlands suffered from the disease called "Pine," which could be remedied by grazing them on the mountain several months in the year, or feeding them with bran and Indian meal; the latter was expensive, but the only resource while graziers held the mountains, 53702-4.—Cattle on the mountains became stunted from a disease called cripple, which was cured by sending them to the shore; it was also cured by better feeding, 53704-5.—Consequently access for cattle to both shore and mountains was desirable, 53706, 53710.—The turf supply was becoming exhausted in maritime townlands, though formerly part of each holding was bog; many townlands would soon have no supply so near as the mountain bogs the graziers held; these mountains, at present utilised only for cattle and sheep, might advantageously be purchased and given back to the people in common, 53706-10.—Neither improvement nor boundaries had ever been made on the mountains; the mountain assigned a townland should be fenced, but the stripes assigned to particular holdings need not be, 53710, 53902, 53906.—The striping would be for the purpose of devoting to each man his portion of turf, but the townland's cattle could run all over the mountain, 53711-3.—The long stretch of mountain to the south of Recess was not too distant to be used by Carna people; Mweenish people sent their cattle there; the mountains were hitherto unfenced, and owners visited them every day and fed the animals in a certain place to persuade them to stay near it, 53900-1.—A herd would not be needed, as each man attended to his own cattle, 53903, 53909-10.

Roads and Seaweed Manure.

Short roads from the shore to the public road were needed that horses and asses might be employed to convey the seaweed used as manure, which the people had hitherto carried upon their backs; such roads would facilitate the manuring and tilling of lands further from the shore and relieve the shore lands from the constant cropping, 53713.—If there were roads, the larger holders would keep horses and hire them out to smaller men for dragging seaweed, 53714-7.—With roads bogs could be reclaimed by draining and liming, and bringing sand from the seashore; short roads should be constructed to any grass lands striped up, 53717, 53721.—Lime could be brought from Arran, where there was plenty, and carried in the boats which took turf to Arran, 53718-21.—In some townlands there was scarcity of seaweed for manure, and it was purchased from owners of adjacent islands; it would be better if the seaweed rights of the islands were purchased; the seaweed should be divided into stripes, and the boundaries of the stripes defined, 53721.

Agricultural Model Farm suggested.

The Knockboy farm should be converted into an agricultural model school; it was already drained; tillage could be taught there, and the people shown how liming could prevent the ravages of an insect which injured the potato stalk, 53721.—This farm could be used to teach rotation of crops, and the method of reclaiming the mountain, 53724.—There were a number of trees on the farm; there was only a caretaker in charge, 53723.—Seaweed could be brought to Knockboy farm, as it was only two or three miles from the shore, 53726.

Corn Mill needed.

A corn mill for grinding oats would enable the Carna people to use oatmeal instead of Indian meal; a small corn mill formerly existed, but was far from a road, and stopped from lack of custom, 53727-9.—If a corn mill were now set up it would be used; there had been changes, and the use of Indian meal was being abandoned, 53730-3.—Oats were sold to shopkeepers for 4*s.* to 5*s.* per cwt.; if ground at a corn mill they would be turned to better use, and the people would be encouraged to grow better grain, 53734.

Woollen Industry in Carna and Grazing for Sheep.

Carding and spinning wool was an old native industry in Carna parish, and still carried on in every house, 53737-40, 53744-5.—Most of the clothes and bedclothes used were carded, spun, and warped at home, and sent to the hand-loom weavers, of which there were about twenty in the parish, 53741-3, 53772-4, 53777-8.—The same looms had been in use for 100 years, 53763-6.—Weaving was hereditary in families; the weavers worked as farmers in summer, and at the looms in winter, 53775-6.—The hand-loom business should be retained, but carding the wool was laborious, and a carding mill would be a great benefit, 53734-6, 53768-70.—There was a carding machine at Clifden, which the people preferred to use rather than do the work by hand, 53779.—Some hand-carding was still done, as it made work smoother, 53779-84.—The industry was a thriving one, and had never had any outside help, 53746-7.—Every farmer had twenty or thirty sheep, which were sent to graze on the mountains, 53743, 53749.—Some of the townlands had commonage rights, and grazing was hired by people in other townlands, 53750-1.—Some people with no right to commonage sent their sheep to graze on the mountains and were undisturbed, 53753-62, 53797-8.—This was the case even with the mountains witness wished Board to buy, 53760.—More sheep would be kept if the mountains were taken from the graziers and given to the people, 53755.—Some of the graziers and landlords were willing to surrender the mountains, but some demanded an unreasonable price, and compulsory powers should be granted to deal with them, 53784, 53789-93.—The graziers were mostly yearly tenants, 53785-6, 53794-5.—Cattle and sheep were kept on the mountains part of the year, but practically the land was going to waste, 53787.—The yearly tenants did not put on the sheep, 53796.

Piers and Fishing.

Piers with short approach roads as landing stages for seaweed, and as harbours for fishing vessels, were needed, especially at Letterard, where there were four fishing boats, and about fifty-six landholders; in 1879 two quays were built there in unsuitable places, 53798-9.—Letterard was five miles from Carna, in Knockboy electoral division; fishing for mackerel and herring was carried on in large boats, and lobster and general hand-line fishing in two or three-ton boats; many people were employed in mackerel and herring fishing, but the season had been late in recent years, and though it went on longer, was less successful than formerly, as the late mackerel were less plentiful, 53800-6.—A good deal of money was still made out of herrings; fishing boats costing £400 and £500 had been obtained by loans from Congested Districts Board, repayable in sixteen half-yearly instalments, but arrears were now so large that the prospect of paying them was remote; Board had lately appointed a receiver over the boat-earnings and allowed the owner one-fifth of the net earnings for up-keep; the loans should be divided, one loan being used to purchase the body of the boat with mast and sails, and the other to purchase gear; sixteen years should be allowed for paying off the first loan, and eight for paying off the second; thus the amount of the instalments could be reduced, and the boat-owners encouraged to make greater efforts to pay off loans, 53807, 53813.—The receiver system was a good one, and should have been adopted sooner, 53808-14.—It should not be employed unless instalments were a year in arrear, 53815.—The boats were generally well kept, and should last thirty years, 53816-7.—None of the fish were landed in Carna parish, but at Roundstone and Arran, 53818-9.—Herring and mackerel were caught together, some buyers taking both, 53820-1.—An attempt should be made to extend the fishing season, which so far was only from mid-April to mid-October, 53807.—Mackerel and herring could be caught about Carna during a much longer period if Board would give loans to provide nets for small fishing boats which could be used for inshore fishing, 53821-3.—Such nets cost £3 10*s.* apiece; about six would be needed, and a few nights' catches would pay for them, 53824-7, 53831.—The nets of the large boats were too deep, and were lost if employed in shallow water, 53823, 53829-30.—Lobster and general hand-line fishing were the favourite forms of the industry, as lobster-fishing could be carried on side by side with farming; until 1907 only one company bought lobsters in Carna, and the prices were so low that some of the fishermen sent their lobsters by rail to salesmen in London, &c.; but many lobsters died en route, and as the salesmen sold them on commission, the loss fell on the fishermen, 53832-5, 53850.—The railway was sixteen miles away at Recess, and the lobsters were sent in common carts, 53850.—A motor omnibus service from Carna and Kilkerrin to Rosmuck and Maam Cross Railway station would place the neighbourhood within easy reach of Galway, Dublin, and London markets; market tickets from Maam Cross to Galway at low prices were issued twice a week, 53852.—Witness was a Rural District Councillor, and was sure the Council would allow a penny in the pound rate towards improving roads and bridges for a motor service, 53853-6.—The rural district had a valuation of £18,000; the expense would be considerable, but all Connemara would benefit, 53857-61.—The Oughterard district could also contribute; omnibuses could carry both passengers and goods, 53852, 53861.—The company which purchased lobsters in Carna took them away in tanks to keep them alive; they were carried in large boats like small schooners, 53839.—Want of money and inability to combine would prevent the fishermen doing the same; tanks of lobsters could not be taken to Galway in hookers, because bad weather would cause delays, 53837-42.—Lobsters were formerly sent by boat to Galway, but often died en route when weather delayed the boats, 53843, 53851.—Lobsters would survive delays if kept in a tank, but it was less trouble to send them to a station, 53444-9.

Competition Needed.

Better prices could be obtained for lobsters and kelp, and dried seaweed if competition were greater; for the fish curing stations should be established, and would attract more buyers, 53861, 53862-3.

Kelp.

Kelp was burned in kilns 7 feet by 3 and burned all day and all night till it ran into liquid, on which there was loss; if three or four kilns were used instead of one the kelp would be in small lumps, and there would be less loss, 53866-7.—In the smaller

O'CONNOR, Mr. CHRISTOPHER—*continued.*

kilns most of the kelp would be a fine dust; the people preferred the larger kilns, because in them the kelp ran into a liquid mass into which all the dust was taken up, 53868.—Price of kelp varied from year to year; a few people got £4 a ton, but £5 15*s.*, £3 10*s.*, and £3 were ordinary prices; in 1907 the price was good because the wet weather made drying weed difficult, and less kelp was made, 53869-71.—Variation in price was supposed to depend on the quality of the kelp, but did not, 53872.—Agents wanted kelp containing only red weed and courlagh; black kelp, that is kelp made with black weed, was not required; in judging kelp buyers went not only by the test, but by information received from their spies as to what kind of weed was used by each kelp-burner; sometimes the same kelp had been refused when brought in by one man, and when he gave it to a neighbour to bring in it was bought, 53873-7.—Adulteration consisted in putting less valuable weed in with the more valuable, and putting in black instead of tangled weed; witness had no sympathy with people who put in stones, 53878.—Witness had seen the agent test kelp by putting it in a glass and pouring a liquid over it; witness had heard of the test failing, 53879-81.—Mr. Hazell was the only agent for kelp in Carna and Roundstone; he had sub-agents who bought for him; a few years ago a company began buying dried seaweed at 1*s.* 6*d.* a cwt., and continued doing so for a few years, but had since stopped; whilst they were buying Mr. Hazell also bought the dried weed at 1*s.* 7½*d.* a cwt., but ceased when they did, 53882-3.—Five cwt. of dried seaweed went to a cwt. of kelp, 53884-5.—At that time Mr. Hazell was giving £4 10*s.* for kelp, and paid well both for good and bad kelp, 53888-9.—Price of kelp varied with supply; before the mackerel and herring fishing began, seven years ago, all the people made kelp, and prices were low; two or three would get £4 at the beginning of the season, but at the end only £2 or £1 10*s.* were given; when fishing was successful there was less kelp and prices were better, 53889-91.—The people would prefer selling the weed at 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. to making kelp; this was equivalent to £7 10*s.* per ton of kelp, 53894-5, 53897.—Purchase of dried seaweed by Government would compel its purchase by the company, 53896.

KELLY, Mr. JOSEPH.

Congestion in Connemara.

Witness lived in Cashel, and was a schoolmaster there; he had been deputed to give evidence by a committee of men at Roundstone selected to deal with congestion; he had lived twenty-five years in the "congested" districts of Connemara; these districts contained vast wastes of bog and swamp interspersed with small patches which could, with great difficulty be made to produce poor crops, chiefly potatoes, which throve best; amongst the wastes were some tracts of better quality, none of which were in the possession of the smaller tenants, thought it was the latter and their ancestors who originally made these tracts fertile, only to be expelled from them; these better tracts were now usually farmed by professional men or local merchants; witness remembered cases of such transfers occurring in a district similar to Connemara, and in which he had lived almost twenty-five years before coming to Connemara; at present holders paid rents with money sent by relatives in America; the small holdings called "stripes" were usually occupied by two or more tenants, and if one co-tenant failed to pay his rent all on the holding were evicted; the landlords had cared little for the miseries of their tenantry, and should be bought out, and such land as was of value should be distributed to the tenants, 53911.

Compulsory Purchase.

Purchase should be compulsory, as there was little prospect of voluntary sales, 53911.

Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board should be the purchasing body, as their work had hitherto had good results; Ireland had an excessive number of Boards and Departments, many of them very inefficient; if Congested Districts Board were disolved or merged in another Department, the result would probably be the transfer of their duties to less experienced hands, in which the people would have less confidence; Department of Agriculture had scarcely touched the district about Cashel, though one of their instructresses had lectured there a few years before, but for too short a time to effect much good, 53911.

Shopkeepers.

The local shopkeepers took advantage of the general poverty, and it was they who filled the Bench and the public boards, and they were able to compel their debtors to vot efor them, 53911.

Industrial Resources of Connemara.

Valuable and extensive tracts of marble existed in the neighbourhood, and had so far been little worked; there was valuable granite which had been entirely neglected; the manufacture of peat might be tried, and the frequent wet years would render it remunerative; kelp-making was but little practised in the Cashel district; lace-making or needle-work and a woollen factory might retard emigration, 53911-2.—Irish was spoken about Cashel, and was taught in witness's school, 53913-4.—Witness conducted a carpentry school, 53915-6.

Agricultural Education in National Schools.

Agricultural education should be given to boys in National schools through the medium of a plot for the production of vegetables attached to the school; the old method of teaching agriculture theoretically in schools was of little use, 53917-8.

Cooking Instruction.

Instruction in cooking the vegetables grown might profitably be given to girls by the schoolmistress; space was not available in the schools, but it would be advisable to have a galvanised kitchen erected for the purpose, and the vegetables cooked could be converted into a meal for the scholars; qualifications for teaching cooking might be lacking in teachers, 53919-22.—An instructress in cooking sent by Department had given lessons in Cashel, but in too theoretical a manner; an instructress sent by Congested Districts Board had done better, 53922-3.

Feeding of School Children.

Feeding of children at school would enable them to learn better, but touched their pride; it had been necessitated on six occasions since witness came to Cashel; it could be avoided if the general condition of the people were improved, 53924-5.

School Attendance.

The percentage of attendance at school in Clifden Union had risen to 62 per cent. of those on the rolls since the enforcement of the compulsory clause; previously it was 50 to 55 per cent., 53296-9.—School fees had been seldom paid in Connemara, but were often entered as received in order to secure instalments on the results system, 53931-2.

Illiteracy.

The percentage of illiteracy was small among the rising generation, but considerable among their elders, 53933.—The present educational system, so far as it related to technical instruction, was unsatisfactory; it was called Bevisism after the inventor, Mr. Bevis, and consisted of paper-folding and similar work; something leading up to the practical occupations of life would be more useful, 53934-5.

MONGAN, Mr. MARTIN.

Kelp.

Witness lived at Carna, and was a small farmer who kept a small hotel and shop, 53936-7.—Witness had formerly acted as kelp agent, and now employed men making kelp, which he sold to Mr. Hazell, 53939-43.—He was tenant of some islands where the best kelp weed in Connemara was obtained; he supplied boats and weed to kelp-makers, gave them some assistance, and received one-third of the earnings; the kelp was sold in his name, 53943-4, 53946.—The seaweed was burned on witness's land; it grew on the foreshore, 53945-6.—Witness superintended the preparation of kelp when he could, 53947-8.—His kelp received the best price, namely, £4; when he himself was agent he gave £4 10*s*., and Mr. Hazell at that time gave £5 per ton, 53949-50, 53962-5.—In the summer of 1907, when the weather was wet and unfavourable to kelp-making, the price was good; one employé, with the help of his two boys, made £30 in two or three months, of which £10 was witness's share; these workers also had a farm to look after, 53952-5.—No one but Mr. Hazell had bought kelp in Carna parish within the last five years; there was one buyer in Arran, but no others in Connemara or Connaught except the North British Company, 53956-8, 53994-5.—It was reported that the company employing Mr. Hazell had bought out the smaller companies, 53960.—Witness was formerly agent for a Mr. Belt of Guernsey, who had given up the business on account of his health, but who might resume it; witness had no reason to suppose that Mr. Belt had an arrangement with Mr. Hazell's company, 53942, 53961-2.—A company had bought dried seaweed at Roundstone, giving £7 for an amount of seaweed which, converted into kelp, would fetch £4, 53966.—Witness had employed no scientific test when he purchased kelp, 53968, 53983-4.—In Mr. Hazell's test the kelp was ground into powder, and vitriol was poured on it, the quality being known by the way the kelp boiled, 53969.—Witness had had no reason to complain buyers had acted dishonestly in paying him for kelp; he had known instances of black weed being put into kelp; it was seldom put in now, 53970-1.—The full price was always given for properly made kelp, 53975-6.—Witness did not think that 25 per cent. more could be obtained by putting better work into the kelp, 53977-9.—When witness purchased kelp he sent trustworthy men round to see if black weed was being put into it, 53985-8.—The price fell immediately after witness gave up buying, 53989.—Carna parish produced about 1,500 tons of kelp per annum, 53990-2.—It would be no advantage if Congested Districts Board gave information to kelp-burners respecting price of kelp in other districts, as burners were already aware of them, 53993-6.—Two men could collect twenty-four tons of wet seaweed, which was enough to make a ton of kelp in eight days; it took at least a week of favourable weather to dry and cock the weed, 53997-54001.—A day was occupied in burning the ton, and a day or two in taking it to the store, 54001.—Deducting witness's third, this would work out at 2*s*. 6*d*. a day for the men, which would pay well, but the weather never allowed the work to be done so quickly; in bad weather it would take a month, 54002-4.—The wind never affected the work, but rain did, 54005.—The price of kelp was not affected by the increase of fishing; there were only a few little boats near Carna, 54007.

Debts to Shops.

The population in Carna had not grown poorer in recent years, 54008-9.—Debts to shops sometimes remained unpaid for years, 54012.—On a turnover of £1,000 per annum a shop might have £300 of outstaning debt, but the people were honest, and paid when they could, 54013.—Witness had £300 or £400 of bad debts, due from emigrants to America, 54014-7.—When some members of a family did not emigrate the people took a pride in paying their debts, 54017.

Land in Carna.

There was little real land in the neighbourhood; witness had thousands of acres which would not support a cat, 54013.—He would be willing to sell any land he had that would be useful to the parish; he had given Congested Districts Board land at Knockboy on which they had expended £9,000 or £10,000; Knockboy was an evicted farm obtained by witness from a friend, 54019-21.—Witness would buy it back at a poor rate; an Englishman bought it for £1,100 and was evicted by Board within twelve months; this was the only eviction witness had seen in Carna during twenty years, 54022.

Fishing and Transit.

Fishing had good prospects for Carna, 54022.—A curing station should be established at Crumpaun, where there was a natural pond below the pier, 54023.—If a motor service from Carna to Rosmuck and Kilkerrin were established fishing boats would resort to Carna, 54022-3.—There was great loss on lobsters and herrings for lack of transit, and it would pay to have a motor service for them throughout the year, 54025-6.—The District Council would contribute to the necessary improvement of roads; Oughterard and Clifden districts would be concerned; the one was valued at £150,000, the other at £170,000, which at 1*d*. in the pound would produce £135; no more would be wanted, 54027.

CONROY, Rev. MARK.

Compulsory Powers for Acquisition of Land and Fixing of Price Advocated.

Where congested districts were surrounded by fertile grass lands, as in East Galway, the congestion problem was fairly simple, but on the West Galway coast the population—despite emigration, equalling probably that of pre-Famine days—was confined between the sea and mountains on small and wretched holdings, and grass lands were almost non-existent; neither the Congested Districts Board nor the Estates Commissioners had done much for this district, where congestion was at its worst, and to ensure better results in future compulsory powers should be conferred, 54031, 54183-6.—Some landlords had been unwilling to sell for a fair price, *e.g.*, the Blake Minors Estate had been offered for direct sale, but the parties had not been able to come to terms, and witness believed the matter was now closed; rents were being paid—low rents—for the place was the poorest in the district; the estate was now in the Lord Chancellor's hands, and its management by a committee made a difficulty, 54127-37.—Compulsion should be applied generally in Galway, and prices should be compulsorily fixed for buyers and sellers; any possible loss involved by the transaction should certainly not be borne by a particular class, 54126, 54153-6.—The acquisition of mountain land in the district would be of some use as commonage, but witness thought it better that each person should have a separate holding, 54186-7.

Suggested Means for Abolition of Rundale.

An estate without much rundale had been sold direct, but rundale prevailed generally in the district; rundale on property might not, but should prevent a direct sale; no such case had occurred, but if one should an effort should certainly be made to re-arrange the rundale, a bar to all progress, 54074-83.—One remedy would be that the Board or Estates Commissioners should stripe the land before the sale took place; many tenants would doubtless consent, being alive to the inconvenience and loss entailed by rundale; striping after purchase would depend on themselves, 54084-7, 54140-3.—The tenants could without the agency of a third party exchange plots with one another, and so consolidate their holdings; there would be difficulties, as friction would probably arise, but it had been done amicably; much might be done if the Board offered facilities; when property in rundale was to be sold it was usual to apply to the Estates Commissioners, who bought under Section 6 at the landlord's price, and then re-arranged holdings, 54087-96, 54139.—An agent might represent the Board on a large area, and if he found the tenancy on a big holding was about to be wound up he might give a loan to facilitate the purchase of the plot by the neighbours; the people themselves had bought little holdings that way; witness did not know if the Board's interference would create local grievances, but the public weal should be the first consideration, 54096-9.—Abolition of rundale would make holdings far more productive; fences would be maintained, mountain land reclaimed, while exclusive ownership of self-contained holdings would also lead to improved houses, etc., 54034.

Migration.

Witness believed people would be willing to migrate if offered fair holdings at a distance, though few had migrated lately; people were almost equally poor, but as a rule the poorest would be most inclined to move, 54144-6, 54188.—The extent to which migration would be necessary depended on the development of fisheries, kelp-making, Carrigeen moss, jelly-making, etc., 54031.

Possibilities of Fishery Development.

The Fisheries Commissioners' Report showed that fishing in local waters from small boats of the "nobby" class was difficult owing to the strong winds and ground swells of the west coast, and the migratory habits of the fish; this, like other now decadent industries, had flourished under native rule, not perhaps in Spiddal, but certainly at Costello Bay, 54031-3, 54042.—Spiddal Harbour was filling up with sand, and was now chiefly used as a refuge for boats from Rosmuck, Carna, etc., taking turf to Galway; about twenty fishing boats had lately put in from Claddagh; they came, too, from Galway; the coast seemed suitable for fishery development, but fishing was only carried on in a small way with lines, 54043-8.—The Board had made an unsuccessful effort to develop fishing at Costello Bay, but there had been many complaints from boatmen, and apparently a general misunderstanding; the boats were nobbies, the Greencastle yawl not being used at all; there had been no attempt to use local canoes and provide them with nets, though the men thought small boats as good as nobbies, 54049-54.—There was a general idea that fishing communities should be established, and the men allowed to follow the migratory fish round the British coast, as did Scotch, French, Manx, and other fishermen; Costello Bay, all clear water, was a fine harbour—one of the few benefits due to the Board of Works, and there was a large population in the immediate neighbourhood; a steamer stocked with fish could enter, and granted a railway, it ought to be the landing place for the Aran steamer, being much nearer than Galway, 54031, 54034, 54055-64, 54169.—If people gave up their miserable holdings they would be dependent on the fishing, from which many might get profit, if they were given reasonable facilities, as Costello Bay men were used to seafaring, 54058, 54162-6.—Curing stations should be established, that at Costello Bay being very important, as the cured fish trade alone was independent of railways, 54034, 54170-1.

Necessity of Transit Facilities—Iveagh-Pirrie Scheme Advocated.

There could be no development of fishing or any industry on the coast without cheap and fast railway facilities; the line from Galway to Clifden was practically useless to the bulk of Connemara people on the coast between Galway and Roundstone, as Mr. Balfour had declared; a line from Newcastle, near Galway, to Costello, some twenty miles, at a cost of about £100,000, would serve not only the 20,000 people between Galway and Carraroe and adjacent islands, but also those on the Aran Islands, and, according to competent authorities, it would pay well, 54034.—It would pretty well follow the telegraph line going from Galway to Costello, then out to Aran; witness thought that Costello, which would be the terminus, was nine miles from Aran, whereas Galway was 30 or 35, 54167-9.—The people of Costello, Carraroe, and adjacent islands were cut off from markets and the outer world; women walked fifteen miles from Inverin to Galway with eggs, poultry, etc., on Fridays, returning next day, sometimes taking germs of fever from a poor lodginghouse, 54034, 54108.—Failing a railway, a road motor train service would probably meet the district's needs; it was claimed that the distribution of traction power over the whole length of the train prevented damage by the engine to roads and bridges; and that the propulsion of wagons made it possible to surmount gradients impossible for a traction-engine, 54034.—The need of transit facilities had been recognised by the Galway County Council; witness thought three years ago, when they had voted £1,000 to prepare the road for the Iveagh-Pirrie motor scheme, but this should be paid for by the Treasury to atone for past neglect, and not by the over-burdened ratepayers; the rate of 1*s.* 10*d.* on land was excessive for some unions, 54034-8, 54112-18, 54152.—The length of road was about twenty miles, and witness thought the cost would be five times the estimate of the County Surveyor, 54038A-9.—Lord Iveagh and Mr. Pirrie had wished to apply their scheme to the whole country, and certain County Councils having rejected it in favour of railways, it had not been thought worth while to adopt it for the sake of three or four places in Galway, 54119-25.—The proposed expenditure by Galway County Council was a well-known fact, and Mr. Wyndham had said in the House that he had considered the scheme, 54151.—It had been brought before the Council in regard to the carrying of fish and goods generally in the district, Costello Bay being specially mentioned, also its importance to Aran; witness did not know of any place where carriage of fish by motor had been tried, and was not aware that it had been proved unsuccessful, 54200-04.—The Irish could become prosperous and progressive only when allowed to manage their own affairs, 54034.

Fostering of Home Industries, &c., by the Department of Agriculture Advocated.

National schools and technical instruction classes should teach domestic economy suited to local needs, and instruct in regard to the potato blight, common diseases of animals—pigs especially; Irish industries had been killed by Acts of Parliament, and witness agreed with Mr. Micks' report that the work of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should not be purely educational, but it should encourage by advice and money the starting of industries; the egg and poultry business might be better, and the famous Connemara ponies should not be improved out of existence; the success of crochet classes at Spiddal and Costello showed the importance of promoting other suitable home industries; young people should not be educated at Ireland's expense to benefit countries to which they must emigrate; those who had set up the woollen factory and the granite and marble works in Galway had done something to stop emigration and help the people, 54031, 54034.

Granite and Marble Quarries in Galway.

There were quarries being worked in Spiddal; and beautifully-coloured granite came from Bevan, Ferrybank, Shantalla, and Spiddal; any increase in the work would mean more employment for the people, but witness had no idea whether a big extension of quarries would be feasible, nor how many people were now employed; granite was polished at the quarries; specimens of red, green, white, and black Galway marble were exhibited in the church; there was plenty of stone in the country, 54172-82.

Kelp Industry.

There was no kelp-burning in Costello, nor, so far as witness knew, on any part of that coast; the special weed needed was not plentiful, and what weed there was was almost necessary for manuring; people might, as in other places, go out to sea for deep-water seaweed; in other parts of Connemara the weed was taken regularly off the rocks, 54031, 54066-72.

More Funds Needed for Work of Parish Committee.

The Parish Committee system had been a great success here, as everywhere, but the grants had been inadequate; the two parishes together, containing about 10,000 families, were most congested; an outhouse was begun first, then the dwelling-house improved, but though much had been done, at least £300 a year was needed—for how long witness could not say—to improve land and get houses into good condition; he thought the last grant, like the preceding one, had been £150, 53034, 54099-106.—The Parish Committee would be a good instrument for the distribution of

CONROY, Rev. MARK—*continued.*

seeds, *e.g.*, parsnip, turnip, carrot, and onion; they could sow certain patches, and the people would grow more used to the cultivation of vegetable seeds, 54198-9.

ALLEGED INSANITARY CONDITION OF SPIDDAL.

Witness did not think Spiddal exceptionally unhealthy as regarded manure heaps, but perhaps it was in so far as the houses were huddled together, making sanitation and cleanliness difficult; the district had had rather a bad name, but typhus had always come from Galway; once the school inspector had brought it from there; it might sometimes be due to the turning of manure heaps in spring, and there were none in Galway; but witness thought the overcrowding of rooms far more dangerous; typhus was well known to be in the numerous Galway lanes, 54107-11, 54195.—The sub-sanitary officer in Spiddal sometimes brought people into court to compel them to remove their manure heaps, the good work in this respect of Parish Committees having partially succeeded, 54147-50.—Witness hoped typhus would be eliminated by the Parish Committees and Congested Districts Board, 54193-5.

OBJECTIONS TO COTTAGE HOSPITALS—WORK OF DISTRICT NURSES.

Witness was strongly opposed to the establishment of cottage hospitals recommended by the recent Viceregal Poor Law Commission as entailing great expense on the county without adequate return; serious accidents seldom occurred in a purely agricultural country; in the rare case in which a patient could not be taken to the union or county hospital he could be treated as well at home with help of a district nurse; the district nurses sent by Lady Dudley's Committee had saved many lives, relieved much suffering, instilled ideas of sanitary science, and exercised a humanising influence; the Board should help them, as a sufficient number would go far to obviate the need for cottage hospitals, 54034, 54189-92.—Cottage hospitals would not always be well managed, and would not always inspire confidence, 54034, 54073.—Provision should be made for fever cases; there might be movable sheds at the union hospital, which could be wired for by the sub-sanitary officer, and put up at almost twenty-four hours' notice; fever patients, however, would not often want to go there, far preferring the union hospital, 54193-7.

M'DONAGH, MR. PATRICK.

TRANSIT FACILITIES NEEDED TO DEVELOP FISHING, &c.

Transit facilities were the foremost necessity of the county; the district between Galway and Costello, containing such places as Carraroe, Carrowmore, and Lettermullen, was densely populated; this last should be the terminus of a railway, and a steamer could run from there to Arran, eight or nine miles, instead of going thirty miles to Galway; some other places, *e.g.*, Costello, would doubtless serve the purpose, too, but Lettermullen was nearest Arran, 54212-14, 54276-9.—The steamer would be useless without the railway; it was all very well the Congested Districts Board offering luggers and oars; witness had seen a catch of 12,000 herrings which had to be rowed the whole way to Galway, instead of going straight to market by train from Lettermullen, 54219.—The voyage from Arran could be made oftener, because more quickly and easily, and the railway would be fed by larger traffic both of goods and passengers; even now hundreds of carts went to Galway with oats, barley, Carrigeen moss, etc., returning with other goods, and hundreds of women walked barefoot, carrying poultry, eggs, butter, lobsters, etc., and a railway would greatly increase this marketing; transit facilities would also develop the fishing at Costello and along the shore, and would probably open up the district to tourists and fishermen, as the country abounded in free fishing lakes; visitors would bring life into the district, 54214-5.—Mr. Balfour had effected a change in the West by means of railways, but unfortunately the line had been to Clifden, through a barren mountain, passing no populated places but Moycullen and Oughterard, whereas a coast railway would be near the fish, people, etc., 54218.—Transit facilities would allow the starting of factories which would employ many people; premises could be got in Spiddal, and perhaps a peat factory might be tried; witness believed the industry of compressed peat had been tried in Ireland unsuccessfully, but there might be a better way of making it, 54215.—Transit and fishery development would do away with relief works, which only gave labour and a little food; if Government gave something substantial the people might become law-abiding, 54288.—The granite quarries might be developed, 54215.

M'DONAGH, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

WORK OF PARISH COMMITTEE.

Of late years the people had shown a desire for better houses and sanitation, thanks to Lord Killanin and the local priest of the Parish Committee; in winter, when people had most time, the Committee improved houses and holdings, and gave free grants when necessary for materials, *e.g.*, timber, etc.; they gave £5 for a new thatched and £7 10*s.* for a slated house; 30*s.* for an out-house, 6*s.* for a window, £1 for a concrete floor, etc.; at first people were slow to respond, but now double the grant could be distributed; the Committees worked over an area 18 miles long, and it was most desirable to increase the small grant of £150, a part of which went to pay the supervisor, 54215, 54240-1.—Given £300 a year for the two parishes, which probably contained between 7,000 and 8,000 people, draining the land and road-making might be encouraged; holdings could not be enlarged, but the needed improvements were many times the value of the present grant; new houses, for which there were many applications, encouraged tenants to make improvements, and did not increase congestion, because people moved from small villages to the boreen, 54215, 54240-2, 54262-5, 54291-7.—The work was excellent; new houses were built near a public road or good bohereen, the old ones often causing fever or the spread of infection, being invariably, but not compulsorily, pulled down; the Committee was gradually destroying the once all-prevalent custom of keeping horses, pigs, and cattle in dwellinghouses, and more windows were being made; the work might be finished in five or six years with the present grant, 54215, 54262-4.—Usually the Committee paid half the cost of a house; this, well thatched, contained three rooms, and was 32 or 34 feet by 16 or 18 feet measured inside, about 500 superficial feet; a family of twelve would live in it; the grant encouraged the people to provide the rest of the money, and to give their labour; the wretchedness of their houses, without plaster of gable-ends, made them eager to do this; the houses bought by the Board for £70, £80, or £100 were probably built under contract, 54248-59.

FACILITIES FOR POTATO-SPRAYING, &c., ADVOCATED—NEGLECT OF DISTRICT BY THE BOARD.

People, at first doubtful about potato-spraying, were now anxious for it, and should be helped in so important a matter; the Board should supply the stuff cheaper, too, than now, and the Parish Committee would sell it at cost price, allowing time for payment; except for the small grant and a couple of crochet classes, the Board had done little for the district; but with more attention and a continuance of the present results of peasant-proprietorship, witness took a hopeful view of the people's condition, 54215, 54237-40.

DRAINAGE.

A man should only be compelled to keep his house-drains and so forth in order; the drainage of the entire holding would be undertaken by the Parish Committee if granted sufficient funds; witness agreed, however, that the upkeep of his holding by each individual would mean the up-keep of the district, and so be beneficial, and he did not object to enforcement of this by a friendly, sympathetic inspector, 54302-09.

AMALGAMATION OF HOLDINGS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED—SUB-DIVISION PROHIBITED BY LAW.

Amalgamation of holdings was, happily, often taking place now, and should be encouraged; in particular cases, *e.g.*, when the owners of a holding were

M'DONAGH, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

dead, or childless, or if, as would occasionally happen, they wished to migrate, the Board might advance money for the purchase of the holding by neighbours, 54215, 54222, 54271-5.—Sub-division should always be stopped; this might perhaps be done by Act of Parliament enforced by the constabulary or the medical or sub-officers; sub-division was not recognised by Government, the Land Commission being able to sell out any tenant-purchaser who sub-divided during the annuity period, 54215, 54222-6, 54300-1.—It seldom happened that people wished to enlarge a house for a son wishing to marry, and it should be possible to prevent the building of a new one for him on the same holding, though, of course, people might let holdings amongst themselves; it might not be necessary to take strong measures now, as the people themselves, owning on an average ten or fifteen acres, were beginning to see clearly the evils of sub-division; especially was this the case with purchasers through the Board; they might, however, return to old habits, 54224-36, 54269-70.—Witness did not believe sub-division had been connived at by landlords or their agents to obtain more rent, but it was the custom for a father to divide his holding; hence its miserable condition, 54285, 54283.—Sub-division had to some extent prevented emigration in the past, but emigration would be far better than people halving eight or ten acres, and then cursing Government because they were starving, the unfortunate ratepayers being made to help them, 54319-22.—The clause forbidding sub-division during the annuity period should be made a perpetual restriction; witness knew nothing about the Irish Parliamentary Party, but disagreed with it if it was opposed to legislation forbidding sub-division; he would approve of State interference, even in cases where there was no annuity, 54267, 54283-4, 54310-18.—He had never heard of the proposal to stop subdivision by the retention by Government of a small interest, a sort of quit-rent in holdings now sold outright, and could not discuss the matter; he would not himself like to pay more, or be interfered with by Governmeent, but he was totally against sub-division of ten or twelve acres of land; the method of prevention must be left to lawyers, 54323-40.

IMPROVED CONDITION OF TENANT PURCHASERS.

The economic condition of tenants who had bought their holdings was better than that of others; the holding was cheaper, the rent could not be raised, and they took more interest in a property that belonged to them; except where there was a family the people were in debt to the shopkeepers of the district; witness believed a man who had not bought his holding was in greater danger of debt than others, having more money to spend, 54286-90.

POTATOES.

The people relied on potatoes for their maintenance, and these were grown more than oats, and quite as much as formerly, 54280-2.

M'HUGH, REV. REDMOND.

CONGESTION IN ROSMUCK PARISH.

The entire parish of Rosmuck, composed of wild mountain and reclaimed bog, was congested; the people's condition was most miserable, and their prospects gloomy in the absence of any measure to enlarge or improve their holdings; there were 650 families, 160 of whom had holdings valued under £1; about 220 were valued under £2; about 100 under £3, and the rest over £3, but under £5; none of these holdings were economic, 54342.

MIGRATION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED BY LOANS FROM THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Migration, at least to some extent, was a necessity; there were no grass lands, but there were large mountain tracts, *e.g.*, between Costello and Spiddal on the south, and from Maam to Oughterard on the north, chiefly held by outside graziers; to these, people could be moved who had families able to work; this land

M'HUGH, REV. REDMOND —*continued.*

would be much better for tillage than the rocky soil by the shore, and State aid should be given for its reclamation; the present holdings of those migrating could be used to enlarge other holdings, 54342.—Witness knew a great many people who were most anxious to migrate if given the chance, and the success of a few would be an inducement to others; the assertion that Rosmuck people were not industrious was a slander; otherwise bare existence on their poor land would be impossible, 54344-55.—A Rosmuck man would certainly be able to till in East Galway; he would grow the same crops—potatoes, cereals, and green crops, but on better land and under better conditions than at home, 54356-60.—A little capital would be needed, and the Congested Districts Board might give a cheap loan; the people were most anxious to repay loans, their promptness in this respect being proved by the regularity of their annuity payments, 54361-6.—Very many Rosmuck people had friends and relatives in America who sent home £3 and £4 and more to meet Christmas shop bills; many would give money from their savings to help those at home to migrate; these last should not be worse off than their neighbours, but should be given every chance, lest they should be unjustly blamed for failure to till properly, 54367-77.—A rumour that people living at Rosmuck, Carna, and Carraroe were to be migrated inland had brought witness a letter from a man in America who wanted a farm at home, though he was earning £1 a day; he had a holding to give up in witness's parish, in the Joyce country, near the congested district, 54368, 54430-2.

PEAT INDUSTRY HAMPERED BY LACK OF ROADS AND PIERS.

The congestion on small, rocky patches on the shore was chiefly due to the lack of roads and even by-roads, by which seaweed and sand for manuring unreclaimed land might be brought from the shore to the mountain land; people depended a good deal on peat—their only industry in many cases—and this was much handicapped by lack of roads and piers; in the townland of Upper Thomas people had to carry turf on their backs, put it into boats, row three miles, again carry it, and re-load hookers or small boats with it; in Lower Thomas turf was often rowed out to hookers, and in Lettermacrag, north of Kinvara, people paid 6*s*. or 8*s*. for carting a boat-load of turf four miles to the pier, where they waited till a boat was free to take it; all this could be remedied by building a few piers and making roads from the bogs to the existing public roads, 54342, 54454.—Piers were chiefly needed for weed, and for the turf exported to Arran, Kinvara, New Quay, etc.; they should be at Upper and Lower Thomas; the first would not need a road, but half a mile of road would be needed for the second; piers and roads, costing about the same, would not be expensive; there was a pier in the district, and the bohereen leading to it should be made into a road, and so save three miles to people carrying turf, 54451-65.—The County Council could give a grant of one-third for a road, but experience made witness certain they would not help now, 54466-7.—The Board's neglect in building piers at which boats could anchor safely had resulted in wrecks; these boats had been bought by small loans given by the Board, and the people, always grateful, had done their best to pay the instalments punctually, 54342.

THE RE-TRANSFERENCE OF CERTAIN WORK FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO THE BOARD ADVOCATED.

The Board should buy poor estates, and before giving them to tenants should stripe the mountain and make roads and boundaries; the Board should have a model farm, etc., as they had attempted at the time of the inception of the Agricultural Department; the giving of agricultural instruction and the making of necessary improvements in congested areas should be transferred from the Department to the Board, to which the work had first been given, 54342, 54474-5.—At present but little agricultural teaching was given; a man was occasionally sent to teach spraying, and to supply a certain class of potatoes and seeds to a very few people; the instructor should be resident, at any rate for certain seasons, to teach people how to plant seeds; conditions were about the same now as when the Board gave the teaching; a few, in places where the instructor went, had profited, and witness's crop had been better then, and he knew more about the quality of the manure to be used; the instructor had not been resident, but had come at certain times, and had reached the people far better than the present man did; there was not a member of the County Committee in the district, 54423-9, 54470-3.

Establishment of a Woollen Factory Advocated.

There should be a woollen factory at Screeb or Maam Cross; either place would be central for the Joyce country people, who generally had a good deal of wool to sell, 54342.—The Board would have to support the scheme, at any rate at first; the people's complete ignorance of industrial life, and the question of competition would create some difficulty, but the factory should be on a small scale, to supply the local people with clothing material; this was sometimes made at home, and there were three or four local weavers; witness did not think the Shane woollen factory was working now, 54413-22.—The return of girls from America had changed the fashion of dress in West Ireland, but the establishment of a woollen factory would probably re-create a demand for homespun, 54437-8.

The Acquisition of a Sheep-run Advocated.

The cloth used in Rosmuck generally came from a distance, and it would greatly improve their condition if householders could clothe their families off their farms, but scarcely anyone had sheep; near Rosmuck were about 4,000 acres which could easily be acquired, for a sheep run, from the four graziers who now held it; people would do well if they had sheep on this land; there would be room for domestic industries; it would be a very good thing if in time there were a little exhibition in the district to show what people were doing in their own houses, and that they were able to clothe their households from wool grown on their land, 54439-50.

Motor Car Services Advocated.

Motor car services from Maam Cross, on by Screeb, up to Kilkerrin, and by Carna on to Recess would greatly benefit people in the lower district, who would have a market for fowls, eggs, butter, etc., 54342-3.—There was the strongest necessity for quicker and better means of communication, but a train to Costello would in no way supply the want of a motor service, and was a separate question, 54433, 54468-9.

Kelp Burning.

Kelp burning was a very precarious industry, but better than none, people got from £2 to £5 a ton, Mr. Hazell, a Glasgow agent, giving what he chose; the entire absence of competition was seemingly due to a certain ring; for years witness had seen that agents gave certain people a high price to keep up a fictitious price, while others got less for the same quality of kelp; it would be very beneficial if the Board established a central kiln, to which people could bring the weed, which the Board would burn, and sell, 54378-88.

Condition of Tenant-purchasers.

About half the people of Rosmuck had bought their holdings, and under the Ashbourne Act; those whose holdings were quite near, and those with six or seven acres of arable land were much better off than formerly; instalments sometimes differed, but were from 6 to 7 per cent. less than the old rent; where the holding was very bad it seemed ot make no difference if the rent were lower or not, for the man could never make a living by the land; he had not the same incentive to work as the other man, 54389-95, 54476.

Direct Sale.

Witness was opposed to the direct sale of poor holdings, which should be bought through the Board, 54396-7.

Accumulation of Holdings by Shopkeepers Possible, but not Probable.

It was possible that a small holder might be squeezed out of his holding by a shopkeeper to whom he was much in debt, though witness knew of no such case; perhaps the State should bear in mind the possibility of a man pressed for payment by his creditor, giving what money he had towards the debt, and so getting behindhand with his annuity; if the State then sold the land the shopkeeper might buy the holding, and in time become the landlord of an estate; this was unlikely as the force of public opinion would boycott the shop; such cases were rare, and indebtedness to shops was common in congested districts, 54398-412.—Witness admitted that a shopkeeper might prevent a debtor influencing public opinion against him by threatening to sue him for debt, 54434.

LYONS, Mr. MICHAEL A.

Occupation of Witness.

Witness, a farmer, owned about 50 acres of land, practically all of which was under grass; he was organiser of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, 54478-87.

Fishery Instruction Advocated.

Education in fishing was a necessity; the Congested Districts Board made mistakes; witness their failure as to horse-breeding; but they had done a remarkable amount of lasting good, and had certainly acted rightly in regard to fishing, 54488-93.—Fishermen should be concentrated in a fishing village near a useful port and means of transit; a fisherman should have a little land for potatoes, but should look to the sea for his living; in other places men might remain half farmers, but these should follow long-shore fishing, 54494-500.—Instead of resident instructors there might be a school to teach sons of fishermen about modern fishing appliances, or fishing might be taught in the technical school; in the Piscatorial School, Baltimore, Cork, the only one witness knew of, everything connected with fishing was taught—boat-building, net-making, net-mending, and long-shore fishing, and the pupils were taken out to sea; witness thought only boys convicted of begging could be sent to this school built by Lady Burdett-Coutts, 54501-06.—The size of the area supervised by the Board's inspector prevented his giving the personal encouragement necessary to induce near-shore fishermen to fish; for these and for other fishermen, too, there should be men bound to live at certain places on the coast who would only be responsible for their own district, 54507-11.

Agricultural Instruction a Necessary Adjunct to Migration.

Migration, a necessity, would involve the training of young men to use the plough and harrow, and to choose seeds; there were patches here and there suitable for ploughing, and a resident instructor could develop a taste for advanced farming; if a farmer's son did well in his ordinary school course he should be trained by an agricultural instructor to teach, as people would learn readily from a fellow-countryman; only a certain number should teach; some could superintend in the National schools, which would be equally good, 54488, 54513-22.—A migrant could learn what was necessary at an agricultural college between leaving his old holding and taking up his new one, or his wife and children could look after his farm during his two months' course; he would have to learn ploughing on land attached to the college, 54523-29.—The National schools should do something on agricultural lines, as it was better and easier to instil a taste for agriculture in youth than in mature age, 54589-91.

Compulsory Purchase Advocated—Any Loss Involved should be borne by the Public.

Compulsory purchase was a necessity; witness lived on the Comyn's property, in the parish of Spiddal, Tuam, the most congested in Ireland, and the worst as to rundale, 54513, 54532-3, 54573-4.—The tenants had wished the Board to buy it long ago, so that some of them could have been migrated, but the Board had refused, as there were no grass lands for division, and no means of enlarging holdings, 54534, 54557-8,

LYONS, MR. MICHAEL A.—*continued.*

54561-3, 54576-7.—Most of the tenants had negotiated for the estate at between eleven and twelve years' purchase, but unfortunately the parish priest had advised an offer of 18½ years' purchase, so as to avoid inspection and so forth, and the tenants had withdrawn; the average rent of the holdings was £3, and the difference, six or seven years' purchase, to the annuitant's pocket might not have equalled a dog tax, but 1*s.* meant a good deal to a poor man; the Estates Commissioners had been applied to, but had left naturally disgusted that so much had been offered for so poor an estate, 54534, 54553-60.—The property had been in the Encumbered Estates Court for thirty years, and last year had been sold for six years' purchase to (witness thought) a Mr. Dally; the poor tenants had never seen the advertisements of the sale in the Dublin papers, and would have been frightened by the idea of paying cash; they could never be made to do anything for themselves; they were illiterate and ignorant, and needed to be reasoned with in Irish; their willingness to give more than six years' purchase had been put before the Court; the Estates Commissioners might not have known about the sale, 54534-5, 54544-9, 54563A-6, 54584-6.—Witness did not know the details of the transaction, but thought the estate had gone to the first of several mortgagees, all of whom had been served with notices of the sale; perhaps the second mortgagee had not appeared in the Land Court, because he and the others had lost patience after thirty years' fruitless waiting, and so had let the sale go by default, 54579-88.—This was the worst of hundreds of cases witness knew of, showing the necessity for compulsory purchase, 54543, 54571, 54576.—Some of the tenants had had fair rents; witness had had a first-term rent sixteen years' ago, and meant to go in for a second-term one, unless the place were soon bought; the price asked was 18½ years' purchase, 54536-42.—There should be compulsion for buyers as well as sellers, but the price fixed should be a fair one; any possible loss involved by the transaction should be borne by the general public, 54568-72.

WORK OF AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

Numbers of people in the county and along the West coast generally were oppressed by gombeen men, but the fact that gombeenism was not as prevalent as twenty-five years ago was entirely due to the creation of agricultural banks; gombeenism had not disappeared in districts where these had not been established; their capital was comparatively small, but was increasing, 54592-604, 54614-15.—The co-operative or agricultural credit societies, a different phase of the movement, were meant to buy manure and so forth; the movement was young, and there were very few people to deposit money in the districts where the banks worked, but £36 was not, as stated, the highest deposit made, £50 having been deposited in Sellern Bank last year by Spidall, 54605-13.—It would be better to give work such as building, etc., to these societies than to parish committees; the bank members, who only had to pay an entrance fee, elected to the Bank Committee at the annual meeting representatives of the different districts of the area where the bank worked—men who knew poor men's needs—while anything suggested for the benefit of one member had to be sanctioned by the whole Committee; Parish Committees were not like this, 54616-30.—Witness admitted that seed distribution by the co-operative society was confined to its members, but other people in the parish would not be forced to join, 54631-7.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Witness knew nothing about the election of Parish Committees; it would not be strange if the members knew and took an interest in the locality; the parish priest and local doctor and others were *ex-officio* members, and no disparagement of anyone had been intended, 54639-42.—The Parish Committee scheme was of the nature of relief, and though people might well be helped, it should be to do substantial work—not small jobs, which would become useless if migration were adopted; no doubt life was made easier, and some cleanliness taught, and witness did not think the help given lessened self-reliance, 54617-22.

ROBINSON, MR. HENRY.

LAND PURCHASE BY THE BOARD ADVOCATED AS THE REMEDY FOR RUNDALE.

The townland, Parke, on the Blake Minors Estate, was a bad property in rundale, a £3 holding sometimes being in fourteen bits; the Board had bought part of the estate near Roundstone, the Island Innisnee, which they had greatly improved in a very short time; it was doubtful if they would buy the rest, though it was most desirable they should do so, as they were the only body with power to consolidate the holdings, and so increase the value of the land; it was probably the duty of the receiver, in conjunction with the committee of the estate, to move the Lord Chancellor to make an offer to the Board of property in Chancery, 54643-52.—It was most undesireable that rundale should be perpetuated by direct sale to tenants; there was no objection to purchase by the Estates Commissioners, but the Board seemed the body most likely to work in this congested district; the great point was to improve the tenants' condition, 54653-5.—Only a body armed with the necessary statutory powers could alter the rundale into a striping system; a landlord could not make a tenant move from one plot to another, and only before 1881 had he had power to stripe and to serve notice to quit; rundale had existed during the whole time of witness's receivership, and had mostly arisen before 1881; most landlords had then prevented it, but others had disliked the trouble and expense involved; even prior to 1871 it had been very difficult, one obstacle being the people's conservatism, 54656-68.

PURCHASE OF ESTATES BY THE BOARD *in globo* ADVOCATED.

Land purchase was the chief remedy for congestion; there were numbers of estates between Spiddal and Lettermullen in a very bad way; some had turf and no seaweed, others only seaweed; the Estates Commissioners or the Board should buy these properties *in globo*, so that there could be mutual interchange of benefits; there was not a sod of turf on the St. George Estate, and people were scrawing the ground, and taking the small amount of commonage grass meant for cattle; they burned the sods, leaving only bare rocks, and this could not be stopped, for fire was a necessity; there was plenty of turf on part of the Berridge and Miller Estates; such properties should be handled together, so as to provide all the tenant-purchasers with turbary, 54669-74.

MIGRATION IN GROUPS.

There were vast tracts of commonage attached to some of the estates; it might not be particularly good land, but with roads into it, and seaweed brought there, some of the people might be moved a certain distance, and would probably prefer not to go too far if possible; congestion was chiefly round the shore because of the seaweed; the condition of many small tenants would be greatly improved if commonage were acquired for them; in a sheep district men might be able to clothe their families with the wool, which would be advantageous; but sheep could not be kept everywhere, and it was hard to prevent their getting over fences into gardens, 54675-7.—Only a body like the Board or the Estates Commissioners could improve the condition of Lettermore, Gorumna, and Lettermullen people; some might be migrated, the objection to leaving their birth-place being overcome by moving groups of friends from the same neighbourhood, 54748-9.

FISHERIES.

The fishing might be improved; the spring mackerel fishing, lasting through April, May, and June, had, on the whole, been successful at Roundstone; the bay there was very good, and the conveniences adequate to any reasonable developments which might take place; they were not badly off as regarded transit, though a railway would be an improvement, as fish had to be carted five miles from Roundstone to Ballynahinch station; fish were mostly exported fresh; for the last few years a buyer, Mr. Ruane, had come from Galway; a hulk provided by the Congested Districts Board lay in the harbour, and he had sent in

ROBINSON, Mr. HENRY—*continued.*

one day 600 boxes of fresh mackerel in Norwegian ice to the English market, where they sold in good condition; if ice ran out, or there was a great glut of fish, they salted them in barrels for America; there were very few mackerel in autumn; but in April, when they were not plentiful, they went up to 15*s* to £1 a box, dropping later to 6*s*., 54678-89, 54695-6.—The people were not skilled fishermen, but the Board had supplied instructors, and many were taking it up for the first time; some boats had failed, others were doing well; there seemed to be some difficulty in getting the instalments for some boats; people went twenty or thirty miles to sea, outside Aran; the increase in the take of fish was due to the Board; no mackerel had been taken before the establishment of that body; young men were glad to fish, and it was not likely the industry would be dropped by those newly engaged in it, 54689-701.—The fishing off Lettermore and Gorumna might be improved; a pier might be built at Kugella, as the fishermen there, when they had tried the mackerel fishing before, had generally had to run into Aran, and wait for a favourable opportunity; witness believed the lack of harbour had made owners give up their boats; he did not think the people there would give up the land for the sea, which they only regarded as a help to a livelihood, 54747, 54750.

Prospects of Developing an Oyster Fishery.

There was a good lobster trade at Roundstone, but the only oyster beds belonged to Mr. Berridge, who collected and sold the oysters himself; they were dredged off a breeding-bed at Rossmuck on to the fattening bed at Cashel Bay; now and then, if the supply ran short, they got foreign, *e.g.*, French oysters; oysters had deteriorated for some reason; the spatting was much less, and the oysters far less numerous; the spat was collected in the natural way; the artificial means used by Mr. Corless at Clifden did not seem to answer any better, 54702-9, 54713, 54732, 54743-6.—When witness had managed these beds oysters had been sent by the thousand to Clare men, who had sold them all wholesale, 54710-12.—The banks were dredged to keep mud and weed away; small oysters were taken up; the oysters over the whole area were disturbed every time any were caught, but if left they were inclined to sink and die; dredging did them good, but was not done often, a lot being dredged together, put down on the bed, and taken off; oysters were only collected from Mr. Berridge's own foreshore, 54714, 54727-30, 54739.—Apparently there was no way of developing the oyster fishery around the coast of Galway, as oysters could not be planted anywhere; the old beds at Lettermore had disappeared; part of the inlet by Gorumna would be very suitable for oysters, and what was done in one place might perhaps be done in twenty, and certainly the central fishery authority might well try the experiment; the fishing was valuable and remunerative; there was always a market for oysters, and they could be carried long distances; the fishermen, too, would not have to go to sea; witness knew nothing of the system followed in France or of the people's eagerness there to get muddy patches of foreshore; the experiment should first be tried on a small scale, as the experience gained in working Mr. Berridge's beds was not encouraging, 54715-26, 54732-4.—The chief expense of watching might be lessened if everyone were interested in the fishery, but it was a question whether oysters would do well in certain places; Mr. Berridge's were indigenous, but they were not numerous elsewhere, though a few rock-oysters might be found here and there; witness did not really believe the business would pay, for though the price of oysters had gone up, the return was far less than thirty years ago, 54735-44.—In some parts when the spring tides were low, crabs and multitudinous other things should be taken off the beds, as they sucked out the oysters, and caused great loss, 54747.—Agricultural instruction was a very good thing, and might do much for the people, 54751.

CURRAN, Mr. PATRICK.

Means of Livelihood at Loughmore.

Witness was a small farmer at Loughmore, Costello Bay, and fished a little; he had a holding of forty acres, including a piece of commonage attached, and he had some grazing lands outside; one-fourth of his holding was waste, and the remainder, though rather bad, might be cultivated; he had a horse, but no one used a plough in his county; he paid a second-term rent of £7 2*s*. 6*d*., but had formerly paid £11 5*s*.; he had not been able to sell his holding a year or two ago; he would not care to give up his fishing, but he did not sell fish, as did some of his poorer neighbours who fished all the time; the larger the holdings the less the men fished, 54753, 54759, 54764-8, 54772-7.

Migration.

There was no chance of making a living in the district, as the holdings were so small, and the land exhausted; land that had once yielded oats would not now grow even the poorest rye; migration was the only remedy, and small loans would be needed to help people till the new holdings yielded a return; people would prefer to migrate all together, 54755, 54770-1.—Witness would go as far as Loughrea, and farther, to get a large holding he could divide with his family, for whose sake he wished to migrate, as otherwise they would always be poor, 54756-60, 54769, 54778-80.—Witness had a married son living on a separate holding with two or three others, who would also like to migrate, 54761-3.

COSTELLO, Mr. PETER.

The Darby Estate.

Witness lived at Loughanbeg, Inver, Spiddal, Mr. Darby's property, on which there was a head-rent of £350, which explained the small number of years' purchase; a wrong statement had been made about this, 54784-8, 54811-12.—Witness was not sure if Mr. Darby would sell the estate for what he had paid for it; there had been a lot of arrears. some people owing £150 and £200, which he had wiped off, 54822.—The estate should be bought, and roads made up to the mountains; roads, piers, and fishing boats were needed, and a lot of mountain land could be reclaimed, 54783, 54788.

Increase of Poverty in Loughanbeg.

Some people, small owners, would migrate, but the majority would not; poverty had greatly increased; witness did not know why lands were small and poorer than formerly, while families were larger; many went away; people paid less rent, and were not content with what they had once had, 54788-97.—The crops, too, were bad, and a grant should be given for spraying potatoes, 54798.

Indebtedness to Shopkeepers, &c.

Witness was a shopkeeper and farmed land left him by his father, and people owed him about £400 or £500—far more than formerly; the farm would pay pretty well if it had his whole attention; growing competition, due to an increasing number of shops, had necessitated giving more credit than formerly; too much credit increased poverty, but witness saw no remedy; he had never sued anyone for debt in his twenty years of business, 54799-810, 54813-7.—Debtors sometimes came saying they had fasted three days, and he gave them goods; he had never charged interest, and charged no more for goods bought on credit; a man always asked the price of what he wished to buy, and did not bargain harder when not in debt; the credit lasted from three to six years, but few were in debt over four or five years, 54839-45, 54859-60.—Witness and other shopkeepers had licences, and witness would not be able to sell his groceries without his; of course he made some profit on drink; Connemara people came on and off to Galway, and the one business brought in the other, 54857-8, 54861-66.—Witness sold cloth; the people were not extravagant as to dress, 54801-2.—He got tea from Dublin, and sold it from 2*s*. 2*d*. to 2*s*. 8*d*. per lb., 54835-7.

Gombeenism—Agricultural Banks.

About thirty years ago there had been a gombeen man in the district, but there were none now, and

COSTELLO, Mr. PETER—*continued.*

witness, having no experience of such people, could not say whether they had been replaced by the shopkeepers; agricultural banks had not long been started, and he knew nothing about them, 54846-55.

Migratory Labour.

People seldom went to Scotland, but many went to America, and numbers, as many as sixty in one morning, migrated to Loughrea, Woodlawn, and other places in East Galway, to work on the big farms; they cut turf, moulded potatoes, broke stones, saved hay, ploughed, and worked small threshing machines for oats; they started in March or April, and worked on to Christmas; they might come home for a week or two, then go back; some stayed in East Galway till Christmas; the breaking up of the big tillage farms would diminish the demand for labour, which would not be good for this district, 54818-21, 54823-34.

CONROY, Mr. JOHN C.

Certain Districts in Galway not Represented on the County Committee.

The County Committee appointed by the County Council, could formulate agricultural schemes subject to the approval of the Department; the County Council levied a tax of 1*d.* in the £ over the whole county, and the Committees distributed the money; the County Councils delegated all their powers to the Committees, agricultural instruction being dealt with by the Agricultural Committee, and technical instruction by the Technical Committee; the needs of a district could only be brought before the Committee by the representatives, and though they tried to allocate the money evenly, a district with no representatives might get nothing, 54869-75.—Part of Galway had been overlooked, neither Carna nor Rossmuck sending representatives; there was no local representative west of Spiddal till Roundstone was reached, for though witness was on the Committee he lived in Galway; though proposed, the name of Father M'Hugh, of Rossmuck, had, for some reason, been left out of the list, and he was only on the Technical Committee at Carna, 54876-80.

Suggested Improvements in Regard to the Kelp Industry.

Since the discovery of the deposit of chloride of potash in certain fields in South America iodine could be made for about 2*d.* an ounce; witness had been in the sub-marine case in Dublin, and the question of kelp and seaweed had been much discussed, both before the Sub-Commission in the Land Commission Court and in the High Court; the above figures had then been quoted, and also, witness thought, published in a pamphlet issued by the Congested Districts Board; the Americans could, if they chose, send 300 or 400 tons of iodine to Europe, and ruin the home industry, but a ring controlling the fields kept up the price to 7*d.* an ounce, and this was not likely to go down for some time; meanwhile the industry, though somewhat unstable, might be improved, 54880-2, 54889-91.—Iodine, being volatile, the kelp should not be burned in open kilns; perhaps retorts might be used, and it would help the kelp industry if the Board could do something along the coast in regard to burning and drying the weed; then 10*s.* a ton now paid for freightage, and the 10*s.* or 12*s.* more paid for commission might be saved if iodine were made in Ireland; there was enough material on the coast of Mayo, Galway, and Clare, to support the industry, 54882.—An agent had stated that red weed (from deep water) and courlagh were equally good for kelp, but iodine could not be extracted from black weed; a little of this last was, however, used, in spite of Mr. Hazell's disapproval; it added to the weight, and the burners said it mixed better, and fetched a higher price; if a kelp factory were established the black weed could probably be used for manure and soap manufacture, and bromide could be extracted from it; millions of tons were yearly going to waste between Costello Bay and Kilkerrin; once it had been sold as manure at 18*s.* a boat-load, whereas now a hooker load could be got for 3*s.* or 4*s.*, and it had not been used at all since the introduction of artificial manures, 54882-9.

CONROY, Mr. JOHN C.—*continued.*

Remedial Measures which should be Adopted in Galway.

Witness thought much might be done to encourage people to reclaim mountain land, especially between Spiddal and Kilkerrin; agricultural education had already brought about a change in many places—notably in Father M'Hugh's parish—in the last nine or ten years, but it could still be greatly improved; the making of roads and piers should be encouraged, and something done for the fishing at Lettermullen; a good pier was needed there, as the boats now had to go to Aran for shelter, 54891.

Refusal of the Board to Buy the Lettermullen Estate.

The Lettermullen tenants had offered in the Landed Estates Court to buy the property for ten years' purchase, but the Board would not touch it; a second offer of twelve years' purchase having been refused by the Land Judge, the incumbrancers, the Scottish Insurance Company, had bought the estate for a large sum; there was no chance of improvements if the Board shirked buying such properties, 54891.

HOSTY, Rev. THOMAS.

Sale of the Comyns Estate.

Witness agreed with most of what had been said concerning the wants of Spiddal. First it was necessary that the Congested Districts Board should buy the Comyns and Blake Minors estates, which comprised the whole district. The first of these had been bought by Mr. Darby in court a few months ago; about nine or ten years previously the tenants had signed papers agreeing to buy at fourteen years' purchase, but the Land Commission had refused their sanction; after four or five years the tenants had on their own initiative asked witness to negotiate on their behalf for eighteen or twenty-one years' purchase under the zones; Judge Ross, the vendor, having refused this, the solicitor, Mr. Sainsbury, had asked leave to apply to the Estates Commissioners to buy out of court; Messrs. Finucane, Bailey, and Stuart had come to see the place, but had not been favourably impressed, and on returning to Dublin had offered a price which no owner could have accepted; witness had reason to think they had only offered nine years' purchase, and believed they had done this* so that they need have nothing more to do with the estate; he admitted they had known of the refusal of the Land Commission to sanction the sale on the terms first proposed, 54892-6, 54905-09, 54917-19.—It was a pity the Board had not been concerned; there had been a head rent of £265 which had to be redeemed; Mr. Darby, who had the first and heaviest mortgage on the estate, had bought it, but without any idea of making money, and witness believed he was prepared to sell to the Board at whatever price he had given; there were no legal obstacles to a direct sale now from landlord to tenants, but these last were too poor to buy unless the Land Commission advanced the money, and the Estates Commissioners could not sanction a public advance of which they did not approve; the transaction might be effected if congestion were relieved by means of migration, 54916-29.

Migration Possibilities.

There were in the district many thousand acres of reclaimable mountain and bog on which numbers of people from congested estates could be made very comfortable; they would be happier near their old homesteads than if migrated to Westmeath or Roscommon, 54930-2.

Alleged Illiteracy of Connemara Tenants.

Connemara tenants were well versed in the zones, and they were not all illiterate; some were very well informed; newspapers found their way into the district, and witness thought that many of these were not Nationalist; since the Act of 1903 the papers had been full of expressions about the zones, and

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* See Appendix to the Tenth Report of the Commission [Cd. 4007, 1908], footnote p. 91.

HOSTY, Rev. THOMAS—*continued.*

in each village there was a man who could read to the others and explain every phrase; at one time certain people and some Nationalist people had been very fond of the zones, though they now found it convenient to think differently, 54897-904, 54910-15.

Transit Facilities.

Transit facilities were very much needed for the fishing.

LAWLESS, Mr. WILLIAM.

Acquisition of Grazing Lands advocated.

At Upper Dangan, which was partly in the urban district of Galway, where witness lived, there were six farmers with only four or five acres of land, valued at £5, £4, and £2. Some people might be migrated, but there was enough land in the district for enlargement of holdings, as close to these poor people were 300 or 400 acres of grazing land on the River Corrib which should be divided instead of being in the hands of shopkeepers. With a little more land the farmers could live pretty well on their farms, but now they had to work outside, and labour was slack in Galway, excepting that at the granite quarries, 54935-7, 54940-1.

Urban District Rates.

Witness did not object to living in the urban district, but his grievance partly lay in the fact that rates were high, and farmers had to pay most of them; those who had bought and those who had gone on for a second term had to pay all rates within the urban district, 54939.

O'HALLORAN, Mr. PATRICK.

Holdings not Self-supporting in Upper Dangan.

Witness could not support his large family on his farm, so he, with others in like case, lived in the town of Galway, as labourers, 54946.—The rent of his five acres was £10 16*s*., and the rate over £5, 54954.—It was not fit for conacre, but for the last four or five years he had sublet it for grazing, except one acre he tilled for his family; he wanted more land, instead of doing work which ought to be given to the men of the town, 54946-50, 54954-7.

Shopkeeper Graziers.

The lands surrounding witness's farm were held by shopkeepers and graziers from the town of Galway; some of the tenants were entitled to this land, and it should be offered to them before the shopkeepers, who took up little patches of land when they had the chance, leaving nothing to the labouring farmers by whose hard-won earnings they lived, 54943-5.—There were six or seven properties with grass lands in the district; Barna had been offered for sale some time ago to the Estates Commissioners, but they would not take less than twenty-six years' purchase; on the Berridge estate at Bushey Park, about 200 acres of land, instead of being utilised, were sublet, while some of the tenants on the estate had only four or five acres, 54958.

Rise in Price of Land in Upper Dangan.

The price of land was much higher now than thirty years ago, and it was going up, what had once been £4 being now £6 an acre, 54951-3.—It was strange that on one side of the mearing they paid the landlord £1 an acre more on the eleven months system than they paid witness, 54958.

WALSH, Mr. PATRICK.

Necessity for completion of Road between Ross-a-Veel Pier and Oughterard.

It was essential that the road from Ross-a-Veel Pier to Oughterard, about fifteen miles, should be finished; the road had been begun about sixty years ago, and both ends made, leaving a gap of about four miles; the road had been under contract for twenty years; in 1891 a large part had been made, including a bridge over Bonrahaun River, with money from Mr. Balfour's Relief Fund, but the works had been left derelict since then; the completion of the road would be of the greatest use to the districts of Fermoyle, Muckannagh, Glenniemurrin, Costello, Lettermore, Carraroe and Corumna Islands, and the adjoining townlands, parts of which were very congested; they could use Oughterard, ten to fifteen miles distant, for their market town instead of Galway, distant twenty-two to twenty-five miles and more; the gentlemen occupying the four fishing and shooting lodges between Oughterard and Costello, viz., Lettercaffroo, Fermoyle, Glenniemurrin and Costello Lodges gave considerable employment to the poor and struggling population; at present these lodges could only be reached from Maam Cross Station, round by Screeb and Costello, twenty to twenty-two miles, or direct from Galway, which was much further, whereas Oughterard Station, if connected by the completion of the road, would be only from nine to ten miles; if the amount spent on this work since 1891 had been spent under contract people thought there would have been enough to finish it, 54959.—It was also necessary to make about 400 perches of boreen from the main road at Bonrahaun through the townland of Glenniemurrin; at present the tenants had no carway, and had to carry seeds, manure, &c., either on their own or their horses' backs; they had already made a good part of the road, but were too poor to finish it, because a bridge had to be built over Bonrahaun River, which the school children had to cross, and which was dangerous in floods; the tenants had promised to give both money and labour if they were helped to do the work, 54960.

NAUGHTON, Mr. PATRICK.

Congestion in Oughterard.

The first necessity of Oughterard Rural District was compulsory land purchase; the second was migration from uneconomic holdings, 54962.—Practically all the tenants would be willing to go, as they could not live where they were, 54964-5.—More than half the tenants should be migrated if anything were to be achieved with the land, especially in Carraroe and Lettermullen, and Gorumna, 54967-9.

Fishing in Oughterard Rural District.

Fishing along the coast could not be successful unless boats and gear were supplied; the system of repaying loan for boats and gear within eight years discouraged the people, who wanted to make money out of the fishing in the first few years; sixteen years should be allowed for repayment; harbourage accommodation should be supplied at such places as Shruffaun so that fishing boats might not lose the ebb of the tide, 54971.—Costello Bay was the centre of the fishing along the coast between Galway and Clifden, and it was the only safe anchorage on the south coast; a harbour should be formed there and a light railway from Costello Bay to Maam Cross or Galway would encourage not only the mackerel, but also the lobster and gurnet fishing, 54971, 54980, 54986-7.—Lobsters kept over a day might not be marketable, 54972.—A railway would save a day and a night in transit, 54976.—A light railway to Maam Cross would be better than one to Galway, as though it meant a longer route to the market, the new construction required would be shorter and therefore cheaper, 54981-3.—The railway would save the boats the necessity of going to Galway, which they could not do on a rough day or in a calm, 54984-6.

NAUGHTON, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

Representation of West Galway on Congested Districts Board.

Home industries were backward in Oughterard Rural District, because that neighbourhood had no representation on Congested Districts Board, 54987, 55048.—A member for West Galway should be appointed to Congested Districts Board at the instance of the County Council or the people in general; applications had been made to Local Government Board for the appointment to Congested Districts Board of Bishop M'Cormick of Galway, or Archbishop Healy, of Tuam, 55049.—If there could not be a member for Galway on Congested Districts Board a Committee of the Rural District Council, with statutory powers, and created to make representations to Congested Districts Board concerning the needs of the union, while Congested Districts Board was bound to consider those representations, would be a useful alternative, 55113-21.

Lace Instructresses imported into Galway.

Lace instructresses in West Galway were imported from Donegal and Mayo; Donegal and Mayo girls were brought into West Galway and trained there for lace-work, and then appointed as instructresses, though there were local workers who were their superiors, 54987-90, 54992, 55030-9.—Mr. Walker arranged this, 54993-4.—It had been done at Carraroe lace school, and at Lettermullen, 54994-6, 55046.—Witness was not able to give the names of the teachers he complained of, 54991, 55040-4, 55047.—Local girls should be trained, and where a vacancy for an instructress occurred it should be given to the local girl, 54997-9.—The Carraroe school had been working about six years, 55031.—The original teachers came from Germany, 55032.—Carraroe school was not an especially good one, 55045-6.—Lace-workers complained there was nothing to insure their receiving payment for all the work they did, 55001-3.

Need for Audit of Lace Instructresses' Accounts.

The parish priest or district councillor should have access to the books and see all the money that should be paid out was paid out, 54999-55000, 55004.—Lace-workers were practically sure that some of the money due to them was retained by instructresses, 55005-9.—Witness was aware that there was an exact account of every transaction in the books laid down by the Congested Districts Board, 55011.—The parish priest of Carraroe had not taken much interest in the lace school during the past twelve months, 55012.—Witness had made no inquiry regarding these statements, but was merely repeating what the people said, 55017-26.

Kelp.

Kelp-making was a laborious industry which would never be profitable to Connemara people unless a syndicate were formed to develop it or the purchase and utilisation of kelp were controlled by Congested Districts Board, 55060.—Only one small company bought the kelp and gave what price they chose for it, 55061.—There was always a market for kelp, though it might not be a large one, 55064.

Indebtedness to Shops—Increase in number of Shops.

Witness had inherited a farm and shop from his father, 55067-71.—The indebtedness to the shopkeepers of the people in his neighbourhood had increased in his time, 55072.—Emigrants to America who had returned home with £40 to £60 became shopkeepers, as the latter were the most prosperous class in the neighbourhood; increase in the number of shops meant increase in the credit system, but some shopkeepers were extinguished by giving a little credit, 55073-9.—If there were land to be bought they would rather farm than keep shops, but there was no land obtainable in the neighbourhood, 55080-4.

Compulsory Purchase of Seaweed Rights.

Intermacerra Island, containing 119 acres, was the only grazing land in this district; its chief value consisted in the seaweed which neighbouring holders purchased from the grazier for manure; it would be well if Congested Districts Board were to acquire the island and divide the seaweed into shares as turbary was divided, 55085-8, 55091.—There was sufficient seaweed for all who required it; 5*s.* a ton was usually paid for it, 55089-90.—The people would be content if Board purchased the island, charging a sum for the seaweed equivalent to the interest on the money expended, 55091.—The seaweed could be cut every second year, and thus half could be cut each year, 55092-4.—Witness advocated the compulsory purchase of the seaweed, and the island, 55095-7.—Tenants would thus get their seaweed cheaper, 55100-1.—The sale of the seaweed produced a sum equal to the rent of the island, 55108.—The people who had the weed before the grazier were surely entitled to it, 55110.—If witness held the island he would relinquish it for the public benefit, and accept the Estates Commissioners' price, 55111.

JOYCE, Mr. JOHN H.

Position of Witness.

Witness was a member of Galway County Council and Galway Committee of Agriculture, by which bodies he had been nominated to give evidence, 55122-3.—He resided at Oughterard, and was a farmer on a small scale and a shopkeeper; he had a licence, 55124-6.

Land Question in Oughterard.

No landlords in Oughterard had sold their property; tenants on O'Fflahertie estate had offered twenty-two years' purchase, and those on Hodgson estate nineteen years; land on Hodgson estate was chiefly mountain and bog similar to that sold on Berridge estate under the Ashbourne Act for ten and eleven years' purchase; land on the Martin and Guilfoyle estates was sold at sixteen years' purchase; the recent Land Act had inflated the price of land 40 per cent.; prices paid under Ashbourne Act were nearer the value than those now demanded by landlords; compulsory powers of sale and purchase were necessary; there was little untenanted land available for distribution about Oughterard, but there were untenanted farms in the Gann and Joyce country and near Cloonbur and in Lettermore; tenants of large residential farms should be offered inducements to sell to Board; they might be offered for their interests a price in excess of the market value; thousands of acres of untenanted land existed around Tuam, Dunmore, Athenry, Loughrea, Ballinasloe, Mountbellew, Portumna, &c.; a solution of the land difficulty could only be arrived at through extensive migrations; migrants should be provided with capital to work their new farms, and would soon learn new methods; a sufficient number would probably be willing to migrate, 55127.

Mineral Resources of Oughterard.

Mines had been worked near Oughterard for over 100 years, but not extensively; enough money to make a real test had not been expended; Congested Districts Board should have power to prospect and clear away old debris and open old shafts so that capitalists could see the resources; witness had been a miner in the Rocky Mountains thirty-five years ago, 55128, 55131, 55137, 55153, 55164-9.—There were indications that copper, lead, silver, barytes, green and black marble, and unlimited supplies of granite and limestone existed about Oughterard, 55127-30, 55149-51.—The value of a mine could not be told from mere surface indications; it was necessary to sink shafts, 55151-2, 55154, 55169.—Mechanical powers had not been used to work these mines, 55131.—An English gentleman was at present prospecting at Oughterard and putting up crushers to crush the ore; he had a lot of men working; witness thought the mine in question was a lead mine, with a small admixture of silver, 55135-6.—There were copper and lead mines at Cloosh and Clegg, and a copper and silver mine at Glann, but the works had been discontinued, 55138-42.—Some of these mines might be taken up again, 55145.—Witness had worked at

JOYCE, Mr. JOHN H.—*continued.*

Montana in a mine which, after being allowed to lie fallow a number of years, was profitably worked, the grain being again struck, 55146-8.—A geological survey of the Oughterard district had been made by Mr. Lyburn; his preliminary report did not show any confidence in the mines, 55155-9.—This survey did not amount to a thorough test of the mineral resources, 55155-63.—If Board started mines and found minerals in large quantities they should not cease operations, but should continue the work or sell to a company, 55170.

Turf Supply for Carraroe and Gorumna.

A vast tract of country between Oughterard and Costello was lying waste, but was capable of cultivation, as it was composed of a light surface cover of peat one or more feet deep with a gravelly subsoil; it should be drained and divided into allotments, to which tenants from Carraroe could be conveniently migrated; applications of coral sand and seaweed would convert it into good tillage and grazing land, but before this was done the unfinished road from Oughterard to Costello should be completed and so bring the people of Carraroe and Lettermore and Gorumna into connection with bogs from which they could obtain turf; otherwise the reclamation of this land would leave them without a fuel supply, 55171-4.—At present they were cutting the soil away for fuel, 55175.—If the bogs were made accessible by the completion of the road the cutting of the surface from the land would probably cease of itself, 55182.—If it did not it should be summarily checked, 55180-1.—The distance to the bog supply this road would open up varied from three to five miles in the three districts, 55183.—There would be a difficulty of transport; some of the people owned horses which could be hired for from 4*s.* to 5*s.* a day, 55184-9.

Knock Ferry.

A causeway or bridge should be constructed across Knock Ferry, and would open up trade between Headford and Tuam and the congested district about Oughterard; turf was plentiful on the Oughterard side of the ferry, and there was none the other side, 55190.—The water was only 700 feet wide at a place between Carrickmuck and Clidy, near the road from Spiddal, and near the Lough Corrib ferry, 55191-4, 55197.—Father Conway had estimated the cost at £10,000 or £12,000, 55195.—The bridge would be used for traffic between Galway and Mayo counties; a good bridge would allow of Knock Ferry being crossed in stormy weather, which at present was impossible, 55199.—Galway County Council had voted £400 towards the construction of a floating bridge which was to cost £1,000 and supersede the present small boat; the latter carried only passengers, not cattle; Congested Districts Board offered £325 for the ferry, but the Local Government Board stopped the scheme, 55200-2.

Canal between Loughs Mask and Corrib.

A canal between Loughs Mask and Corrib had been partly constructed by Government at great cost, but remained unfinished; completed it would open communication between Galway and Mayo counties, especially between the seaport town of Galway and the important town of Ballinrobe; goods could be transported by steamer from Galway at a less cost than by rail, 55199.

Waterworks for Oughterard.

Waterworks were greatly needed in Oughterard division, especially from the point of view of sanitation; bad water had resulted in typhus and typhoid fever, 55199.—The cost of supplying the town with good water had been estimated at £730, 55204A, 55206, 55207.—The people of the town of Oughterard should be liable for a certain portion of the necessary tax; the responsibility for waterworks rested with the Rural District Council, 55205-6.—Oughterard division had a valuation of £2,679, which would mean a rate of £35, but it was not intended to erect waterworks unless the rate were put on the whole union, whose valuation was £15,623 7*s.*, 55206A, 55207A-11.—The scheme proposed was a gravitation one, 55212.—

JOYCE, Mr. JOHN H.—*continued.*

Other places, for instance Clifden, had not paid entirely for their own waterworks, 55216.—The people in the country districts had received assistance from the town of Oughterard, 55217-8.—It was very difficult to get waterworks made when the area of taxation was wide, 55219.—Congested Districts Board might fairly contribute to these waterworks, 55222-4.

Harbour of Refuge for Anaclough.

A harbour of refuge at Anaclough could be easily effected by making an open cutting; the stones from the existing useless pier could be utilised; the harbour was needed on the edge of the lake for refuge for boats from the mainland and islands, 55225-6.—The boats were of five and six tons, and were used for carrying turf, &c., to market, 55227-8.—One boat had recently been badly damaged for lack of a harbour, 55226, 55229-31.—Such incidents were not very common on Lough Corrib, because the people watched the signs of approaching storms and shifted their boats to the river mouth and tied them against the bank, 55232.—Witness was not sure whether he was a member of the Committee of Agriculture, 55233-43, 55248-64.—He was not interested in the distribution of sires, as he thought them no good; the offspring of the horses were too soft and not fitted for the country, 55244-6.

KIRWAN, Mr. DENIS.

Knock Ferry Scheme.

Several estates for which witness was agent would be benefited by the Knock Ferry scheme, as it would bring them into communication with a supply of turbary, and also with the railway stations at Galway or Tuam; the nearest stations at present were twelve or eighteen miles distant, 55266.—At present it was difficult to cross in rough weather, 55267.—A ferry that would accommodate a large cart was needed, 55268.—An estimate had been made, and Congested Districts Board would have advanced money, but the scheme fell through, 55269.—A bridge would be an unnecessary expense, and almost impossible owing to the rocky approach, 55270.

Parish Committees.

Witness was agent for several estates in County Galway and a few in Mayo; he had been nominated to give evidence by the Irish Landowners' Convention, 55265-6, 55271.—He farmed about 200 acres of his own property, 55271.—Witness had acted on a Parish Committee for dispensing a grant of £50 a year from Board, 55271-3, 55282.—The grants could not be extended to the whole parish, because only part was scheduled, 55274.—This Parish Committee gave grants for well-kept gardens and improved houses, &c.; it gave a grant for improving the village road, 55278, 55279-80.—Grants for drainage and fences were not given, 55279-84.

Drainage.

Waterworks were greatly needed in Oughterard out a few years ago, but the drains had remained untouched since; tenants should be compelled to keep the drains in order, 55286-90.—Where estates had been sold to tenants a committee of tenants might be formed as trustees, with power to levy a contribution from each tenant to maintain drainage works; this could be arranged for when tenants bought holdings, or on large estates, where the tenants got the shooting, that might be let, and part of the proceeds applied to maintaining drains, 55291, 55295.—If drainage were dealt with by Board of Works it would be very expensive; drainage was much needed about Tuam, 55296.—Tenants should maintain the drains on their own holdings, but some authority should have charge of construction and maintenance of main drains, 55290, 55297-9, 55302, 55305-6.—Tenants who had received advances of public money to purchase farms should be required to keep the farm drains in order during the currency of the annuity for repayment, 55303-5.—A

Parish Committee might be charged with maintaining local drainage, as they would know the local needs, 55307-10.—Where the country was flooded for several miles a big drainage scheme should be applied, but sometimes the cost was too great to make it worth while, 55300.

Price of Land calculated on Landlords' Net Incomes.

Grazing land sufficient for Congested Districts Board's purposes might be obtained without compulsory powers if landlords could count on getting such a sum as could, when invested at 3½ per cent., return them their net income; rents on properties managed by witness were well paid; in some special cases the net income would not be a fair standard of value; allowance should be made for an owner's proprietorial rights in cases where he was selling lands hitherto in his own hands, 55311, 55317, 55339-41.—When land had never been let the landlord had nevertheless two rights in it, namely, the tenant-right and the landlord's interest, 55314-6, 55319-21.—The proprietorial rights included hereditaments such as shooting and turbary, 55324-31.—Where the land offered for sale was farmed in conjunction with other land, the exact income derived from the portion for sale might not be determinable, 55311, 55317, 55322-3, 55339.—Where a landlord had a demesne and a tillage farm, and worked the two together, having the stock sometimes on the one, sometimes on the other, there was an enormous difficulty in apportioning to these two elements what belonged to his net income, 55332-5.—Mr. Boyd's standard for untenanted land, namely, one and one-third of the valuation, would be too low, and the valuation was not uniform, 55342-6, 55355-7.—It would be better to fix a fair rent and calculate it on the two interests, 55346.

Congested Districts Board.

Congested Districts Board had greatly improved, by drainage and roads, estates they had purchased; the area of Board's operation should be enlarged, 55271.—Delays at present occurring in completing sales of land should, if possible, be avoided; Board's staff and funds should be increased, and a special sum set aside for purchasing estates in congested districts, the latter getting preference over more prosperous parts of the country.

Competence in New Holders Necessary.

In dividing grazing land it should be given only to persons who had shown industry and thrift in managing their old holdings, and who had some capital, otherwise the additional land would not be of great benefit; Board should keep an eye on these tenants for a few years, and lend them money when needed, 55361.

Cattle Trade and Division of Grass Land.

If all grass land were divided into small holdings small tenants would not find a ready and good market for their young stock; at present graziers bought young stock and kept them a year or two before selling them to the Leinster men or cross-Channel dealers; if the grazing system disappeared, small men must keep stock longer and finish them; consequently the small holder must keep fewer stock, and his profit would be less, as young stock from £6 to £9 were proportionately the dearest, 55361-4, 55366-76.—Moreover he would lose by the delay in turning over the money, 55374.—Cattle would not do as well on twenty or thirty-acre holdings as on large farms; men with fattening farms would not breed cattle, but would buy stock, 55365.—None of the new holders of the broken up land would be able to buy cattle, because they would all be small holders, and would breed as much stock as their land could support, 55377-82.—The man with thirty acres could keep little stock in addition to what he had himself, as he would have to keep his own some time, 55383-4.—The breaking up of grass land would, therefore, naturally lead to fewer cattle being kept, 55386.—Ireland's prosperity could, perhaps, not be measured by the number of cattle she produced, but the cattle industry was the staple one in 1907, and seemed to pay best, 55387.—The people might be better off if more mixed tillage farms were granted, but the farmers should have capital to start the farms, and the change should be effected gradually; the whole existing state of the industry should not be altered altogether, 55388-90.

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Payment of rents on estates managed by witness, 276

MURPHY, Mr. HENRY.

Congestion in Galway Union.

Witness was a member of Galway County Council, and was a solicitor, living in Galway; he gave evidence on behalf of the parish of Castlegar, one of the most congested in the Galway Union; Galway Union's rateable valuation was £55,794 16*s*. 4*d*., and there were 4,429 holdings, of which 2,092 did not exceed £4 in value, and were rated at £4,969 4*s*. or £2 7*s*. 6*d*. per holding; 1,813 houses were uninhabitable, and 1,228 of these were classed as third rate; the area of the union was 198,535 acres 2 roods 25 perches, and there were 36,465 inhabitants, 55391.

Castlegar Parish.

Castlegar was not scheduled; witness's evidence was for the purpose of having it scheduled, 55455, 55458.—The valuation was not high, but probably over 30*s*. per head, though the people were very poor; the grazing lands adjacent raised the valuation in the district, 55454-7.—The scheduling should take place at once, so that the grazing land on other estates which were being sold might be available; Castlegar tenants were willing to migrate, 55396.—Castlegar was not an electoral division; part of it was in the urban area; it was not correct to say that poor tenants who lived on land such as that in Castlegar would be unable to cultivate better land if migrated to it; witness knew instances to the contrary; their experience of the difficulties of poor soil enabled migrants to produce better crops in a better district, 55595-9.

Congestion on Lord Clanricarde's Estate in Castlegar Parish.

Eight townlands of Castlegar parish belonged to Lord Clanricarde; Castlegar, within the urban area of Galway, contained 106 acres 1 rood 30 perches, valued at £34 17*s*.; Castlegar rural contained 422 acres 1 rood 21 perches, valued at £208 17*s*.; one-third of this townland was waste, rocky land, and an average holding was eight acres, some being only two acres, half of it unfit for tillage; the portion within the urban area was subject to rates of 8*s*. in the £; there was no turbary in this townland, and tenants purchased turbary from the landlord at £1 to £1 10*s*. per year; there were twenty-nine tenants at a valuation of £8 1*s*, thirteen of them being valued at 10*s*., and one at £2; while one was valued at £3, three at £4, seven at £5, and four at £6; Carrabrowne townland contained 861 acres, and was valued at £185 3*s*., or an average of 4*s*. 3*d*. per acre; while there were nineteen tenants who had an average valuation of £9 2*s*., seven of them being valued at under £5; about 25 acres of Carrabrowne townland were set to tenants outside it; Carrabrowne townland had 285 acres 3 roods 26 perches of turbary held by the landlord, who set turf banks to the tenants of this and other townlands, 55391-2.—There was no road to the bog, though the landlord had levied a tax on the tenants, and 1*s*. per bank for the cost of extending the road to the bog had been paid ever since 1892; tenants had to carry turf long distances on their backs, 55392-4.—One-third of this townland was subject to flood in consequence of the neglect in maintaining the drainage works in the hands of the Corrib Drainage trustees, though a tax was levied for maintenance of these works; in some of the cuts where four or five years ago a boat could be taken it was possible to walk across on the accumulated mud and soil which caused flood over adjoining land, damaging crops and causing disease to stock, 55394-5.—Corlough townland contained within the urban area 311 acres 0 roods 32 perches, valued at £90 12*s*., and subject to the urban rate of 7*d*. to 8*d*. in the £; within the rural district Corlough townland had 52 acres, valued at £7 10*s.*; there were seventeen tenants, their average valuation being £5 15*s.*, and one having £1 valuation; while eleven had £2, two had £4, and one £5; eleven tenants were joint tenants having land in sixteen different places, each of which was divided into three parts, one for each crop; loads of weed brought for manure had to be divided into three or four portions before they could be brought to the holdings, so inaccessible were these latter; two-thirds of the holdings were covered with surface rocks, on which no horse could be left to graze, because of the clefts; holders of twenty-five acres could not till more than four, and as the fields were small, much land was wasted by headland, and was so light and poor that tenants had to go elsewhere to get meadows, for which they paid £5 to £7 annually, besides paying 10*s.* to 12*s.* to the landlord for turbary; Killoughter townland contained 345 acres 2 roods 10 perches, and was valued at £127 16*s.*; there were 19 tenants with an average valuation of £6 1*s.* each, two of them being valued at £2, one of them at £3, eight at £4, and seven at £5; while the holdings were divided into small patches comprising very inferior land; the townland of Terryland contained 218 acres 2 roods 16 perches within the urban area of Galway, and was valued at £127 10*s.*; 83 acres of Terryland were in the landlord's hands, and set annually to graziers or people other than tenant farmers; these 83 acres were within half a mile of the congested areas of Coolough and Ballinfoyle, whose tenants might be relieved by its division; Sylaun townland contained 479 acres 0 roods 1 perch, was valued at £36 5*s.*, and was wholly in the hands of the landlord; most of Sylaun townland was bog, and could be reclaimed to relieve congestion; the landlord set about 50 acres of meadow annually, which tenants bought at competitive prices; that portion of the Clanricarde Estate which was in Castlegar parish contained 3,657 acres 2 roods 8 perches, of which 729 acres 0 roods 33 perches were in the landlord's hands, 55395.

Estate of Erasmus Smith in Castlegar Parish.

The estate of Erasmus Smith in Congested Districts Board's hands included eleven townlands of Castlegar parish; the townland of Murrough rural contained 147 acres 0 roods 30 perches, of which only 25 acres 3 roods 12 perches were let to three tenants, the balance being in the hands of Richard Blake, Esq., who lived fourteen miles away, and set the greater portion of this land annually; Murrough contained 102 acres 3 roods 3 perches within the urban area, of which 38 acres were in the hands of tenants, and the rest set annually by the landlord; Roscam contained 420 acres, of which only 19 acres 0 roods 34 perches were let to tenants; while 148 acres were held from the landlord by a lady, who set them for grazing annually; Renmore contained 479 acres 0 roods 12 perches, of which 20 acres were a common along the shore divided between seventeen tenants; while Major Lynch had 177 acres, which he set annually; Ballybrit contained 325 acres 2 roods 39 perches, of which Mr. Lynch held 221 acres 2 roods 21 perches, and six tenants had the balance; Ballybanemore, within the urban area of Galway, contained 73 acres 2 roods 2 perches, of which 40 acres was in the hands of Major W. Lynch, and the rest divided among seven tenants; Ballybanebeg in the urban area contained 307 acres 1 rood 9 perches, of which Mr. R. N. Somerville, the County Surveyor of Cavan, held about 86 acres, and sublet them to Pierce Joyce, Esq.; while the Prisons Board Inspector held 145 acres, and Major W. Lynch 64 acres 2 roods 9 perches; Ballybanemon in the urban area contained 307 acres 1 rood; Mr Somerville owned 82 acres, and three tenants held the rest, 55395.—Much of the Erasmus Smith Estate was outside Castlegar parish; some of it was in the town of Galway; the agent lived at Cork, and merely collected rents, and the Board in Dublin allocated the funds; one of the Erasmus Smith schools was in Galway, 55511-3.—Before the Act of 1881 no improvements were done by the landlord's administrators on this estate, except by the building of the schools, 55514-5.

Blake's Estate.

Coarsfield townland, in the Blake's Estate, contained 264 acres 2 roods 14 perches, valued at £31 6*s.*, and was often completely covered with flood from Corrib for two miles up from the shore; three feet of water sometimes came into the houses, and water often totally destroyed the crops; tenants had to keep boats; this flooding was due to the manner in which the level of the lake was kept up by the arrangement of sluices and falling boards at Galway in the interest of salmon fishing; the landlord asked 23 years' purchase, 55395.

Dr. Fair's Estate.

Dr. Fair's estate in the townland of Clooncaneen contained 480 acres 3 roods 28 perches, of which the landlord held a farm of 120 acres, which he set annually for grazing; he also held 82 acres 2 roods 37 perches for turbary; the balance was let to thirteen tenants; several fruitless efforts had been made to purchase the estate; one-third of each holding was very rocky and waste, and much damage was done by drainage; meadow had to be bought off the farm in the landlord's hands at £3 10*s.* an acre from Mr. Walsh, who had the meadow from the landlord at £1 10*s.*, 55395.

Sir V. Blake's Estate.

Sir V. Blake's estate at Menlough, on the borders of Lough Corrib, contained 692 acres 3 roods 29 perches, valued at £222 5*s.*, and was set to 47 tenants of miserable holdings with little land available for tillage; twelve or fifteen tenants sometimes shared a crop in one field; the houses were bad and the land rocky, so that ploughs could not be used; average holdings scarcely exceeded five acres; twenty years before 1907 barley was a great source of income, but had declined in price; while constant cropping had resulted in the land producing only half their former crops; tenants had to go five or six miles for turf, 55395.

Marble Quarries.

Marble quarries at Menlough and at Meslin Park had been closed, though the marble was much sought after, 55395, 55460.—The black marble quarries were abandoned, because the capital expended on the initial work had exhausted the available finances, 55460, 55464.—There was a general unwillingness to risk money in Ireland, especially the West of Ireland, 55461-2, 55465.—Granite and marble works near Galway had been abandoned, and afterwards taken up, and in 1907 had been for about two years doing a magnificent business, 55465-9.—Congested Districts Board might work the Menlough quarry, 55473.—If Board bought the estate it would have to consider whether it was worth while to utilise this source of employment, 55478.—The distribution to exhibitions in the United Kingdom and America of samples of the marble might induce some capitalist to work the mine, 55481-2.—At the works in Galway there were a number of apprentices subsidised by the Technical Committee of the Galway County Council; Congested Districts Board might undertake to give similar help to a company undertaking to open works at Menlough, and might also give a loan towards machinery, 55483, 55485-7.

Fostering and Destruction of Irish Industries by the State.

Witness knew of no instance in which Irish industries had been fostered in this way, but Irish industries were destroyed by the fostering of industries elsewhere; the Irish woollen trade was killed by hostile tariffs and bonuses to the English woollen industry, 55489-90, 55495.—In the middle of the nineteenth century twenty-seven flour mills were at work in Galway, but in 1907 only one, 55490-2.—Within ten years of 1907 there were still nine or ten at work, but the importation of American flour stopped their trade, as it caused the production of grain to decline, imported grain having become cheaper, 55492-4, 55497-502.—The change in fiscal policy being the cause of the collapse of the flour trade, the district had some claim on the Government for subsidies to foster other industries, 55503-5.

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FREE TRADE.

Free trade had not benefited Ireland, 55507A.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage works of Castlegar were in the hands of trustees, who met seldom; the drainage works were under the immediate management of Mr. Townsend, who was also Secretary and Engineer for the Navigation trustees; the positions were incompatible, for in the interest of navigation the lake should be kept at high level, while drainage required it should be kept low, 55395.—Navigation could be kept up without interfering with drains, but in Lough Corrib mud was allowed to accumulate, so that the level of the water was constantly rising, 55409.—The water was drained back with falling boards near Galway, and the height of the walls increased instead of the channel being deepened, 54410-2.—The drainage trustees were originally appointed under an award of 1860, and they were appointed by the landowners to represent them; the people had no representation; the County Council of Galway and Mayo should execute and maintain drainage works; they already collected a rate for them, 55395-403.—Mayo and Galway contributed to the drainage of Loughs Mask and Corrib, but did no more than provide the funds required by the secretary, 55404, 55449.—The existing drainage works had been constructed between the navigation and drainage trustees, who obtained a Government loan, repayable by instalments charged on certain areas, 55442.—This method was good, and might be followed in the future if an efficient body were substituted for the existing drainage authority, 55443-5.—In 1906 Galway and Mayo counties paid £296 half-yearly for maintenance of drainage; this sum was spent on maintenance and works, but not spent properly, merely wasted; for years only an insufficient sum was levied, 55449-53.—A system of arterial drainage of a river running into more than one county could be managed by a board of representatives of the several County Councils concerned, 55404.—Arterial drainage would be better trusted to a Dublin department than continued under present system, 55405.—Drains contained in several districts could be dealt with like roads, some of which were county-at-large charges and others district charges, 55435.—Big works, such as the Shannon drainage, might be dealt with by a central authority, 55435, 55440.—Branch drains should be dealt with by County Councils, 55406-8.—Tenants should be obliged to maintain drains on their own lands; large drains should be managed by a public body, 55413-4, 55431.—It would be difficult for the County Council to impose a rate over a large area for drainage, 55415-6.—The present tax raised by the drainage trustees was raised over the area benefited by the drainage, and the same thing should be done by the Board when they bought any estates; if it were done, then this difficulty would not arise, 55427-8.—The construction of drainage on such land as the Berridge Estate should be done by Congested Districts Board, 55418-20.—The difficulty that the County Council might object to paying for maintenance of works constructed by the Congested Districts Board already existed in regard to piers and harbours, 55424.—But the Council's objection was founded on the inefficient manner in which piers and harbours were built, involving large expenditure, for piers built on sandy soil had required extensive repairs after the first storm, 55424-6.—If Board bought a single estate in a district it would be difficult to find an outfall for the main drainage; if blocks of estates were bought this difficulty would not arise, 55427-8.—As drainage would add to the value of the land a considerable part of the cost of draining a holding could be put on the purchaser's annuity, 55429-30.—Where Board purchased only a single estate and there was no outlet, French drains, four or five or ten feet deep, would be of great benefit; large loose stones were thrown into such drains for three or four feet, and they were practically a waterway underneath; if a large flood came they took it off the land's surface immediately it got time to percolate through the ground, 55436.

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SALMON FISHING RESTRICTIONS.

The restriction on salmon fishing at Renmore, at the mouth of the river had been recently enforced by the Board of Conservators, after remaining many years in abeyance, 55508-10.

COUNTY COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE.

Witness was a member of the County Committee of Agriculture, which was fairly operative in poorer areas, but funds were limited, and spent chiefly on breeding of live stock and on cattle shows, 55519.—Except for lack of funds, Committees were working well, 55530.—Agricultural instruction and development was as well done under Agricultural Department as under Congested Districts Board; more work was done than could be done by Board, and the people took more interest in the work, as they had direct representatives on Committee, 55531-3.—It was easy to obtain representatives on the Committee, 55526.—If the area between Spiddal and Roundstone had no representatives on the County Committee of Agriculture the inhabitants were themselves to blame, as the Committee was elected annually by the County Council, and was supposed to contain representatives of each district, 55520, 55534.—Even without a representative on the Committee people in that area could communicate with the Committee, and they had an able representative on the County Council in Lord Killanin, 55521-3.—Witness thought this district had not suffered for lack of representation, 55535.—Witness was not surprised to hear that Connemara had more donkeys, premium bulls, boars, mares, and egg-stations than all the rest of Galway, 55536.—This showed the consideration shown for unrepresented districts, 55537.—Witness thought these animals were put in by the Committee; Department sent them in isolated instances where the need was great, 55538-40.—In a Blue Book list of premium bulls located under the county schemes, as indicated by the Chairman of the Commission, witness saw that there were forty premium bulls located in the district between Spiddal and Roundstone, at Carna, Barna, Lettermore, Spiddal, and Oughterard, 55541.—In this district seven bulls had been placed by Department, which in this work confined itself to the Connemara district, 55542, 55546.—The County Committee had placed only five bulls in this district, because the people were generally too poor to pay their share of the price of a bull, 55545, 55549.—Funds to enable the Committee to do more for the poor districts were lacking; if the work were to be done money must come from outside, 55547-54, 55568.—The supplementary schemes under which the Department placed bulls in Connemara were being financed by Department for one year, but it might not be possible to continue them, 55555-7.—These supplementary schemes might properly be continued by Congested Districts Board, as the need for them was the result of a state of congestion, 55558-62, 55569-74.—If Congested Districts Board had money for these schemes animals might be supplied to small holders at cost price by Department and County Council, 55575-6.—This would probably be the best and most economical procedure, 55577.—Witness had no alternative scheme to this which sounded practicable, and would probably interest all parties, as all had a share in it, 55579-88.—When congestion disappeared the congested districts would then be left under the County Committees as other districts were, 55589.—The County Council with sufficient money and an adaptation of its arrangements would probably be able to do for any congested districts all the agricultural and industrial improvements in connection with live stock, 55565.—The interests of the people would probably be served by the County Council continuing its present duties under the Local Government Act and the Technical and Agricultural schemes, while Congested Districts Board was entrusted with the improvement and sale of land, 55566-7.—The Agricultural Committee included members who were not on the County Council, 55523.—The Committee allocated the money for agricultural improvement, and determined the number of sires, etc., and their distribution, 55524-5.—A man from a poor area would not have less influence on the Committee than those from far better off areas; Committee took the whole county, and sent round inspectors where they were asked for; several clergy-

MURPHY, Mr. HENRY—*continued.*

men were on the Committee, 55527-8.—They probably had more knowledge of the local needs than anyone, because all their parishioners confided in them, 55529.—The formation of a Sub-committee to look after Connemara, as the Sub-committee in Mayo took charge of Erris, had never been suggested, 55590-1.—It might work well, but should be subordinate to the principal Committee, 55592.

Congested Districts Board—Reconstruction.

To have nominees of County Council sitting on Congested Districts Board would be better than having an Advisory Sub-committee of the Rural District or County Council authorised to supply Board with local information of needs in congested districts; the County Council from their frequent meetings and the number of country people attending them had special knowledge of grievances in different districts, 55600-4, 55606.—County Councils would probably be willing that such nominees should hold office not three but six years, 55605.—It would not be difficult to find men living in congested districts who would have leisure to attend Board's meetings in Dublin, 55607-8.—Under an Advisory Sub-committee scheme it would be difficult to make Board's reasons for refusing a particular request known locally unless a verbatim report of Board's proceedings were supplied; on the other hand, direct nominees of the County Council sitting on the Board would be able to supply the Council with an explanation of Board's reasons for a refusal, 55611-7.—Members of Congested Districts Board nominated by County Councils would probably work for the general interests of Ireland, as well as those of their own particular district, and their doing so would be approved by the nominating Councils, 55634-8.—County Councils would probably not wish to limit their nominations to their own ranks, 55639.—In answer to the question whether it was more likely that a competent member of Congested Districts Board would be obtained through nomination by an entirely competent authority, or through election by a County Council, witness would say nomination, but with regard to Galway County Council the same man would be chosen by them whether by election or nomination, 55644.—Many men would be anxious to represent Galway on Congested Districts Board, and there would be canvassing for votes, but it did not follow that the best man would not be elected, 55645-9.—The views of an elected man would be more likely to meet those of the people than would the views of a man appointed by the Government, 55652.—The scheme adopted by a body popularly elected would be likely to have the approval of the people who elected it and benefited by the scheme; an elected body in any department of Government would be best, 55655-8a.

CRADDOCK, Rev. JAMES.

Congestion in Castlegar.

Witness was Parish Priest of Castlegar; Castlegar parish should be scheduled a congested district, as was proved by Mr. Murphy's figures; the parish had townlands as poor and congested as any in Ireland, and emigration was constantly increasing; forty-five young people went to America in the summer of 1907, and others to Queensland; this was due to want of land; yet there was enough in the parish to satisfy many; migration and other measures to stop emigration should be undertaken at once; migration to a strange locality should be applied only when the available lands of the parish were exhausted, and then migrating tenants should be taken in batches from the same townland, and be located near their old neighbours in the new holdings; the wrench would thus be less painful, 55659.

Compulsory Powers.

Where landlord and tenant in congested areas could not come to terms Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners should be empowered to apply compulsion; landlords unwilling to sell in such cases at a fair price were an obstacle to the prosperity of an entire community, 55659.

GLYNN, Mr. JOSEPH A.

Status of Witness.

Witness was a solicitor, acting for thirty-seven estates in County Galway, 55662.—He had discussed his evidence with his colleagues on the County Council, but did not speak for them all officially, 55859-64.

Estates Commissioners preferred to Congested Districts Board.

Overlapping occurred between the Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board; the latter were not good purchasers, and the Estates Commissioners were a better authority for purchase and settlement of land; they worked expeditiously; Estates Commissioners purchased estate of Captain Hugh Henry, near Tuam; it was inspected in June and July, 1905, and was striped in November, 1905, while the houses were built and inhabited by May, 1906; houses and fences together cost less than houses built by Congested Districts Board in the district about Tuam, 55650-71.—All the 104 tenants of this Henry Estate were satisfied; twenty or twenty-five tenants, some of them tenants from the adjoining O'Sullivan Estate, received new holdings, and the remainder had enough land to make their holdings economic; tenants and landlord were satisfied with the price, 55660-1, 55664, 55672-4.—The land had been striped, and when a tenant was removed his holding was divided among his neighbours, and boundaries were re-arranged, 55667.—Tenants built houses with grants of about £100 from Estates Commissioners and under superintendence of the Commissioners' inspectors; the tenant used his own labour, made his own contract, and supplied the stone, 55660, 55670, 55689-91.—One at least of the new holders was the son of a tenant, 55675, 55684.—The tenants from the O'Sullivan Estate came from a poor but not scheduled area, 55677-8, 55695-6.—The Henry Estate was purchased under Clause 6, 55697.—Though in this estate the Commissioners were not hampered by difficulties that would have existed had the estate been in rundale, as were many properties with which Congested Districts Board had dealt, they had to build houses and fences for 2,000 acres of grass land, and to make roads, 55663, 55666, 55668-9, 55681-3, 55686-7.—Estates Commissioners did not wait to put in tenants till they had finished re-striping holdings and making roads and drains, but put the men in first, and set them to work on the roads, etc., while meantime the tenants were getting the benefit from the land; Congested Districts Board would not admit tenants till everything was prepared, 55688.—Where migrants came from a great distance it might be difficult to house them before new dwellings were built, 55692-3.

Bodkin Estate, Kilclooney.

The Bodkin Estate of Kilclooney, near Milltown, in neighbourhood of Tuam, had been purchased by Congested Districts Board; originally it was bought by Mr. Parnell to experiment in planting the people on grass land; Mr. Parnell formed a company called the Migration Company; the experiment failed, and the company went into liquidation, but all the tenants bought their holdings, and the grass lands were taken over by the Land Commission, which had advanced most of the purchase money, 55697-8, 55706.—Under the Land Commission's management the company's shareholders had to pay up the full amount of the calls on their shares; the sale was carried through, and the Land Commission kept over the tenancies of the grass lands, witness thought because there was at that time no power to stripe and divide them; this was in 1885, before formation of Congested Districts Board; for several years the grass lands were set to graziers, and in 1900 it was said all the graziers had been approached by the Land Commission with the object of selling out those farms to them under the Act of 1891; witness, with the assistance of some local people, then endeavoured to find some means to secure the grass lands for division among the local people, 55700, 55706.—In 1900 witness approached the Land Commission regarding the purchase of grass land on this estate, and was referred to Congested Districts Board, 55698-700, 55706.—Witness wrote to Congested Districts Board in October, 1900, and as nothing was done he wrote again, in June, 1901, enclosing a memorial signed by Dr. O'Donnell and others, asking that the Bodkin Estate should be sold out for re-purchase and distribution among the tenants; after the question had been raised in Parliament and further negotiations made Congested Districts Board purchased the Bodkin Estate; witness then wrote to Congested Districts Board saying there were people who held tenancies on the estate but did not live there, and would probably be willing to sell to the Board their interests in the farms; witness had this information from a tenant, but Board rebuked him for attempting to speak to a tenant about selling to Congested Districts Board and for writing to Board on such a subject, 55700-2.—Witness was then acting as solicitor to the tenants; the last paragraph of Board's letter was about purchasing from the tenants, and witness, adopting that paragraph, wrote to the tenant who offered the farm, and the latter was eventually bought by Board, 55703.—Witness did not deny that the case of this Bodkin Estate was especially complicated, but he complained that after Board had purchased it they left it a long time idle, and for years grazed it themselves, not attempting to divide it up into stripes, 55709, 55711-5.—It was purchased about the end of 1901, and was vested in the tenants 27th July, 1906, 55710, 55778.—Witness knew no reason for delay in striping, except that Congested Districts Board were fully occupied elsewhere, 55716, 55729.—The land should have been striped immediately, and people from the neighbourhood put on it; Congested Districts Board brought at least one man from Dunmore; the local people's needs should first have been satisfied, 55717-9, 55737, 55740-2.—The people introduced from a distance came from scheduled areas, 55735.—Congested Districts Board were hampered by the fact that they could not enlarge holdings of local people not under £5 valuation; £10 would be a better limit than £5, 55722-3, 55742-5.—If Board were waiting till they received power to enlarge holdings above £5 valuation their reason for delay was good; witness did not think that was their reason, 55736, 55738.—Migration from a distance was not desirable if local wants had first been satisfied, 55741-2. 55745.—The sons of tenants should be given land where possible, but not before congests from a distance, the latter had a prior claim after local holdings had been rendered economic, 55746-9.—One of the reasons why tenants preferred Estates Commissioners to Congested Districts Board was that the former were more likely to divide the land among the local tenants and their sons, 55750-4.—When Congested Districts Board bought land in a non-scheduled area the fact that it was non-scheduled prevented local tenants receiving land purchased by Board, 55755-6.—If the £5 limitation were raised this objection would be removed, 55757.—The mansion house of Bodkin Estate was in September of 1907 in the hands of a Mr. Garrett, 55724.—The policy of Congested Districts Board allowed a big man to be brought in in this manner if he left enough land for enlargement of holdings, 55725.—Mr. Garrett was a tenant elsewhere; witness approved of his being brought in; it was difficult to dispose of such a mansion house in Ireland, 55726-8.—When Board purchased the Bodkin Estate the graziers surrendered their land or sold to Board; they were dealt with in 1901 and 1902, 55730-3.—Witness was not fully acquainted with the history of the Bodkin Estate previous to its purchase by Board, 55766-75.—His evidence was intended to compare the method of the estate's treatment by Board after they acquired it with the Estates Commissioners' treatment of similar estates, 55776-7.—Witness was aware that Congested Districts Board had to arrange with Land Commission as to a heavy mortgage before they could get the Bodkin Estate, 55780.—Witness did not deny the success of Board's efforts regarding this estate, he only complained of the delay, 55826-9.

Congested Districts Board's Work contrasted with that of Estates Commissioners.

Witness knew that Board had dealt very rapidly with the Nugent Estate, near Tuam; Board had dealt more energetically with estates since 1903, but this was probably greatly attributable to Estates Commissioners' example, and he did not think the delay regarding the Bodkin Estate was wholly accounted for by the special circumstances, 55781-3, 55842.—Judge Leonard's Estate near Tuam had been purchased by Board three or four years ago, and still, in September of 1907, was unstriped and in graziers' hands, 55783-5, 55840, 55843.—The reason was that the Board had insufficient staff and resources, 55841, 55849-52.—The delays might be partly due to the delay in vesting estates, as till this was accomplished the more important improvements could not be carried out, 55853-4.—Witness knew of no difficulties as to who should receive land on Bodkin Estate, but some of the tenants had difficulty in keeping the land at the rent, 55786.—Board did no work on the estate till three years after they acquired it, 55787-90.—Some time further elapsed before migrants were brought in; some time was spent in improving Ardnagull farm and dividing it into four parts, which were given to migrants, 55791.—There were many local applications for this farm, and some of the delay might have been in considering the claims of the applicants; the chief delay was due to the high price asked for the farms, 55792-3.—Deliberation was necessary in choosing the right people to occupy the divided grass land, but the delay on the Bodkin Estate had nevertheless been too great, 55794-8.—Congested Districts Board had more difficulty than Estates Commissioners in finding tenants for their farms because their rents were too high; rents demanded by Estates Commissioners were always reasonable, 55759.—Congested Districts Board could acquire land more easily than Estates Commissioners because they had more money, but Estates Commissioners could settle property once acquired more easily and satisfactorily, 55760-5.—In stating that Board paid more for land than Commissioners witness referred only to purchases in immediate neighbourhood of Tuam, namely, the Kilclooney and Nugent Estates, as contrasted with the Henry Estate, 55799-807, 55819.—Board made no offer for the Henry Estate, 55808.—Witness had not implied that Board got Kilclooney and Nugent Estates because they gave a bigger price than Estates Commissioners were willing to give, 55809.—Estates Commissioners might be considered better purchasers than Board, because the tenants on Commissioners' estates did not complain of their annuities while those on Board's complained of theirs, 55810-1.—Tenants on Board's estates were the same class as those on Commissioners', but the migrants brought in by Board from scheduled areas were generally a different class, 55812.—Estates Commissioners spent less than Board, and built houses and fences at less cost; Board's procedure was too expensive, 55813-5.—Commissioners granted £100 for a house, and this sufficed to pay for material and carpenter and mason, while the prospective occupier gave his own labour in addition; the £100 covered the cost of fences and out-offices, 55816-8, 55831-3, 55837.—Board spent £120 to £140 on the house alone, 55818, 55831-5.—Houses built on Henry Estate with Estates Commissioners' grants were very good cottages, and ample for any holding; they had one storey, roofed within; there was a loft inside and a second room on top; some of the houses were two-storeyed, 55836-8.—Witness believed annuities were higher on Board's property than on Estates Commissioners', 55822.—Board's work of introduction of migrants might be more expensive than the bringing men from quite close at hand, 55823-5.—Purchasing, striping and distribution of land should be given entirely to Estates Commissioners, who should continue it on lines previously followed by Board; Board should be left to attend more practically to the work it was doing in earlier years, namely, schemes for the developing of properties; Board's time could find full occupation with work concerning technical education and questions of agriculture and the development of the province generally in relation to fisheries and industries, etc., 55844-6, 55855-6, 55871-2, 55888-92.—Witness's chief complaints against the Board were their delays and the high price they gave, as shown by the annuities, 55848.—He did not suggest Board's abolition, but all Connaught ought to be scheduled as congested, and as in Galway alone there are 23,328 uneconomic holdings, this meant more work in connection with the land question than Board could deal with, in addition to adequately performing their task of development generally, 55839, 55855-7, 55905.—If the settlement and striping of estates were taken over by Estates

GLYNN, Mr. JOSEPH A.—*continued.*

Commissioners they should be able to spend on slum estates more than the 10 per cent. allowed under Section 6, and they should have compulsory powers in Connaught, 55858, 55874.

Land Available for Relief of Congestion.

The land in Connaught, even if compulsorily acquired, would not entirely suffice to relieve congestion in the province, 55875.—At present it would be useless to ask for compulsory powers beyond Connaught, but eventually they might be needed in other places if the congestion problem was to be solved, 55876-84. It would probably be some time before the land in Connaught available under a system of compulsory purchase could be dealt with, 55885-7.

Suggested Procedure Regarding Purchased Estates.

Estates Commissioners having purchased a badly-congested estate should not sell it in an unimproved condition, but should retain it till they could get untenanted land, and to avoid delays in dealing with estates the Commissioners should possess themselves of a stock of untenanted land beforehand, 55893-6.—Estates Commissioners holding that land would migrate tenants and enlarge holdings, and having placed the holdings in an economic condition, the Estates Commissioners would retire, their places being taken by Congested Districts Board, whose functions would be limited to improvement of holdings by drainage and improved seeds, etc., 55897-901.—These functions would greatly overlap those of the Department of Agriculture, which for the present might disappear in Galway, 55902-4.

Work of the Agricultural Department.

Board's work of general development had been greatly interfered with by Agricultural Department, and the number of Departments existing in 1907 caused complication and loss, while no Department had enough money to do its work properly, 55858.—Agricultural Department's advent had caused Congested Districts Board to abandon their agricultural and technical instruction work in congested districts, or rather to transfer it to County Committees; these Committees and the Department did not do the work in the same admirable way in which Board had done it, 55866-8.—This was because their funds were insufficient, 55869-70.—Local Committees were unable to effect such work as the formation of Parish Committees and the establishment of small model farms, where good bulls or boars could be kept for local use and where proper classes of seeds, etc., were to be seen, 55958.

Alternative Scheme for Purchase.

As an alternative scheme to making Estates Commissioners the sole authority for dealing with purchase and distribution of land witness would not object to an arrangement by which Estates Commissioners should buy property in Connaught at requisition of Congested Districts Board, and should then hand the property purchased to Board for striping and improvement, 55905-11.—Witness however preferred the Estates Commissioners as the sole authority, and thought it better that one body should manage the purchase and distribution of land, 55926-9, 55931.—The good work done by Estates Commissioners, in one county at least, rendered it inadvisable that their operations should be excluded from Connaught altogether, except at requisition of Congested Districts Board, 55912-3, 55917.—If Commissioners bought at requisition of Board the Commissioners should decide what price was to be paid because they and their staff were the better judges of land, 55932, 55934.—The two bodies were not likely to make such different estimates of the price that Estates Commissioners would refuse in a particular case to buy at price suggested by Board, 55933, 55935-6.—The reason for denying purchasing power to Board was that hitherto Board had not bought so well as Estates Commissioners, 55937.—There could be no universal standard of price all over Ireland, but Estates Commissioners would be likely to fix a reasonable sum for a piece of land in any part of the country, 55941-3.—Under an arrangement by which Estates Commissioners bought on Board's requisition Board would not be concerned with the question of price but would merely state to Commissioners which property they required, 55940, 55944-6.—The retention of the present system by which Estates Commissioners purchased and distributed land without dealing with migration conflicted with the policy of migration, 55914.—But under a system by which Estates Commissioners purchased at Board's requisition the Board might fully develop their migration policy, and there would be no conflict between the policies of the two bodies, because Board would not be concerned in the purchasing, 55916-8.—Even if Board were the purchasing authority throughout Connaught the legal processes in the transfer of estates could still be in the hands of Estates Commissioners, 55919.

Local Objections to Introduction of Migrants.

If Estates Commissioners were the purchasing and distributing authority the tenants and their sons who had previously received great advantages from Estates Commissioners would probably object to the introduction of migrants, but the objection was not likely to be a serious matter; there had been no serious objection to the migrants introduced into Kilclooney and Nugent Estates by Congested Districts Board, 55920-5.—Estates Commissioners had been driven to provide for the sons of tenants lest their should be conflicts with tenants on properties under £5 valuation adjoining the land on which migrants were placed, 55924.—At present both Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board had a difficulty about bringing migrants from a distance, and the limit for admission from neighbouring estates should be raised from £5 valuation to £10, 55947-51.—Board's and Commissioners' powers regarding introduction of migrants were similar, 55952-3.—Estates Commissioners had power to purchase untenanted grass lands wherever they chose, 55954.—There might be a certain amount of competition between Commissioners and Board if the latter were buying land in Connaught and also outside for the purpose of transferring migrants, 55955-7.

Piers.

County Councils were obliged to keep up piers, many of which were useless, as they were in the wrong places; the cost of their maintenance fell on the poor districts; some of the cost had been temporarily placed on the county-at-large in order to relieve Connemara rates, but this arrangement could not continue, 55958-64.

Lough Corrib Ferry.

The length of the crossing for the proposed Lough Corrib Ferry was only a quarter of a mile; the ferry was badly needed, 55965, 55971.—The County Council had voted £400, and grants had been promised from Department of Agriculture and from Congested Districts Board, and the County Council undertook to maintain the ferry; it was then discovered that the County Council had no power to make a ferry, and a Bill to obtain this power was introduced into Parliament, but was lost in consequence of a clause in regard to Board of Works, by which the county would have suffered financially, and to which the Irish Party objected, 55965-6, 55972-3.—There was a general opinion that Ireland suffered from indifferent legislation, 55967-9.—The County Council had power to maintain ferries once made, 55970-1.

ARMSTRONG, Mr. E. G.

Cattle Trade and Division of Grass Lands.

Dividing up of grass lands would probably injure the trade in cattle, which formed the chief wealth of Ireland; small farmers in the West of Ireland either reared calves from their own cows, or bought calves

ARMSTRONG, Mr. E. G.—*continued.*

from Tipperary or Limerick dealers; they fed the calves for a year or a year and a half, and then sold to men with 100 acres or more, who kept the calves a year or six months, and then sold to farmers who kept them another year or six months, and finally sold them to Leinster graziers or exported them to England to be fattened; small farmers could not feed cattle till they were fat, as they had not enough grass land, even if it were rich enough; 100 acres of fattening grass land would carry seventy to seventy-five three-and-a-half-year-old cattle, and finish them during the summer, but the same 100 acres, divided into four or five smaller fields, would not give the cattle a sufficiently wide walk, or enough variety of herbage, and there would also be a difficulty about water; country farmers sometimes fattened cattle by stall-feeding in winter, but these were generally inferior beasts; a small farmer with thirty acres would have eight acres in tillage, and keep two cows, two, or even three, ewes, and a mare; next year he would have two cows, two calves, three ewes and their lambs, and a mare and foal, and the land would not suffice to feed them; he could not send all his yearlings to England, and if the middlemen who owned moderately good grass lands were abolished there would be no buyers in Ireland; Ireland required four classes of holders of land, namely, the small farmer who reared cattle, the moderate farmer who fed them for a year, the grazier with fairly good land who fed them another year, and the Leinster man, or English or Scotch man who finished the cattle; the transfer of land to small holders might cause deterioration in the breed of cattle, as small farmers would not have the capital or means of getting good bulls and rams; Ireland was naturally a grazing country; witness had farmed 1,200 statute acres himself, and managed 3,000 for others; from 1882 he was engaged buying cattle and managing for landowners in Mayo and six other counties, and he thought that the large graziers and the landowners who farmed their own land had been the means of improving and keeping up the breed of sheep and cattle in Ireland; landowners in Roscommon had imported shorthorns in days of witness's grandfather with good results to local breed of cattle; small farmers, if left dependent on cattle dealers, would be ruined; small farmers had to keep a good portion of their land in meadow for winter feeding, which was the most profitable in Ireland; the principle of dividing grass lands and creating farms of from thirty to forty acres, and migrating tenants was not objectionable, but whatever was done should be done slowly lest the whole trade of the country should be ruined and national bankruptcy supervene; few men from congested districts could manage a large farm; the grass lands to be divided should be carefully chosen; strong heavy fattening land or wet rushy land was not suitable for division, but light dry moory land or good reclaimed land were suitable; thirty Irish, or fifty statute acres, were the least that could make a farm capable of supporting a family, 55977, 55979, 55980, 55984-5.—There were some grass lands of a nature to be improved by tillage, and these should be broken up, 55981-3.

Weeds.

Ireland was overrun with weeds which cost the soil 30 per cent. of its fertility, and which were continually increasing; every landowner should be compelled by law to keep his ground clear of weeds; the clearance should be general, as it was of little use for one man to remove weeds if seeds of weeds were being blown in from his neighbour's ground, 55977-8.

General Condition of Land in Ireland.

Congested Districts Board had done, and was doing, good work, and the destruction of Board or its amalgamation with Estates Commissioners or Land Commission would be a National calamity; Board's capital should be increased; compulsory purchase was needless as plenty of land was to be had at a fair price; valuation of land was difficult, and required careful inspection, as the variety of land within a small area was great; there was no doubt that landowners were possessed of both the fee and the occupation interest of untenanted land; the limitation in the Land Act of 1903 excluding the enlargement of holdings exceeding £5 in value was a serious drawback, and the limit should be £10; as to the purchase of estates by Estates Commissioners, the delay in getting the money was a serious drawback, and the security offered the vendor was doubtful, 55979.

KENNEDY, Mr. CORNELIUS J.

Status of Witness.

Witness was a member of Tuam Rural District Council, which had appointed him to give evidence, 55986-7.—He lived in the town of Dunmore, where he carried on a large trade in grocery and provisions, besides having a bar; he was Rural District Councillor for Dunmore Division and County Councillor for the County Electoral Division of Dunmore, 55989-90.

Tuam Union.

Tuam Union contained 190,649 acres, with valuation of £77,625 3*s.*; a statement furnished by the Clerk of the Union showed that there were 56,925 acres under grazing, including two demesne lands unoccupied, and that these grazing lands were in possession of 98 non-resident and 171 resident graziers, and that 2,315 occupiers had valuation under £5; the Union's population was 39,832 in 1881, and 34,630 in 1891, and in 1901 it was 30,924, 55988, 55991-2.—There was acute congestion in part of Tuam Union, particularly in neighbourhood of Dunmore, part of which was scheduled, 55990-2.—As regards Dunmore and its neighbourhood, the village of Luhro had 11 tenants, and the average holding contained 3½ acres, and was valued at £2; Carnagur had 8 tenants, and the average holding contained 6 acres, and was valued at £3 10*s.*; Clonkeen had 36 tenants, an average holding containing 7 acres, and being valued at 17*s.*; Carnaseer had 20 tenants, with average acreage of 6 acres, and valuation 4*s.*; Britenagahy had 14 tenants, whose average acreage was 4½, and valuation 4*s.*; in this one townland there were 25 patches of land and there were hundreds of acres of grass land, 55991-2.—Lisabodder had 6 tenants, average holdings being of 6 acres, and average valuation £1 15*s.*; these tenants had to carry bags of flour on their backs as there were no roads, 55994.—Killooney had 42 tenants, the average holding containing 5 acres, and being valued at £3 10*s.*; Cappagh had 32 tenants, with an average acreage of 10 acres, and valuation 4*s.*; Caramanagh had 32 tenants, average acreage 9½, and valuation 4*s.*; Clooncun had 6 tenants, average acreage 5, and valuation 3*s.*; Sleir, 15 tenants, average acreage 8, and valuation 5*s.* 10*d.*; population of town of Dunmore was under 600; the town was nearly surrounded by the best grazing lands; the population, except a few shopkeepers, were very poor, and the majority had practically no land, and felt keenly the want of grazing; most of the graziers refused to let any grazing, but Captain Martyn's agent, on the Deering Estate, gave grazing accommodation at £3 10*s.* per annum; the town and its neighbourhood suffered from periodical flooding of the River Elare, and from the lack of railway accommodation, 55996, 56018.

Acquisition of Grazing Lands.

The grazing should be bought by some authority, and the whole of it settled with migrants from the villages round whose vacated holdings should be divided amongst those who remained, 55991-2, 55997-9, 56000.—Tenants were prepared to migrate, 55999.—Grazing land should be acquired by compulsion; the 171 resident graziers included many shopkeepers, 56001-2.—Resident graziers should receive some fair compensation, but the non-resident, who were eleven-months' men, should receive none, 55991-2, 56003-10, 56024.—Eleven-months' men had overstocked the land and eaten the heart out of it, 56025.—A certain individual who had purchased out land on the Bodkin Estate was entitled to compensation though he was non-resident, 56026-9.—Where a man had half a dozen farms and lived

KENNEDY, Mr. CORNELIUS J.—*continued.*

on one of them Congested Districts Board should acquire the five, leaving the holder that on which he lived, 56046-9.—When all the local people had received sufficient land what was left might be distributed amongst migrants from a distance, 56011-4.—The land shoud be used entirely for the relief of congestion; migrants from a distance being provided for in preference to farmers' sons; the latter should not receive land, 56015-8.—Estates Commissioners had bought some grass land within Tuam Union and had given some of it to sons of tenants, 56019-22.

Congested Districts Board.

Transfers of land from landlord to tenant should be carried out by some authority such as Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, as in private treaties between landlord and tenant the latter might agree to give a sum which would make his annuity too large; powers of Congested Districts Board should be enlarged and local men elected by popular franchise should be on the Board in order that local interests might be given due attention and overstaffing of Board be prevented, 55991-2, 56030.—The Rural District Council should nominate these local members who need not necessarily be County or District Councillors, 56031, 56034-4.—A system by which the Rural District Council appointed a sub-committee to inquire into local aspects of congestion and make representations to Congested Districts Board and by which Board were bound by law to consider those representations would also be most useful and might avoid the difficulties likely to arise if Board included members anxious to advance the interests of particular districts, 56032, 56037-43.—On Rural District Councils the difficulty of meeting the views of representatives of all districts was greatly felt, 56044-5, 56050-5.—County Councils usually managed to transact their business in spite of the conflicting interests of various districts, 56056-61.—Witness preferred the scheme of having a local representative on Congested Districts Board to the sub-committee scheme, though a sub-committee might have more aggregate knowledge of local needs than one individual representative, 56062.—A local representative who did not get many local grants for his own county would be defeated on re-election, 56067-77.—Three years would probably be a sufficient term of office for these representative members of Board, but witness personally would not object to a seven years term, 56079-83.—County Councils might lose control over their representatives if elected for so long, 56086-9.—The control by the Council was less important than the original choice of a good man, which was likely to be secured if the representative were chosen, not by nomination of the County Council, but by the voice of the people, 56090-3.

D'ARCY, Mr. JOHN R.

Condition of Glennamaddy.

Witness was Clerk of the Rural District Council of Glennamaddy, on whose behalf he appeared, 56094, 56129-30.—Glennamaddy Union contained 3,423 occupiers, of whom 3,204 had a valuation of under 6; there were 15,013 acres of unoccupied land available for distribution; this unoccupied land had a valuation of £6,000, and was partly bog, but mostly grass, 56095-6.—About 10,000 of the 15,000 acres were capable of being tilled; 64 graziers held this land; the area of the occupied land was 71,296; between 1881 and 1891 the population had decreased 18 per cent., chiefly through emigration to America, 56097-8.—Few emigrants returned except temporarily, 56123.—It was difficult for them to get farms; witness knew of none who started shops, 56125-8.—The division of land, the starting of factories, and the improvement of railway accommodation would increase the prosperity of the country; the nearest railway station to Glennamaddy was Ballymore, ten miles distant, 56098-9, 56112.—It would be a great advantage if all Glennamaddy Union were scheduled; only seven of the eighteen divisions were scheduled, 56111.

D'ARCY, Mr. JOHN R.—*continued.*

Improvements Suggested.

The land in the district would probably suffice to make the holdings economic, 56100.—Congests on local uneconomic holdings should be satisfied before sons of tenants, but the introduction of migrants from a distance, while sons of local tenants were unprovided for, would probably cause trouble, 56101-4.—This circumstance made the problem of relieving congestion on such places as those along the coast where there was no grass land available a very difficult one, 56105-9.—If all the great grass tract between East Galway and Roscommon were given to the sons of tenants relief of congestion on the seaboard would be impossible, 56110.—A woollen factory might be started in Glennamaddy as it was a sheep country, 56113-4.—Local weaving had been, to a great extent, given up as it did not pay; weavers at present could not earn more than 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, 56115-8, 56121.—The industry would probably pay if the work could be sent to distant markets, 56119.—An instructor going through the districts to teach young men weaving on an improved loom would be of use, 56122.

MACKEN, Very Rev. CANON.

Little Work done by Congested Districts Board in Tuam Union.

In Tuam Poor Law Union only four electoral divisions were scheduled as congested, namely, Addergoole, Belclare, Dunmore, and Levally; others needed scheduling; there were 56,925 acres of grazing land in the Union; Tuam parish had an unusual proportion of grazing land, but Congested Districts Board had only dealt with two small estates, and built seven or eight cottages, of which it was complained that the annuities were too high, 56132, 56257.—One tenant on Ardnagoll townland on Bodkin Estate paid £16 15*s.* for 23 statute acres; his holding was in three divisions, and he had paid £82 to get possession; he asked to have his case represented to present Commission, saying he had thought he was getting 25 acres; he had been brought from a congested area, and Board fixed his annuity; he saw the land before getting it; his grievance was not very serious, 56132-8.—Nothing was done for the congested area in Tuam parish till August, 1907, when the Parish Committee were promised a grant of £50; twice questions had been asked in Parliament by the member for the division as to why nothing had been done for Levally; since Levally was scheduled 1,000 acres had been sold to graziers in Gallagh, close by, at 18 years' purchase, and this tract would have sufficed to relieve congestion in Levally division while the moderate price would have enabled Board to provide large holdings at moderate payments; if Board had had greater resources and a larger staff they could have acted more promptly and acquired this grazing land, 56139-40.—This grazing land was sold in 1900 under Ashbourne Act, 56141-4.—Board should have more money and members representative of counties who would know what was going on in the county, 56145-6.—Under the existing scheduling rules there was little room for Board's operations in Tuam Union, 56254-6.

Finance of the Land Act of 1903.

The Land Act of 1903 should be promptly amended as the financial system was obviously unsound; it was clear that the Government Land Stock provided less than five-sixths of the purchase money; in 1903 it was expected that Irish Land Stock, paying a dividend of 2¾ per cent. would stand at 100, but in 1905 it touched 95½, and during 1907 fell to 81; in September, 1907, it had risen again only to 83; this meant that 17 per cent. of the purchase money would eventually fall on the rates; it was useless to say that some of the balance came from grants made in relief of the rates, for even if these grants were a gift, which they were not, the rates would increase in proportion to the amount used in the purchase of land; at the existing rapid rate of purchase, and on the present financial system, the balance of the purchase money would soon be an enormous burden on Irish ratepayers, and would fall even on those who owned no land; other gilt-edged securities such as India three per cents. had fallen in the same proportion as Irish Land Stock, which meant that the earning power of money had considerably increased since Irish Land Stock was first issued; its increase was 10 or 15 per cent., so that a landlord who in 1907 received 17 or 18 years' purchase for his land was as well off as the landlord who in 1904 received 20 years' purchase; the Land Commissioners seemed to have appreciated this, and in valuing an estate in Galway recently they fixed the price at about £7,800, though some years before the tenants offered about £11,000; a landlord should receive his net income, but in calculating it allowance should be made for agents' fees, and wages of bailiffs, and rent warners as well as for lawyers' fees, and bad debts, and rates payable by landlords; nothing should be allowed for moral and intellectual damages; the ordinary law of supply and demand did not apply to Irish land purchase; Irish tenants would pay anything for their land, and knew of no other security in which to invest their savings; they could not look years ahead and weigh the probabilities regarding importation of Canadian live stock and such considerations, nor understand the juggling of big financial houses in depreciating stock; such contingencies must be considered for them; if the Land Act were altered and rents reduced in a manner which present-day conditions would justify, and if Congested Districts Board, or some other authority, got power adequate to the work a settlement of congested problems would be in sight, 56147.—Financial arrangements for issue of stock should be put on a basis which would bring Land Stock up to £100; this would be about 3 per cent., and there would be less of a discount falling upon the country; it was anomalous that with Land Stock bearing 2¾ per cent., and Consols 2½ per cent., and the same security for both, the prices were almost equal, 56239.

Congestion in Tuam Electoral Division.

What was formerly known as the electoral division of Tuam was divided in the 5th of April in 1898 into Tuam Urban and Tuam Rural; Tuam Urban consisted of the township of Tuam, containing 604 acres, and a population of 3,012 persons; Tuam Rural consisted of the rural portion of the old electoral division of Tuam and of some additional townlands; in Tuam Rural 82 tenants had an average valuation of £2 10*s.* 4*d.*; Levally, which was scheduled congested, had only 65 tenants rated under £5; those tenants of Tuam Rural who were not graziers numbered 155, their average valuation being £5 10*s.*, and this valuation could be raised to £25 if the 5,811 acres of untenanted land in Tuam Rural were distributed; witness's calculations were based on the books of the Union; the Tuam Rural tenantry were in great poverty, and witness had distributed sorely needed relief to them; labour was scarce, and many people eked out existence by cutting turf from bogs and selling it in the town for fuel; they were industrious, but under present conditions it seemed mockery to exhort them to self-help; in Tuam Rural was situated the estate of Mr. Day, on which there was a farm containing 70 Irish acres let to a grazier about the year 1877, when land was expensive at £2 an acre; for this farm, at this rental, thirty tenants had recently offered 23 years' purchase, though an excellent farm on a neighbouring estate had been sold at the same time for 22½ years' purchase on a greatly reduced rental; though each of the thirty tenants would only get about two acres, and this, in some cases, at a distance from their own farms, the 23 years' purchase was worth their while, because at present they paid £4 to £6 per acre for con-acre meadow and grain crops; an official table of statistics drawn up in October, 1906, showed that within the entire Union of Tuam there were 2,315 occupiers valued under £5, and that there were also 56,925 acres under grazing, and valued at £22,692; valuation of the whole union was £77,625; in Abbey parish 300 families had less than £5 valuation each, and in Dunmore electoral division, 205; Claretuam electoral division had fifty-six occupiers valued under £5, but there were 3,170 acres of grazing; the rundale system existed in Carrowrevagh and elsewhere in Tuam parish, 56148-9.

Gombeenism.

In three or four cases gombeenism with 100 per cent. interest existed in neighbouring parishes, but was less flourishing than formerly, 56148-9.

Remedies for Congestion in Connaught.

Tuam Union was fairly typical of other Poor Law unions of Connaught; the whole province and other places similarly circumstanced should be scheduled congested; the scheduling of large areas instead of having regard to the poverty of individuals or small townlands had been a mistake; many non-scheduled districts were poorer than those scheduled; tenants were aggrieved because the presence of grazing lands in their midst had deprived them of the benefits accorded to districts scheduled congested; this explained much of the existing unrest; many persons round Tuam were applying for labourers' cottages on the ranches in the hope of later on getting a slice of the grazing land, 56150.—Land should be purchased and the annuities for the holdings should not be so large as to prevent the possibility of the tenants thriving; a tenant on the Gallagh congested estate whose house was not yet built had sublet his new holding for grazing at a price lower than the annuity and he remained in his old holding, 56150-4. —Congested Districts Board had done excellent work in Connaught, but paid more for land than Estates Commissioners; if lower prices stopped sales landlords would have to face reductions of rent or compulsion would become necessary; landlords, if their net income were fairly secure, should get no compensation for compulsion, 56154, 56182, 56124.—The transfer and distribution of land should take place as soon as possible, 56172.

Compulsory Purchase.

Compulsion should be used to acquire grazing lands held on eleven months' system, and unless the grazing lands proved insufficient to relieve congestion compulsion should not be applied all round, 56175-7, 56188-9, 56211-3, 56215.—When estates were needed for migration they should be compulsorily acquired, 56190-4.—The price of compulsorily acquired land should be calculated on the basis of the landlord's net income, that is the sum the landlord could put in his pocket after discharging all obligations on the estate, 56173-4, 56178.—In securing landlords their net income it should be remembered that limited owners had a wider field of investment than before the passing of the Land Act of 1903, 56178-81.—Grass lands were held by graziers on eleven months' system, 56216.—The rent in Connaught was variable, 56217.—Witness knew of one exceptionally good farm near Tuam let at £2 per Irish acre, 56218.—He knew of no land on the same estate held by tenants at that price, for tenants notoriously held inferior land as it had long been customary to plant tenants on boggy soil, 56219-2.—Tenants paid perhaps £1 per acre; this was not judicial rent; the landlord on that estate was a kind one and gave voluntary reductions, 56221-3. If the rent were £2 the landlord should get that, but the tenants should not be charged £2 10*s.* in consequence if that made the annuity too heavy; the difference should be bridged by the Imperial Treasury, 56224-7, 56230.—The difference would not be enormous, 56228-9, 56231.—Tenants would pay more for good land than for their present poor land, 56232.—The £2 rent was gross income, 56233-6.—The reduction would amount to about 20 or 25 per cent; as a rule it was not put high enough, 56237.—It was impossible to compare the rental of the tenanted and untenanted land as the soil varied so greatly, 56290-1.—It was impossible to expect that land of a good quality could pass to a purchaser as land of a bad quality, 56292.—The land valued at £1 an acre produced besides that £1 the cost of the tenant's living, but it was impossible to estimate the grazier's profit from the land at £2 an acre, 56293-301.—Judicial rent fixation began under the Act of 1881, which applied to both tillage and pastoral land in the hands of present tenants, and during its operation rents had been successfully reduced except in certain cases, 56310-4.—Certain pastoral farms had been excluded from the rent-fixing process by reason of the devise of the eleven months' system, and thus some pastoral lands had had their rents altered while others of the same quality remained with rents unchanged, 56315-8.—The rent should have been altered, but as this had not been done the landlord's net income should be calculated on the basis of the rent as it stood; a corresponding annuity could not, however, be placed on these pastoral lands when broken up and given to tenants for agricultural purposes, and the State should supply an additional bonus to make up the difference, 56319-24.—If landlords did not sell now that judicial rents had to be fixed it was likely, having regard to the importation of live stock, that rent would be lowered; this should be an inducement to landlords to sell even if they did not get their net income from gilt-edged securities, 56328.—It was desirable to continue and encourage the policy of purchase, 56282-3.—The State should see that no class of individuals suffered by this policy, and if compulsory powers of sale were introduced the landowners should not be left worse off than before, 56284-6.—If the existence of two purchasing authorities resulted in the diminution of the price of land there should be two authorities, 56195-7.—The tendency among the rival Departments was to purchase as cheaply as possible, 56198.

Purchasing Authorities.

In County Galway the Estates Commissioners had purchased more cheaply than Congested Districts Board, but they had a wider field than Board; the latter always tried to purchase near a congested district, 56198, 56258-9, 56263.—It would be best to have one purchasing authority, which should be a unification of the four existing Departments, 56199-201.—As the Estates Commissioners had bought more cheaply than Board they seemed to be the best purchasing authority, 56202-6, 56265-6.—Witness did not counsel the abolition of Congested Districts Board; one body with various powers, rather than many Departments, was what was needed, and for this reason, if Estates Commissioners bought land they might also improve it, 56155, 56210, 56267-9.—Estates Commissioners would, in that case, have to rehabilitate the properties in West Galway and in the poorest parts of the country by migrating tenants, 56270, 56272-3.—Estates Commissioners had not so far done any such work; their work, as at present carried on, tended to frustrate Board's objects, because they were buying estates and giving them to sons of tenants instead of leaving the land to Board for relief of congestion, 56271, 56274-5.—Estates Commissioners had done good work in improving holdings of people a little better off than those Board dealt with and in relieving congestion which was often acute on their own estates and on the margin, 56276.—There would be no objection to Congested Districts Board being the purchasing authority in Connaught and Estates Commissioners the authority outside Connaught, and in that case if Board operated outside Connaught they could purchase land through Estates Commissioners, 56277-8.—This would prevent competition, 56279.—It might be possible to have land purchase everywhere effected by Estates Commissioners and the purchased estates made over to Congested Districts Board for subsequent improvement, 56325-6.

Improvement of Land and Agricultural Instruction.

Improvement of land by afforesting and drainage was needed; agricultural instruction was required and the work of the present teachers was too superficial; Board should work model farms, and if it were seen that the methods used made land more productive the example would be imitated, 56154.—Either Congested Districts Board or Agricultural Department might undertake the agricultural instruction, but there were at present too many Boards with work overlapping; agricultural instruction was really Department's work, and in this they did not clash with Board to any appreciable extent, 56155-7. 56159-63, 56207-10.—Department should develop the work on existing lines, but more thoroughly than was possible with present funds and staff, 56161, 56164-8.—If Congested Districts Board were to purchase and improve land there was no reason why they should not work in alliance with Agricultural Department and have a large say in Department's schemes, 56169-71.—The Agricultural work administered by the popularly appointed County Committees should not be taken from the latter, 56244-5.—In congested areas supplemental schemes were needed beyond those the committees could finance, 56246, 56251.—For these the body dealing with congestion really found the money, and it should have a big voice in them, 56247-8.—A voice in arranging these schemes might be given to Congested Districts Board, and to the County Committee also, and through the latter to the Department, 56249-50.—It would be a good thing if agricultural training began in National schools, 56281.

Agricultural Training for Priests.

In Belgium priests took a two years' course at an agricultural college, and the success of agriculture in Belgium was said to be greatly due to them, 56154.—In many remote districts of Ireland the people had no-one but the priests of whom they could ask advice, and if the priests had a couple of years' training in agricultural science it would be of great benefit to their parishioners, 56302-8.

Woollen Industry for Tuam.

Collateral industries should be started; a gentleman of distinguished business capacity had inquired into the subject and informed witness that a woollen factory could be made a success in Tuam, 56154, 56240.—Similar industries flourished in Galway and Athlone, where there were no greater facilities than in Tuam, 56184, 56186.—The division of grazing lands might tend to diminish the number of sheep, but there would still be enough to supply a factory, 56184-7.—There were plenty of girls in Tuam to work in the factory, 56241.—The feeling in the neighbourhood was against Government aid for the factory, and it was believed that it could be made to pay as an entirely private concern, 56187, 56242-3.

Irish Language.

The migration of people for the relief of congestion would result in the spread of the Irish language, 56280.

EAGLETON, Rev. MARK.

Experience of Witness.

Witness had a practical knowledge of agriculture, and had set an example to his parishioners; by draining he had produced good crops on what had been very cold land, 56333.—He had had a great deal of experience of small holders during thirty years, 56334.

Debts to Shops.

Some holders in congested areas generally were greatly in debt to shops, but perhaps less than formerly; for goods lent for a long time shopkeepers charged more interest than the bank, but it did not amount to gombeen interest; landlords sometimes had shops, a system likely to result in the tenant paying rent and leaving the landlord all his crops at the landlord's own price, 56335-6.—Thrift and industry and living on the substantial foods formerly in use instead of on bad flour, bad tea, etc., would mitigate the credit system, 56337.

Food of Tenants.

The present habit was to drink much tea and little milk, 56338, 56345.—Formerly oatmeal, and milk, and gruel were much in use and tea not at all, 56339-44.—Formerly people ate potatoes and grew and ground their own corn, and ate their own bread, 56344, 56346.—Wheat was not grown so much now as formerly as the class of land the people now dealt with was not capable of producing a wheat crop, 56347-8.

Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners.

Witness had not had much to do with Congested Districts Board; the Belclare division was the only congested area in his parish, and all the Board had

EAGLETON, Rev. MARK—*continued.*

done for him was to migrate five or six parishioners to a neighbouring parish; these men were unwilling to go but were persuaded by witness and his cooperator, 56349, 56363.—This would be the attitude of priests generally, 56350.—The migrants were succeeding well, 56351.—Their holdings had been arranged for by Board, 56351.—Witness thought they made no complaints of the annuities, 56353.—Witness had considerable knowledge of Estates Commissioners' work; they had done wonders in his parish; the first estate purchased in Ireland under the Act of 1903 was the Bodkin Estate of Abohill, in witness' parish (not the Bodkin Estate of Kilclooney), 56353.—Most of witness's parishioners were now annuitants, 56354.—The result of tenants becoming owners was increased industry enterprise and improvement, 56355.

Industries stimulated by Estates Commissioners.

Extraordinary industry had been shown on the Smith Estate in witness's parish which Estates Commissioners bought on satisfactory terms; it comprised 1.700 acres, 1,200 of them rich grass lands, farmed by the landlords; land was given to all the tenants with uneconomic holdings and to sons of tenants on neighbouring estates, where the people were very poor, and to tenants from other parishes; roads were made and loans given to tenants; walls and fences were quickly raised; people from neighbouring estates who received land earned 2*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per day with their carts as well as working on their own farms morning and evening, 56356-7, 56358.—Estates Commissioners were worthy of all praise, 56357A, 56362.—In some instances they made grants of £30 to £50 for improvements on new holdings, 56358.—Their policy was to stimulate the people themselves to carry out improvements by giving them small assistance and in every case the people responded, 56359-61.

Sales under Ashbourne Act.

Sales effected under Ashbourne Act in various places where witness had been averaged 13 to 18 years' purchase; on Bodkin Estate the first term rental was about 18 or 19 years' purchase. and on Smith Estate, where there was an exceptionally good landlord, 20 years'; on other estates, even in witness's parish, landlords expected too much, and compulsion should be applied, 56364.—In sales under Ashbourne Act landlords were paid in stock, not in cash, so that comparison with sales on another basis was difficult, 56365-9.

Net Rent and Compulsory Sales.

The net rent was really too much for landlords to expect, because grass lands were depreciating; rent of one farm in witness's parish had fallen in twenty-five years from £800 to £400; on other property land was let at £1 10*s.* per acre, which twenty years before fetched £2 15*s*, per acre; another rent had fallen in thirty years from £150 to £45, 56369.

CURRAN, Rev. JAMES.

Change in Scheduling Regulations Needed.

All congested districts in Connaught should be scheduled where the valuation of tenants demanded it irrespective of the valuation of grazing farms and demesnes, 56370, 56388.—In Abbey Parish there were 300 families of £5 valuation and under, and 100 families at about £8 valuation, and 50 families over £10 valuation; the parish contained 12,000 acres of grass land; Congested Districts Board had bought the Cooloo and Tighe Estates, and done good work distributing lands and enlarging all holdings on the estate except one of thirty acres; but two small estates near contained holdings whose average valuation was £2, but which had not been scheduled; the village of Feagh contained fifty-two houses, where all the families but one were under £5, while west of them was a farm of 700 acres, farmed by a man who lived on the produce of Leinster, and east of them was 1,100 acres of grazing; of the nine townlands in the electoral division of Abbey East seven had no population, and the other two were crowded, but were not scheduled because of the neighbourhood of 4,000 acres of grazing land, though forty-six of the tenants had less than £5 valuation, and only one as much as £10, 56370-1.—Two landlords had expressed their willingness to sell to Board, but one had died and his successor was in an asylum, 56372-3.—Both Board and Estates Commissioners had been approached regarding purchase of the 12,000 acres of grazing land, 56373.—Local industries had been established in Abbey, though both Congested Districts Board and Department of Agriculture had refused help, saying they had no money, 56373, 56382, 56386-91.

Factories Established in Abbey.

There was a small woollen factory not in a congested area, 56374-5.—At a timber factory or saw-mills, started early in 1907, egg-boxes, gates, carts, fences, and palings for cattle were made, 56375.—There was plenty of timber; Congested Districts Board sold timber on Cooloo Estate, the transport of which to Galway cost 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and the return transport would be the same; the factory would be easily worked if the timber could be obtained locally, 56376, 56379, 56381.—There were plenty of woods in the district in the hands of landlords, 56377-8.—Landlords cut down all timber when they intended to sell their estates; rye grass now grew where there were once plantations; clay was put over the roots of the trees, which were then burned, 56393-4.—The saw-mills were worked by steam, and doing well, 56382-3.—A corn factory to grind oats had been established eight years, and was doing splendidly; another was being started, 56383-5.—These industries had been established about six miles south of Tuam, 56392.—Some landlords were applying to both Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board to buy their lands; both bodies should send inspectors, and where there were facilities for local industries Board should take them up; Estates Commissioners should attend to land purchase; Agricultural Department's teaching should also have regard to local conditions; it was useless to teach dairying where sanitary conditions were very bad; in such conditions Board might give loans for improvements, 56391.—There was no Parish Committee established in Abbey, though one had been formed to get a grant from Department; witness's remarks regarding Abbey applied to other poor districts all over the union, 56391A.

STUART, Mr. W. H.

See also p. 151.

Position of Witness.

Witness was Estates Commissioners' Chief Land Inspector for Connaught, 56405-7.

Corrections of Statements Regarding Estates Commissioners.

Evidence given to present Commission concerning Comyn's Estate was incorrect; the facts were that prior to the Act of 1903 that estate was offered to Land Commission, who refused to buy it; after the Act of 1903 was passed Estates Commissioners were asked to inspect the estate to consider the question of the tenants giving eighteen years' purchase; witness made a preliminary inspection, and found the estate so bad that at his request the Commissioners themselves went to look at it; witness saw most of the tenants, many of whom said they never offered eighteen years' purchase, while others stated they had been coerced into doing so; Estates Commissioners refused to make an offer for the estate, 56395-7.—Witness thought the tenants did not know what zones were; it was necessary to employ an interpreter to speak to them, 56398-400.—Untrue statements had been made almost everywhere where this Commission had taken evidence, 56400, 56403.—At Castlebar a witness stated that on Clanmorris Estate the Estates Commissioners had not expended a shilling on improvements; Estates Commissioners had so far laid out £2,713, of which £2,705 were a free grant, 56400.—There was no considerable congestion on Clanmorris Estate; it was on what was called the plains of Mayo, 56419-20.—An official of Congested Districts Board (Mr. Doran) had stated that Estates

STUART, Mr. W. H.—*continued.*

Commissioners never re-arranged holdings nor striped land nor migrated tenants, and that they sold bogs without striping them; this statement was entirely wrong, and witness had himself subsequently given the facts in his evidence, 56400-3.

Grants of Land to Sons of Tenants.

Estates Commissioners could give holdings to sons of tenants on their estates but not to sons of tenants on adjoining estates, 56408-10.—There was considerable demand for holdings for sons of tenants, 56411.—It was not advisable to give land to all tenants' sons applying, but in some cases by making such grants it was rendered easier for migrants to come in, 56412.—Heads of families should however be given the priority, and where there was local objection to migrants it was better to have police to enforce the arrangements regarding these migrants rather than give a lot of land away to sons of tenants, 56413-7.—Police had been thus used in County Galway, where the people had since admitted that the Estates Commissioners were in the right, 56417-8.

CALLANAN, Rev. J. P.

Objections to Board's Proceedings in East Galway.

Witness was Parish Priest of united parishes of Killimore and Tierenascragh, about ten miles from Loughrea and five from the Shannon, near Portumna, and between the Clanricarde and Pollock Estates, 56421-2, 56607.—He had been Parish Priest there eight years, 56423, 56583.—Statements regarding these parishes applied in great measure to most other estates in East Galway; all had rich grazing lands side by side with uneconomic holdings, and on all there were sensible practical farmers fighting their way against grasping landlords and greedy graziers; witness had had some experience of Congested Districts Board and of the Estates Commissioners and of Agricultural Department; Congested Districts Board had done excellent work elsewhere, but in this locality had failed, and there was a strong opinion against them, 56423, 56500-1.—Congested Districts Board paid too much for land, and so had to set annuities ruinous alike to individuals and ratepayers, and they also held monster grazing tracts for years without dividing them; Congested Districts Board's Report for 1906 showed they gave £22,945, or thirty-five and a half years' purchase, for land valued at £646, while on adjoining land Estates Commissioners, about the same time, purchased a valuable farm for twenty-six and a half years' purchase; Estates Commissioners had settled tenants on their farm, but after four years there was no sign of Board's dividing the Kenny Estate; in the same report Board set down £5,714 for "improvements and other expenses," though to witness's knowledge not more than £10 had been spent on improvements, and though they farmed most of the land themselves, setting con-acre at a high price and taking in graziers at a higher price than was charged across the road their receipts were only £5,163, or £600 loss; if Board thus incurred loss how could a family support itself and pay its outgoings?; only those who had nothing to lose would be likely to take this land at thirty-five years' purchase of the poor law valuation, and they would probably not be able to meet their engagements, so that the ratepayers would have to bear the loss, 56424, 56505, 56514-6, 56528-9, 56531-8.—This was Dr. Kenny's Estate, 56530.—About four years ago Congested Districts Board bought the Blake Estate at Benmore over the heads of the tenants, and at three years' purchase over that offered by tenants; it had only recently been divided after local agitation; Estates Commissioners bought the O'Farrell Estate at Doon, divided it, and built houses on it in the space of nine months; work done on O'Farrell Estate was superior to that done on Blake Estate; Congested Districts Board had charged Pat Wade £23 for a holding containing only three or four acres fit for tillage; Board promised to open main drains and make a bog road, but abandoned the works, so that the lands became water-logged; some of the Benmore annuitants would have to pay 35*s*. to 40*s*. an acre, including annuity, rates, etc., a figure for which no land in that locality could pay whilst enabling the tenant to live decently, 56424, 56539.—On Benmore Estate there had been difficulty regarding introduction of migrants from Mayo before local wants were satisfied, and witness believed this was why no other land in that locality had been divided by Board, 56555-7.—If local wants were first attended to migrants would be welcomed, 56557.—On estates where there had been no trouble land was still undivided, 56558.—Board explained delay in distributing land by saying they had to wait till lands were vested in them, but Estates Commissioners bought land, and in a couple of months had houses built and tenants settled before the land was vested in Commissioners; this was puzzling to laymen, and the priests found it difficult to restrain the people from driving, 56592-7.—At Slateford Board had acquired land about four years ago and built houses two years ago, but the annuities were so high that the houses were still vacant and the land let to graziers; in view of the high annuities measures should be taken to prevent amalgamation of holdings or a Jewish type of landlords would be introduced, 56424.—Witness would be slow to think Board had to pay especially high prices in East Galway, 56502.—He would be interested to learn that, excluding prices in that neighbourhood, Board had bought cheaper than Estates Commissioners all over the country, 56503.—He believed that if there had been no Estates Commissioners Board could have bought as cheaply in this district as elsewhere, 56504.—Witness thought the dearest price paid by Estates Commissioners for land in Clonfert was twenty-six or twenty-seven years' purchase, and thought that was too much, 56506-7.—Under present circumstances the chances of the market had something to do with price, 56508.—Estates Commissioners had bought a great deal of land in Galway, and the price had risen; this was the objection to having two bodies working side by side, 56509-10, 56526.—With compulsory powers Board could buy land cheaper, even if Estates Commissioners continued their work, 56512-3.—Witness had not been aware that Congested Districts Board were not limited as to the amount of loss they could incur on a particular estate, and had supposed that if Board laid out a large amount on an estate they must charge a proportionately high annuity, 56515-7.—If Board had been forced to buy the Benmore Estate at a high figure because the owner made this a condition of selling a very congested estate he possessed in Mayo the Board should use its power to lower the annuities on the poor people, 56518-9.—A pound or two added to the annuity made a great difference to small holders, 56520.—Instalments should not be weighed down with heavy charges for houses, 56524-5, 56539.—Board built houses for tenants and employed men at 2*s*. and 2*s*. 6*d*. a day; in one instance a boy received 2*s*. a day for driving a horse and cart belonging to Board; a farmer would not have given him so much; when possible tenants should be brought to the land and should help to build their own houses to save expense, 56539, 56570, 56580-1.—Under such an arrangement tenants took greater interest in the houses and employed their own labour, and acted as a kind of clerk of the works; the cost of the house would thus be kept as low as possible, and the building of it would be a lesson in industry to the occupier, 56571-2.—Some houses in witness's parish had been built thus more cheaply than by a builder, 56574.—Tenants were more likely to be satisfied with houses built by themselves, 56575-6.—In some cases Congested Districts Board had built houses for sons of tenants; it had been complained that they refused to build one for Wade, 56577-8.—Witness himself did not believe they had refused to build a house for Wade out of vindictiveness and because he was secretary of the United Irish League, though that had been suggested; he thought Board might, for the sake of peace, have settled Wade's case when they settled others, 56598-603.—Mr. Doran stated in his evidence that the amount paid to engineers and surveyors, etc., was charged by Congested Districts Board to the cost of each estate, 56461, 56531, 56540, 56542-3, 56545.—Witness had thought these expenses would come from some other fund, 56541.—He was glad to hear that these charges were placed against an estate merely to show its cost, and were not necessarily all taken out of the annuities, 56544.—In one instance where Board divided holdings there were 237 holdings with scarcely two or three acres of tillage each and forty or fifty acres of other land; four men bought land that only strong cattle and nothing else could make a living out of, 56604-5.

Danger of Mortgaging Holdings.

In one or two cases witness had written to Estates Commissioners to restrain a tenant from getting a loan through a mortgage; the lender was an auctioneer in Ballinasloe, who was advancing money to tenants in witness's parish with the object of acquiring their freeholds, 56425-9, 56437.—The auctioneer got the country people into his books in various ways, 56427, 56437.—People raised money on their holdings while they were still paying annuities to Government; witness did not know if this was legal, 56425, 56430, 56432, 56437.—Witness believed the money was advanced on the security of the holding, 56431.—Witness knew of no case in which the lender had actually foreclosed on a holding, but the Ballinasloe auctioneer had got possession of farmers' holdings seven miles from Loughrea, and had cattle grazing on them, 56433, 56435.—The farmers were still there acting as the money-lender's caretakers, 56436-7.—Land should be given only to those who could be shown to be deserving of it, and when a tenant could not meet his liabilities his holding should be sold, and he should give place to a proper tenant, instead of borrowing money, and giving the lender a chance to become landlord of the whole countryside, 56438-41.—A tenant's power of mortgage should be limited to a sum barely sufficient to start the farm, 56442-52, 56454, 56460.—He should be allowed to mortgage to that extent because he had no other means of raising money, 56450-1.—If Board of Works could advance money at low interest, to be added to the annuity and not charged on the farm, tenants would still probably go to the money-lender, if possible in order to avoid the formalities required in borrowing from Board of Works, 56453.—Borrowing from Board of Works on tenant's personal security would be an advantage, because it would leave the holding intact, 56455.—Something like an agricultural bank would be a good thing, 56456-7.—Applicants for grass land should not receive land unless they had some capital to give them a chance of success in cultivating it, 56627.—The capital might be provided by Congested Districts Board, but this should be done only in the case of congests, not in cases of sons of tenants, 56628-9.—If Estates Commissioners had public money at their disposal for this purpose it might be useful; if men received money to increase their stock the security would be strengthened, but witness did not say Estates Commissioners should do this for sons of tenants, 56630-2.

Overlapping of Estates Commissioners with Congested Districts Board—Effect on Price of Land.

It was extraordinary that two rival Boards should be buying up land; the system was to the landlords' gain, and this was why landlords and agents were so generally in favour of Congested Districts Board; the future of Ireland depended on securing land at its fair value and on its proper distribution among deserving people; Congested Districts Board should go in for large tracts at reasonable prices, and migrate colonies rather than isolated families, but there should be only one body purchasing; Board should look after the very congested areas of the West, where some spoon-feeding was needed, and Estates Commissioners could allocate the lands they required without interfering with their present excellent work; or Board should be confined to those poor districts, and when they wanted untenanted land for migrants should apply to Estates Commissioners for it. 56461.—Witness had some reason to think that Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners when operating in the same district were really competing bodies; the enormous price paid for the Ballydonelan Estate was the special occasion of witness's appearing to give evidence under the bishop's direction; the owner of this estate evidently would not dispose of his lands unless he got more than their value; first he tried to divide the lands, charging fines to tenants, but public opinion defeated him; then he approached Estates Commissioners, and failing to get enough money from them went to Board, who gave him thirty-five years' purchase, 56462-3.—

Landlords' Net Incomes.

Landlords had no right to their net incomes at 3¼ per cent. security, because land security was shaky, 56464.—Witness agreed to the principle of securing a landlord his average income calculated over a number of preceding years, 56465.—In carrying out a great State policy no person should be subjected to loss; the interests of the greater number should be looked to, 56466-7.—But if injuries were to be borne on one side witness saw no reason why the sufferer should be the State; the State should give a bonus to meet the loss, and if some people here and there had suffered the State had done fairly well; already by passing the Land Laws the State had lowered the landlords' rents 30 to 35 per cent., and some further injury to them regarding purchase could not be avoided, 56468, 56559-60.—The landlord was not actually injured by the law; the reductions in his income were legitimate, 56479-80.—The landlord who had an occupation interest in a holding as well as that of ownership must either set it to graziers or farm it himself; not long ago there were many well-to-do graziers in county Galway, all of whom had since been broken down through farming; if landlords now farmed the land they would risk severe loss, and letting to graziers was no longer very profitable; thus a landlord's occupation interest was now of little value, 56561-2, 56565, 56569.—Annuities for tenanted land should be somewhat higher than those for untenanted, 56563-4.—Untenanted land should be valued independently of the income derived from it, which was no standard where there were competitive rents, 56566.—The value should be fixed on a basis somewhat lower than fair rents under the rent-fixing Acts, 56568-8A.—During the eight years in which witness had known East Galway the rents of the smaller grazing tracts had been kept up by competition, but he thought those of larger grazing tracts had gone down, 56582-5.—On the Ballydonelan Estate rents had fallen from 27*s.* and 28*s.* per acre to £1 and less; this estate was distributed to tenants at 25*s.* and 35*s.* 6*d.* per acre, 56586.—If the grazing lands were divided and distributed to tenants the latter could sell their interest at a considerable number of years' purchase, 56587-9.—Their interest would be rather more than the landlord's, and it would be fair to charge them something more than the landlord's interest on their annuities, 56590-1.

Claimants to Land for Distribution.

The distribution of land should not be limited to deserving people occupying uneconomic holdings, as others who had no holdings were perfectly deserving, 56470-1.—In East Galway there were large grazing tracts with uneconomic holdings on their borders, and it would be a great hardship if whole colonies from a distance were settled there at expense of local congests, 56472.—Heads of families on uneconomic holdings in the district where land was bought for the relief of congestion had the first claim on that land, 56473, 56497.—Heads of families on holdings at a distance had the next claim, but in introducing them the claims of the sons of local tenants should be taken into consideration, as otherwise the migrants would suffer from the discontent about them, 56474-8, 56486-90, 56547, 56615, 56619-22.—The people recognised that Congested Districts Board in distributing land had first to deal with the relief of congestion, 56549-51.—The general opinion was that Board bought land chiefly for outsiders, and consequently would not look after wants of local people, while it was known that where Estates Commissioners bought land the local people would be looked after first, 56548, 56552.—They knew that Estates Commissioners had power to give land to sons of tenants, and they therefore associated Estates Commissioners rather than Board with distribution of land in that direction, 56553-4.—Men at a distance in the same county should not necessarily be given preference over men in the same county; the essential was that people in the neighbourhood where land was purchased should be relieved before migrants were introduced, 56610-4A.—If there was not in congested counties in the West of Ireland enough land to end congestion the

CALLANAN, Rev. J. P.—*continued.*

purchase by Board of large tracts in Westmeath and Roscommon and the migration to them of large colonies would be better than the migration of a few families, 56616, 56461.—If local congests were first relieved migrants would be welcomed, 56617-8.—There was a great deal of good land in the district about Loughrea, 56481.—In Portumna Union there were 21,000 acres of untenanted land; 302 tenants were under £5 valuation, 323 under £10, and 421 under £20; when these and deserving sons of tenants were supplied there would still be a good margin of land left for migration purposes, as the union's population was only 9,054, 56482, 56609.—The population of Portumna Union in 1841 was 30,836; the Pollock and Clanricarde clearances partly accounted for the decline, and many of the evicted tenants were still waiting a chance to return home, 56609, 56495-6.—Both the country and the town would be benefited if this untenanted land in Clonfert diocese were let to occupiers of reasonably-sized holdings, 56483-5.—About 10,000 acres of this land might be employed in relieving congestion in the far west of Galway, 56488, 56495, 56498.—Alongside every grazing tract there was a congested area, which should be dealt with before migrants were introduced; on edge of Kenny Estate, in parish of Killimore and Tierenascragh, there were about twenty families, with average of about £6 valuation, and some as little as £1 or £2 valuation; there were ten or twelve men with no land who had saved something from cattle-dealing and grazing and from their earnings by working hard in the hope of eventually acquiring a holding in the locality; since Board acquired the estate one tenant had emigrated, and was saving money in New York in the hope of returning when distribution was made; Congested Districts Board had no business in this locality, but being there should provide for local needs.

Clanricarde, Ashtown, and other Estates.

The Clanricarde sore would be healed if Estates Commissioners purchased Clanricarde and Pollock Estates; in these cases and in those of Ashtown, Clonbrock, Colonel Nolan, and others, compulsion might be necessary, and if so should be applied; in the first week of September, 1907, Lord Ashtown summoned all his tenants to his hall-door only to trifle with them and threaten them, while absolutely refusing to sell, 56607.

Compulsory Purchase.

Unless compulsory powers were obtained the present Commission would fail of its object, because most landlords would refuse to sell or would hold out for the last shilling; as ratepayers were interested almost directly in sales there should be no private bargains between landlords and tenants, as the latter, in their eagerness to get land, would make unfavourable terms, 56609, 56623.—The County Council might be consulted regarding sales, as they were in a sense responsible for bargains made, 56624-6.—Estates Commissioners had as a rule enlarged holdings, but they divided two farms of 200 acres each among existing holdings, and in two cases gave land to sons of tenants whose families got no increase of land, and in one case they gave land to an evicted tenant, 56491.—This was on Colonel Bailey's Estate, where the land was needed to make the holdings economic, 56492-3.—Witness knew of instances where tenants' sons received holdings, but he did not know whether it was from Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board; the only work of which he had definite knowledge was that on the Doon Estate, where Estates Commissioners migrated men from adjacent villages and put them on the good land and amalgamated the vacant holdings, 56494.

Agricultural Department.

Agricultural Department's operations should follow not precede those of Congested Districts Board; Department's work might be useful and even essential in cases of migration, especially those from bad to good land; Department had been viewed with suspicion from the first, and the unpopularity of the late Vice-President did not tend to remove the distrust; better things were now hoped for, 56609.

KELLY, Mr. PETER J.

Needs of Loughrea Rural District.

Witness was a member of Loughrea Rural District Council and also of the County Council, 56633.—In the rural district there were 10,000 to 12,000 acres of untenanted land; Estates Commissioners had to give too much for untenanted land, 56634-5.—The land hunger in the West of Ireland had caused people to take too little heed of the price they gave for farms, and the result would probably give the Government more trouble than they anticipated, 56635.

Compulsory Purchase.

If Estates Commissioners were to acquire the grazing tracts within reasonable time it would probably be through compulsion; men like Clanricarde and Ashtown and Clonbrock would not give in easily; thousands of acres of land in this union could be utilised for re-afforestation; drainage was urgently needed, as the rivers flooded the low-lying lands and destroyed crops; there was sufficient fall to make drainage easy, 56635-9.—The drainage should be direct, not by curves, and it should be into the sea on one side and the Shannon on the other, 56640.—These large tracts should be in hands of Estates Commissioners, 56641.—They should be drained by the State, 56642-3.—The untenanted land did not need drainage, 56646.—In Loughrea Rural District there were 1,200 holdings under £10 valuation which should be reclaimed and enlarged by Estates Commissioners; some of the tenants and their sons should be transferred to untenanted lands, 56648.

Mr. Wyndham's Promise regarding Uneconomic Holdings.

Mr. Wyndham in the House of Commons had said he would plant the young men on untenanted land, leaving the old men on the uneconomic holdings, and when these old holders died off their holdings should be added to others to make the latter economic; this policy had not been put in practice; the present Chief Secretary said he would do away with Lord Clanricarde's type, but he had not abolished him yet, 56649.

Twelve Electoral Divisions that should be Scheduled.

Twelve electoral divisions in and about Loughrea should be scheduled as congested; it was to the tenants there and their sons and not to congests from Connemara that the land should be given, 56650-5.

MULLEN, Mr. JOHN.

Congestion in Portumna.

Witness was a member of Portumna Rural District Council; the divisions of Abbeyville and Cloosh and Drumnon should be scheduled congested; in Abbeyville there were twenty-three tenants valued under £5, while in Cloosh there were forty-five, and in Drumnon thirty-five tenants valued under £5, 56656-8.

TAYLOR, Mr. FRANK M. SHAWE.

Status of Witness.

Witness had been nominated by Irish Landowners' Convention; for nearly twenty years he had farmed all classes of grazing lands in County Galway for himself and others, and had bought large numbers of stock on commission in West of Ireland annually for customers all over the country; he was a land agent and a tenant farmer, as well as an owner in fee who farmed his own lands, and a tenant of lands purchased under the Ashbourne Act; an annuity was payable on the latter, 56659.

Lands Suited and Unsuited for Sub-division.

There was a great deal of deep and heavy land in County Galway valuable for grazing, and suitable for nothing else; if it were sub-divided and tilled the land itself would be ruined, as well as the occupier; in parts of Counties Galway and Clare there was much rocky land very valuable for winterage grazing, but not suitable for sub-division or tillage; there was, however, plenty of dry and light medium-class land in the West of Ireland now used for grazing, which would be equally useful if tilled; there was also plenty of heathery land used for grazing, and not valuable for that purpose, but which would be the better for tilling; to till such land both skill and capital were needed; plenty of such land could probably be acquired without compulsion if a fair price were given, 56659, 56730-3, 56799-800.—Probably most of the land in Meath would be unsuitable for tillage, 56801-2.

Divided Lands Unprofitably Treated.

The amount of land to be given for each new holding must depend on the circumstances of each case, 56659.—Returns of lands sub-divided and sold should be furnished to Estates Commissioners, and should show how much was under tillage and how much under meadow (conacre and otherwise), and how much was sub-let for grazing purposes; these returns would probably show the new holdings were not being profitably used, 56659.—It was not profitable to have much land in conacre or much sub-let; the lands were not being artificially manured, and there was an enormous quantity of hay in the country for which there seemed to be no market; witness had been offered hay at £1 a ton, a price which could not pay the producer, 56783, 56788.—On the whole the transfer of land led to a fall in the price of hay, as more hay was saved, 56785.—Witness did not think that grazing land had been allowed to depreciate for want of manuring; some graziers were more careful, and had the thistles and ferns cut, and the landlord probably manured the meadows, 56789.—There had been no sensible depreciation in grazing land in the ten years before 1907, 56790-1.—On the Branagh farm, which in 1906 was divided among the tenants, some of the land had been sub-let; witness thought that at one time a good many of the grazing ranches had been cultivated, 56794-5.—There were signs of tillage on many of them, 56798.

Migration Question.

The question whether the introduction of migrants from a distance was acceptable depended on the locality; at present there appeared to be an idea that all grass lands bought were to be divided amongst the people of the neighbourhood whether the holdings were economic or not; generally migrants from congested districts would not have sufficient agricultural knowledge to work their new holdings properly, and would need competent instruction and financial aid, 56659, 56734-5, 56805.—Some men would learn something about the working of a plough in two or three years; others would need supervision twice as long, 56807-8.—Powers should be retained by a public body with regard to the maintenance of the improvements made on the land at the public expense, 56736.

Cattle Trade and Sub-division.

Under the existing system small farmers kept one or more cows, and bred and reared their own calves; dealers also brought up large numbers of calves and yearlings from the South of Ireland to the West, and sold them at the local fairs and markets to small farmers, who kept them till they were about two years old, and then sold them to local graziers, 56659, 56737.—The latter sold the cattle as three-year-olds to Leinster men for fattening, or to the shipper for exportation to England and Scotland, as land in West of Ireland was not good enough for fattening; if grass lands were divided more cattle would be bred and reared, but as the graziers would have disappeared, the "shippers" would be the only purchasers, and these exporters would only buy young store beasts when in first-class condition; not one man in a hundred would be able to produce beasts in such condition unless the entire farming system of the West were changed, so that farmers could fatten all the stock they reared, and this would be impossible, as it meant putting a great deal of land under cultivation which was not feasible, owing to lack of labour and of capital to import labour; moreover, if the farmers depended wholly on the shippers trade would be good only when there was plenty of keep in England and Scotland, and otherwise would collapse altogether; when it collapsed store cattle would be saleable in Ireland only at ruinous prices, and the slump in prices would be unprecedented; one of witness's employers had lost five grass farms since the Act of 1903, and witness consequently now bought for this man in the local fairs 500 fewer store cattle per annum than formerly; while the present occupiers of those farms bought very few, 56659, 56660, 56676-82, 56687-8, 56768-9.—If cases of this kind multiplied the value of store cattle must depreciate, and the cattle trade of Ireland become greatly disorganised, so that the whole country's prosperity would decline, 56659.—On these five farms much of the land was now under conacre, meadow, and much was sub-let, 56780.—The land now carried only 100 cattle instead of 500 cattle, as well as some sheep; some of it was under tillage; it carried more people than before, 56781-2.—The cattle witness bought for these farms were two-year-olds; all West of Ireland farmers with any means kept cattle till they were two years old, as they then had the best market, 56662-5.—Witness sold to Leinster men or shippers, 56666.—The people among whom the five farms were divided could not buy so many cattle as witness had bought; one of these men with twenty or thirty acres would have his own stock of cows with calves and a mare with a foal, as well as some sheep, and he would not be able to support much more; if he bought anything it would be yearlings, 56661, 56667-70, 56709, 56711.—If these men were to supply the place of the graziers they would have to keep the stock till they were three years old, instead of selling two-year-olds as at present, 56670-1.—Moreover, there was no sale for three-year-old cattle at local fairs in small lots, 56672-3, 56712.—If cattle were fattened in Connemara no one would buy them if there were not local graziers, 56761-2.—Buyers would not come from Dublin because there was plenty of good beef there, 56763.—Selling two-year-olds was more profitable to small farmers than selling three-year-olds, 56674, 56708, 56713.—These small men had not the capital to buy two-year-olds, 56707-8.—There was £3 or £4 difference between the price of a two-year-old and a three-year-old, 56710.—These remarks referred to small farmers in County Galway, 56714.—Small farmers in Clare kept their cattle till two years old; the best two-year-old cattle in Ireland came from Clare, 56716-7.—So far the price of store cattle had not gone down, but in the first three weeks of the present month* there seemed signs of its decline, 56683-4.—It was bound to depreciate if shippers became the only buyers, 56685, 56738.—The effect of the disappearance of graziers would be not so much against the large farmers as against the small men, who were compelled, in order to live, to sell their cattle as two-year-olds, 56739-40, 56777.—The number of cattle was not likely to diminish under the new system, 56754.—Leinster men only bought young store cattle at one period of the year, 56693.—For the pollying trade Leinster men bought in February, March, and the beginning of April from small farmers and from graziers; the cattle they purchased were young stores in forward condition; these were brought to Leinster and dishorned, and after being fed for the summer they were sold in autumn to English and Scotch feeders, 56695.—The cattle would be two-and-a-half years old in September; the trade only lasted a couple of months, as dishorning could not be done in hot weather, 56696.—This pollying trade might continue as before, even if grass lands were divided, 56697, 56703-5.—Much of the grass land of Meath was unsuited for the pollying trade, and only fit for feeding three-year-old beasts and so on, 56698.—The revival of tillage to any great extent would be not merely unprofitable, but impossible; witness was tenant of a judicial farm very suitable for tillage, and had for years improved it by a tillage system, but did no find it profitable, as labour was scarce and dear, and the rent had been

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* September, 1907.

TAYLOR, Mr. FRANK M. SHAWE—*continued.*

raised over ten per cent. for the second statutory term, probably because witness was an improving tenant; witness intended to practically give up tillage on this farm, 56659, 56742.—If witness had not improved his farm, but let it go back, he would have got a reduction in rent, 56743-4.—The worse the farmer the bigger the reduction he got, 56745, 56749. —In basing the price of land upon second statutory term rents loss was incurred by the owner where the tenant's neglect had reduced the value of the land, 56746.—Witness was allowed for his improvements, and made the best case he could, 56747.—His landlord was Mr. Martin Ward, 56748.—Third term rents would probably be notably under second term rents, as second were under first, 56752.—Consequently landlords would do well to get rid of their land as quickly as possible, 56753.—Witness had tried stall-feeding, but it did not pay him, 56689-90. —Stall-feeding on a huge scale would disorganise trade, 56701.—If the intermediate lands were divided the tilling them would be impossible on a large scale, owing to the state of the labour market, 56755-6, 56787.—Men with thirty acres could not profitably stall-feed their cattle in view of this expense of tilling and the expense of building out-offices, and buying corn and meal; it would pay better to try and get out the cattle at two years old, 56700, 56759.—Witness did not think small holdings would ever be able to carry cattle till they were fat, 56787.—It was possible that under an intensive system of agriculture with green crops produced in rotation under a system of mixed agriculture a farmer might rear his own stock, and finish and fatten them; but before this could be achieved the system of agriculture in Ireland would have to be changed, 56764-5.—In some cases, but not in all, it might be well to change the system, 56766.—If the first-class land was left untouched under the new system it would still be available to take up young stock, 56767.—In the first years of the settlement of a man by the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board he would have great difficulty, and perhaps could not till the first year as afterwards, 56770-1.—Even with an intensive system of agriculture the farms could not be in working order for at least two years, 56772.—Witness did not agree with Mr. Doran that more cattle could be fattened if the grass lands were divided, 56773-5.—The division of grass lands would probably not diminish emigration, as the young people would not be content to remain and work on the farm merely for their keep, but desired to work for themselves; as farming was practically the only industry in Ireland, too many people were engaged in it; the revival of declining industries and the starting of new ones would do more good than indiscriminately dividing up all the grass lands in the West of Ireland, 56659.

TENER, Mr. EDWARD SHAW.

The Clanricarde Estate.

Mr. Henry Murphy, a solicitor of Galway, in giving evidence regarding the townland of Carrowbrowne, on the Clanricarde Estate, stated that tenants had to pay £1 per annum for their turf, and that there was no roadway to the bog, and that in wet weather the turf had to be left on the bank for a time; he also stated that in 1892 the landlord levied a shilling tax on the banks for a roadway but made no road and continued to levy the tax; as a fact only one man on the estate was charged 14*s.* for turf, the rest being charged 5*s.* to 10*s.*; no such levy as a shilling per tenant was made, and there was a road to the bog for whose maintenance the landlord paid a yearly sum, 56809, 56814.—Witness did not think tenants contributed anything for the making of the road; it was made before he was agent; he had been maintaining it for twenty years and knew of no payments made for it by tenants since he was agent, 56811-3.—The turbary was in Carrowbrowne townland but not on tenants' holdings; the turbary was never free in witness's time, 56815-7.—Holdings on Carrowbane townland were rather small; tenants were allowed to sell the surplus turf they took, and by this means they made from £3 to £7 a year though their rent might be only £7 to £8, 56818-9.—Enlargement of their holdings would be useful but could not be done on that estate as there was no land untenanted except the Clanricarde Estate demesne and a small home farm, 56820-5, 56829, 56876.—One-fifth of this home farm was tilled and meadowed yearly in conjunction with the residence, and the other four parts were temporarily let, 56826.—The owner was non-residential, 56827.—There was not enough grass land on the estate to enlarge uneconomic holdings; there was no land on eleven or twelve months' system, 56830, 56853-5.—The tenancy at Tullahill was an eleven months' present tenancy, grazed by a Mr. Levinge from Athlone, who was non-residential; he obtained his tenancy about ten years before 1907, 56856-60.—This farm could not be cultivated; half of it was excellent grass land and the other half was needed for meadow to supply the first half in winter; it was a very small farm; witness had divided into eight portions a larger tract of land near Loughrea, 56861.—Some hundreds of tenants, including nearly all the non-judicial tenants, held from year to year, 56862-4, 56877.—These tenancies could not be determined on giving compensation as the lands were tenanted and tenants had a right to go to the Land Court, 56865, 56877.—Witness was certain that neither Estates Commissioners nor Congested Districts Board could terminate the tenure of a future tenant without a sale, 56866-9.—Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board having purchased an estate could determine the tenancies of future tenants by giving them six months' notice and a maximum of three or four years' compensation for disturbance, besides compensation for improvements; witness did not think they could do the same with present tenants, 56869-9A.—No landlord could terminate a first term rent, but Congested Districts Board could for relief of congestion, 56886-7.—If a tenant were not satisfied with the compensation he had an appeal to the County Court, 56870.—In 1906, on a portion of the estate, comprising sixty-seven tenants, five tenants went into the Land Court and their rents were raised by the Sub-Commissioners one-third; the remaining sixty-odd tenants had not gone into the Land Court up to September in 1907, when four or five appeared before the Commissioners at Portumna, 56878.—Two-thirds of the tenants, namely, about 800, including those in the towns, had judicial rents, and the rest seemed not to desire them, though an occasional notice was served, 56879, 56888.—The raising of rents by the Sub-Commissioners was not common on adjoining estates, 56881.—The rents in question were first term rents, 56882-3.—Some men had applied for second term rents; the last who did so had his first term rent confirmed, 56884-5.—In many cases where judicial rents were fixed the old rents were confirmed; in others there were varying reductions, 56889.—The average reduction did not exceed 12½ per cent; witness thought this was not the case on most other estates, 56891.—There was no principle followed in giving reductions; one set of Land Commissioners would value three or four farms, and six months later another set valued others adjoining, 56889-90.—This Clanricarde Estate was the lowest rented in the county; tenants had many privileges as to turbary, etc., and received quantities of timber for their farms and roofs of houses; so far as rent and occupation went they had no cause to complain of their landlord, 56838.

Transfer of Migrants from Unsold Estates.

The reason why it was difficult to assist small men, unless the estate on which they lived was sold, was to be found in the ill-will of those on adjoining estates and their unfriendliness to migrants, 56840.—The changing of men off an estate that had not been sold would not necessarily result in the farms being left derelict; holders of two small farms on the Clanricarde Estate had been recently transferred to the Blake Estate at Benmore; the rent of one of these migrants was £3 5*s.*, and an adjoining tenant paid him £70 for the tenant-right, 56841-2.—The large price paid for the tenant-right showed the purchaser was satisfied with his own rent, 56843.—It would be well if such transactions were carried out on a large scale, 56844.—This case showed the purchasing of estates was not necessary to effect transfers, 56845-7.

TENER, Mr. EDWARD SHAW—*continued.*

—There were some portions of Clanricarde Estate which it was intended to use to enlarge holdings; it was not intended to charge fines for such enlargements, 56848-9.

GOUGH, The Right Hon. VISCOUNT.

Description of the Procedure adopted by Continental Governments in striping Agricultural Holdings.

Re-integration or the striping of land had lately occupied much of the attention of the Coburg Government; finding that the old law of 1863 had become out of date on the first of June in 1907, they passed a new law; the disadvantages of disintegration were—loss of space along each boundary; opportunity for law-suits and waste of time; labour and loss of time for men and animals journeying from one pasture to another, especially in bad weather and during harvest; carts could not be filled properly going from one harvest to another, and could not be properly utilised; paths were bad; manure could not be freely conveyed to inner places nor produce drawn out; water could not be drained out; at Ralberingotten, in Nassau, a parish had been divided and re-integrated, so that each owner had exactly the same land he had before while the parish had gained 200 acres in paths worth £240 per annum, representing, at 4 per cent. interest, a capital of £6,000; the cost of re-integration was £1 per acre; small holders were usually placed near the village, alongside one another as far as possible; re-integration resulted in a new spirit of industry which promoted increased prosperity; if re-integration in Ireland increased prosperity rates and taxes would be less, and there would be less outlay on public administration; improved morality heightened prosperity; in effecting re-integration each farm was made, as far as possible, four-cornered, and was accessible from the road; in Coburg re-integration was followed by improved cultivation, 56892-4.—It was difficult to use farming machinery on sub-divided holdings; Prussia had long had a technical administration, and Coburg, like other German States, had invited Prussia to send her officials to arrange restriping, Coburg was to pay Prussia £2 10*s.* for the work per hectare (about 2½ acres); under the new Act in Coburg land could be dealt with compulsorily if three conditions prevailed, namely, if one-third of the parish was owned by the applicants and the applicants paid more than one-third of the land tax, and the Local Government approved, 56895-7.—The ground was valued in September or October, when the harvest was finished, and the next year's crop not yet put in; the ground was marked all over with little sticks on each of which was fixed a paper stating the value of the ground; the capital value of the ground was fixed at twenty-five times the value of what it had actually produced in a year, 56897-8.—If this method were impossible, and in that case only the capital value was calculated as 25 years' purchase of the letting value, 56899.—While the valuation was proceeding no trees could be cut except by permission of the officials, and work was suspended, 56899.—Twenty-five times the valuation of the parish was put together in one block; the object of the valuation was to secure to each individual on re-distribution the same amount as he gave up, 56900-1, 56910.—Witness believed about 4*s.* 6*d.* or 5*s.* was allowed as a great exception to this rule, 56910.—The system did not provide for additions to uneconomic holdings, but corresponded exactly to the re-striping of holdings from rundale, only it was done with more detail, 56911-2.—A judicial holding in Ireland could be striped in cases where there was a landlord when three or four small farmers had been consulted and their approval obtained, but after this the Land Commissioners' approval had to be got, and by the time that was done one or other of the small farmers would have drawn back, 56917.—The Coburg farmers were free to dispose of their interest, and the Government exercised no right of pre-emption in connection with the law of reintegration of holdings; but there were other complicated laws regarding them, 56913-4.—All that was now being done in Ireland had taken place in Germany from the beginning of the nineteenth century; in 1850 the work was done in Saxony with laws similar to those now being made for Ireland, 56916.—Very old game laws were still in force in most of Europe; in order to shoot game a man must have a freehold tenure of a certain amount, 56920-4.—The Local Government controlled the shooting on small holdings; the profits of many licences from those for shooting to those for keeping nightingales were appropriated to the benefit of the Poor Law, 56925-7.—The present Royal Commission might usefully send an expert to view and report on the work of re-integration in progress in Coburg, 56905.—The Coburg Government had the right to bring in a little bit of land from an adjoining parish where the geographical features made it desirable; witness used the word parish to translate "flur," which was something between a townland and a parish, 56906-7.—The only Act dealing with the question of re-integration in Ireland was the Act of 1885, which said in section 11 that where land to be sold under this Act is sold by tenants in common or rundale or intermixed plots it shall be lawful for the Land Commission, upon the application of either landlord or tenant, or if it shall seem necessary to the said Land Commission to make orders for the partition exchange or division of such land, and the provisions of the 79th and 92nd sections, inclusive, of the Land Estates Court Act shall apply; doubtless at the moment of speaking in September of 1907 there were many cases where the time was especially favourable for re-integration, 56907.—Re-integration had been found of enormous benefit in Coburg, and Saxony, and Prussia, 56909.—Witness had distributed to members of the District Councils copies of a book published by Government describing the system of which he spoke, 56928.

Documents put in by The Right Hon. Viscount Gough.

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MOERAN, Mr. ARCHIBALD.

Experience of Witness.

Witness represented Irish Forestry Society, of which he was a member and provincial secretary for Connaught; he was member of the Scottish Arboricultural Society as well as honorary editor of the Quarterly Journal of Forestry; he had studied forestry in France and Germany, etc., and had practised as an expert in Ireland for about twelve years; he had a large knowledge of the centre and West of Ireland, and had been employed by Department of Agriculture in making a forestry survey; forestry was now admitted to be of urgent importance to United Kingdom; conditions in Ireland, and especially in the area under care of Congested Districts Board, afforded a wider scope and rendered State action a more crying need, 56929.

Re-afforestation.

More of the witnesses before the present Commission would have advocated re-afforestation had they not been conscious of their own lack of expert knowledge; all forestry operations could be carried on in winter and would provide occupation for the numerous migratory labourers who were idle during that season, 56930, 56957.—Portion of Connemara from which labourers were accustomed to migrate to other parts of Ireland would be suitable for planting, 56933-6.—Congested Districts Boards forestry operations would have to be limited owing to the enormous expense; it was always a long time before forestry operations produced results, 56936.—Some of the mountain slopes which could be planted were at present under grazing, but its value was almost nominal; where grazing rights existed compensation must be given, but sufficient ground would be available where there were no grazing rights, 56937.—Witness had

MOERAN, Mr. ARCHIBALD—*continued.*

sent round circulars to a few people in various parts of Ireland, and from these few alone had received a return of about 45,000 acres on which there were rights of graing belonging to the owner who was prepared to sell, 56938-42, 56944-5, 56950.—If Board withheld these tracts for planting there would not be much risk of discontent from neighbouring small holders; the latter recognised that the right of grazing was a small thing as was shown by the rent of 1*s.* or 6*d.* an acre; the money spent on employing labour would reconcile the people to afforestation schemes, 56943, 56946, 56957.—This would be the case on 16,000 acres of land belonging to Lord Clanricarde, and included in the return; this land lay between Woodford and the Clare border; at present it was largely under scrub timber; 56951.—There were no tenants on it; a small section only was grazed, but cattle strayed across the line for three miles, 56953-4.—Witness did not suggest planting such slopes as those to the south of Ballynahinch, from Recess to Clifden, where there were patches of grass land; such mountains as the twelve Bens would be suitable, 56947-9.—It was difficult to show what return the State would get for the money spent on forestry; Continental returns showed that under conditions similar to those in Ireland such land as in Ireland produced a shilling a year could be made to produce £3 and £6; the climate in Ireland was admittedly the best in Europe for forestry, and superior even to that of the Landes; Ireland was the India of Europe with a climate equable and humid and ideal for the growth of the timber used in commerce, 56958-61.—The forestry operations should be done in rotation by sections; a certain amount being planted each year, 56955-6.—It was generally supposed to be essential to have large blocks planted, but in certain circumstances the biggest profits could be realised from small blocks, 56962.—If small blocks were planted on waste corners of existing farms where the sites were sheltered and already fenced with steep banks there would be no expense beyond that of putting in trees, 56963-4.—Where fencing had to be done it would be cheapest to do it well, 56965-6.—There would also be surface drains to make, 56967.—Expenditure would be continuous as sections of forest would be planted annually, 56968-9, 56971, 56976.—It would be about twenty-five years before the work would be reproductive, though there would be some thinning of a not very profitable character before that, 56970, 56972.—For the first five or six years the cost of keeping grass from the trees would be considerable; there should be a resident forester, 56974-5.—Congested Districts Board should work on the lines followed by the American foresters; they first studied the facts and ascertained the probable profits; they made experiments to disarm prejudice and by gradually training their staff they taught the whole country to realise the profits of forestry, 56983.—Congested Districts Board's Forestry Department might consist of one man if he were efficient and could spend a certain amount, 56984.—It would be a good thing to have one Forestry Department for all Ireland, including congested areas, but none existed at present, 56985-7.—The Agricultural Department had a small forestry school, a few acres in extent, 56988.—The first necessity was to obtain the land and hold it over for forestry as it would be difficult to get ground once small ocupiers were in possession, 56989.—It was not desirable to plunge into extensive forestry operations before everything was thought out; heath fir and larch were the most profitable trees hitherto, but the latter was a risk, as in England it had suffered from larch canker; Scotch firs were indigenous to Ireland, 56990.—Board should begin by encouraging planting by private individuals and giving them instruction in forestry, 56991.

NEIL, Mr. WILLIAM.

Grass Land near Rathglass.

Witness resided at Rathglass, Woodlawn; his evidence related to an area of 8,000 acres of grass land beside which were fifty congested families among whom it could be beneficially divided, 56995.—The landlords were Lord Ashtown, and Mr. Trench, and Mr. Smith, 56996.—Witness was an evicted tenant from this estate, 56996.

Witness's New Holding near Rathglass.

In 1904 Estates Commissioners gave him as a tenant-puchaser a new holding at Rathglass, comprising about thirty-six English acres about a mile and a half from his former holding, 56997-9, 57001, 57010.—The new holding was better than his old one, but comprised less land, 57009, 57013.—The annuity was £17 17*s.*, 57011.—The old holding was rented at £9, 57012.—He had turbary rights on the new holding, 57014.

Game Rights.

He and his neighbours had expected to have game rights on their holdings, but these, with the timber rights, were sold after they got in to a grazier, 57000, 57002, 57005, 57015-7, 57020.—Witness wished for game rights that he might shoot rabbits and prevent trespass in his crops, 57003-4, 57006, 57019.—He had not seen anyone come to shoot, 57007.—He had pheasants on his farm, and if he reared these he would shoot £5 or £6 worth, 57008, 57018.

PELLY, Rev. J. A.

Condition of Kilquaine.

Witness was priest of the parish of Cloonkeen, Ballinasloe; he took, as typical of the diocese of Clonfert, the parish of Kilquaine, 57024.—Which was situated eleven miles south-west of Ballinasloe, a little more than half-way to Portumna, near the town of Eyrecourt, in the union of Portumna, 57025-6.—In the half parish of Kilquaine there were eighty-six families; its area was 6,859 acres, of which 2,773 acres were let to graziers under the eleven months' system, and ten or eleven resident large farmers held the amount of 1,000 acres; these 3,700 acres comprised the good land in the parish, the 70 small agricultural holdings being of the worst description, 57026.

The Pollock Estate—Untenanted Lands, Evictions in 1854, &c.

The Pollock Estate, in Kilquaine, consisted of 13,000 acres, purchased after the Famine year by Mr. Allan Pollock, 57026.—He was a Glasgow shipbuilder, 57026, 57044.—Previous to the purchase, in 1854, the tenants had been in comparatively comfortable circumstances, but Pollock evicted every tenant from the 13,000 acres, with the exception of tenants in Ballymanna, who held their land on lease, 57026-7.—The tenants were evicted without receiving compensation, 57026, 57028.—One, whom witness had seen recently, earned enough from Pollock to pay his passage to America by pulling down his father's and his neighbours' houses, and building the wall that now surrounded the ranches, 57027-8.—The estate was sold in the Encumbered Estates Court in 1854, 57029-30.—At this time (as shown by maps and papers produced by witness) fifty-three families lived in comfort on two of Pollock's farms, 57029, 57036.—These farms consisted of about 800 acres, 57034-5.—Afterwards the farms were amalgamated into a large grazing tract, and managers were put in by the owner, 57030, 57038.—The former holdings had varied in size, one being 33 acres, others 28, 20, 15, and 9 acres, 57030.—At the present time they were owned by two graziers, and only two herds lived on them, 57180.—The estate originally belonged to the Eyres of Eyrecourt, and the St. George's of Tyrone, who mortgaged their estates, and squeezed the tenants to pay the mortgagees; when they were ruined the estates were bought by speculators like Pollock or worse than he; the clearing of these estates had ruined Eyrecourt, once the most prosperous town in East Galway; had destroyed Laurencetown, and seriously injured Ballinasloe, 57031.—Mr. Pollock attempted scientific farming on the Scotch system, with the result that his managers became rich, 57036, 57040-1.—The managers left him, and set up for themselves

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some in Meath, 57037, 57040-2.—And one (Ailsie), who failed subsequently, about seventeen miles from Ballinasloe, 57041.—But the estate went down, and was put into the hands of a receiver, 57036, 57039.—The land then fell into the hands of graziers, 57042.—And mixed farming was abandoned, except immediately around Lismanny, 57046.—The failure of the estate was not attributable to mixed farming, of which system witness was in favour, 57049.—One of the managers had stated that, apart from tillage, grazing would not pay, 57036.

The Estates Commissioners and the Pollock Estate.

No application for sale of the estate was made by tenants to Mr. Pollock, since no tenants remained, but recently Estates Commissioners, exercising powers given them by the Evicted Tenants Bill, had taken up 1,600 acres for distribution to the evicted tenants of the Clanricarde Estate; this plan was unpopular, as the Clanricarde tenants would prefer to return to their former holdings, 57051.

The Ruthven Estate.

The Ruthven Estate was also acquired in the Encumbered Estates Court, 57052, 57060-1.—It consisted of fifteen agricultural holdings, of valuations ranging from £28 5*s.* to £6, and one large farm of 240 acres, held by a grazier, 57052.—It was situated eleven miles from Ballinasloe, in the direction of Portumna, near Woodford, 57054A-5.—The former owner, Bermingham Ruthven, was now dead, 57056-8.—And the property was in the hands of the Life Association of Scotland, to whom it had been mortgaged, and in whose agents the management was now vested, 57052.—As in other estates in this parish, all the good land on the Ruthven Estate was cleared, the tenants occupying only worthless land in undrained bottoms, or sandy hills; the tenants applied some years ago to Mr. Golding, the solicitor to the Insurance Company, to have the estate sold, and were refused, in a letter which witness could produce; the land was now held by a grazier who had 3,000 or 4,000 acres of land in Galway, 57053.

Evil of Mortgages.

This was an instance of one of the agencies which had impoverished Irish peasants, of corporations or individuals who would advance money on land to its full value in times of prosperity, and make no allowance in bad years, thus, every year taking all that comes from the soil, and giving nothing back, 57053.

The Persse Estate.

The Persse Estate, which was also in Kilquaine, was at Spring Grove, fifteen miles from Ballinasloe, 57088.—It contained nine holdings, 57086, 57088.—Of valuations from £51 7*s.* to £7 15*s.*, and in addition a farm grazed by the owner, Mr. Algernon Persse, who resided at Ardrahan, thirty miles from Spring Grove; the tenants on the estate were more prosperous than those in other parts of the parish; the tenants had asked the landlord (through the parish priest) to sell, and he had consented to sell the tenants' holdings, but replied that he required the grass lands for himself; this grass land had also been cleared in the bad times, 57088.—The Wyndham Act was ineffective in all this district as regards the transfer of land, 57086-7.

The Nolan Estate—Area, &c.—Proposed Purchase Price based on usual Receipts instead of Rental.

The Nolan Estate was the worst in Kilquaine parish; it formerly belonged to the Browne's, of Mount Hazel, and at the time of the passing of the Wyndham Act was owned by Colonel Walter Nolan; it was acquired through the Encumbered Estates Court, 57088.—It was situate between Ballinasloe and Cloonkeen, 57089.—To the south of Kiltormer, 57090-1.—It consisted of twenty-seven tenancies of valuations from £10 downwards, the majority being very small; adjoining there is a large grass farm of 450 acres, from which the tenants were evicted fifty or sixty years ago; some of the evicted tenants settled in the bog, and these had no resource but the sale of turf to supplement what they could grow in a worn-out bog; they were on the verge of starvation, and had to make a journey of fifteen miles to Ballinasloe or Loughrea to sell their turf, 57088—On the passing of the Land Act the owner consented to sell, and in prospect of this took up the grass lands from the grazier in occupation; the agent did not wish to accept the price offered by the Estates Commissioners, and at this stage both the owner and the agent died, and the land came into the possession of Colonel J. P. Nolan; he was approached by both parish priests, but denied that his brother had ever promised to divide the lands, saying that the offer of the Estates Commissioners was confiscation; he, however, offered to sell the tenanted lands at prices that would bring him in the net income he had had from the land under competitive rents in the best of years, 57091.—He stated in letters, which witness could obtain, that he would not sell unless he obtained his net income, 57092-5.—Witness understood, on the authority of the parish priest, that he wanted the net income based on the competitive rent of one good year, 57096-8.—Even of 1872 or 1873, 57098.—But it was possible he meant a series of years, 57099.—If the Commissioners were to estimate the net income from the rental, this would be a false basis of calculation, 57100.—The net income and the net rental were not the same, 57100.—He did not receive anything like the net rental, 57104-5.—What landlords wanted was a price, which, invested at 3½ per cent., would bring in their net income; tenants on this estate were many years in arrears, and these arrears should not be reckoned in estimating income, 57106.—The rents had been originally fixed by Court, 57106A.—The tenants were too poor to go into court, 57107.—The landlord might claim to base purchase price on these nominal debts which could not be collected, 57109.—But for tenanted land, where the landlord was his own agent, and the net income and net rental approximately the same the income should be estimated, not on the rental, but on the usual receipts, 57111-2.

The Cowan Estate.

The Cowan Estate was the only one in the parish in which sales had been effected, 57024.

Poverty in Clonfert.

In the diocese of Clonfert all the best land was held by graziers, and the portions held by tenants were small and poor in quality, in the three unions of Portumna, Loughrea, and Ballinasloe, 57024.—Within the parish of Kilmaine (?Kilquaine), which is a triangle with Loughrea, Ballinasloe, and Portumna at its apexes, and its sides fifteen miles long, is contained all the best land of the three unions, and grazing ranches and congested districts exist side by side; by congestion witness meant that the bulk of the people lived on farms, which supported them with difficulty in good years, and in bad years exposed them to extreme want; in some districts where population was larger the people had been able to better their condition, and buy their holdings, but this was exceptional, 57113.

Cause of Poverty is "Trusts" in Land.

Poverty had been caused by famines and evictions, which had enabled the landlords to make a "trust" in land, the effect of which was to limit the access of the people to the land, which was their only resort; the rents of not only large, but small holdings, were raised, and rents were fixed, not according to economical considerations, but according to the necessities of the people, 57113.—The supply of land was limited and its price raised, which led to emigration, and the consequent physical deteriorating of the remaining population, 57115.

The Land "Trust" is the Origin of the Grazing System.

The grazier originated with the land trust, for those who speculated in land in the Encumbered Estates Court had no energy or capital to work the ranches that were cleared, but put them up to competition, and out of competition arose the grazing system, 57031, 57115.—Before the general evictions

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on the Pollock Estate there were no graziers, properly so called, no large eleven months' takes, 57033.—In this particular district of Galway there were no graziers previous to establishment of the Encumbered Estates Court, and the introduction of cattle ranches; witness gained this knowledge from his father, who had been a land agent, collecting £30,000 a year in this district, 57032, 57117.

Failure of Successive Graziers.

In witness's memory there had been a succession of graziers on all the farms he had mentioned, and nearly all of them had disappeared, 57042, 57062.—One after another had failed, 57062-3.—In Pollock's farms there had been the Lestrange's, the Hardy's, and the Ryan's, and then Cooke and Mitchell, and a grazier shopkeeper, Mrs. Conolly, 57066-7.—The time the land was held by the Hardy's, Ryan's, L'Estrange's, and Cooke's, would cover forty years of witness's memory, 57068.—These people were all on the same land, 57067.—And varied little in the size of their takes, 57069.—Witness supposed that, like all grazing land, it was only let from year to year, and if a bigger rent was offered by a new man he got the land, 57070.—These competitive rents lead to the ruin of graziers, 57043, 57065, 57070.—These graziers held the land as long as they were able, 57072.—This was from year to year on the eleven months' system, 57073.—No one knows what rents the graziers paid, 57073.—At that time, previous to 1870, there was no eleven months' system, 57033, 57076-7.—But the yearly system was much the same thing; the eleven months' system was adopted for the purpose of evading the Act of 1870, 57079.—The hunger for land kept up prices and ruined graziers, 57065.—In 1872 people would have land, whatever the price; witness knew of a man giving 52*s.* 6*d.* an acre rent for land bought for £5 an acre in the Encumbered Estates Court, 57075.—Lately grazing rents had been going down, owing to the agitation against the grazing system, which had been going on in Galway since 1879, 57080-1.—Though the real movement against the graziers began with the starting of the United Irish League in 1900, 57082-3.—There was no real interference with graziers till the passing of the Wyndham Act, 57084.—It would be fair to take the ten years before 1903 as a time when the letting of grass lands was governed by economic considerations only, 57085.—Witness fancied that during those years rents were going down, but witness did not know the variations of the rents, since his father was not a grazier with an eleven months' take, but had an interest in his land, 57086.—The first graziers were mostly creatures of the rent office, people who had assisted the landlord in the clearances, and were rewarded with grazing land; some of these also took bribes from the tenants who were turned out, though they did nothing for them, 57116.—This was before witness was born, but the time shortly after was within his recollection, 57117.—Many of the first graziers also were shopkeepers who had in the bad times made a corner in food; when these first graziers disappeared their places were taken by shopkeepers and men who had made money in business, and others who had supplemented their savings by money borrowed from banks about 1879; these had disappeared, and among their successors also were many shopkeepers and men who were receiving money from the Property Defence Association; these were penniless twenty years ago, and now were anxious to grasp half a county, 57117.—They no longer belonged to the United Irish League, 57118.—These grazier shopkeepers in turn were ruined by competition, for though they were satisfied with a small profit per acre, they were ruined by bad years; the people had no sympathy with them, and landlords would not help them; their ill success, however, did not deter others, for Irishmen all had a hunger for land, and it was a tempting investment for shopkeepers who did not realise the risks of farming; nine-tenths of the ranches ten years ago were occupied by shopkeeper graziers who had made their money out of the poor, and then kept the poor out of the land, 57119, 57121.

Evils of the Grazing System—It is not Essential to the Cattle Trade.

The graziers were the real obstacle between the people and the proper working of the Wyndham Act, 57122.—At the same time witness did not believe that the shopkeepers seized the cattle of the poor for debt, and stocked their grazing lands with them, 57120—If the graziers were abolished the landlords would sell to the tenants, emigration would cease, the population would grow, and the wealth of the country be developed; the welfare of the grazier must not be set against the general good; farmers who practised mixed agriculture did more to develop the country, and a man with a small holding made more money out of it than a grazier would get from the same area, 57122.—Grazing also deteriorated the land; it was not time, as stated by Mr. Armstrong in Tuam, and Mr. Shawe-Taylor in Loughrea, that to abolish the grazier would stop the supply of store cattle, 57123.—Because the graziers did not breed cattle, 57124.—The small farmer bred the cattle, and could, if his farms were enlarged, sell his stock at a later age, make the same profit as the grazier, and owing to greater care turn out his stock in better condition than the grazier; the small farmers also produced sheep, and if they got good land could supply in smaller lots what the graziers produce now, 57124.—With regard to the argument that cattle required a larger run over different kinds of land, the farmers in that district as a whole, were able to produce young stock; there was little fattening done, except in the neighbourhood of Old Abbey; the limestone land was only needed to produce bone, and it was the custom to sell stock at one-and-a-half or two years old to the Meath men; the small farmers, if they had good land, could carry on the trade in the same manner, 57125-6.—Witness, who had a great deal of experience, knew nothing of cattle being confined to one part of a large farm, and removed to a different part at certain times to get access to a different kind of herbage, 57126.—"Winterage" was land capable of holding grass in winter; persons took it instead of buying hay; this might be useful to the small farmer, but a larger farm on the mixed system would be better, 57127.

Compulsory Purchase—Prices, &c.

Witness thought grass land should be acquired compulsorily, and distributed to the people at a fair price, 52127-8.—The rent of grazing land would not be a fair standard for estimating its value, 57129, 57139-40.—The selling price should be fixed by Commissioners appointed on account of their probity and their knowledge of land, and appointed permanently so as to be independent of party, 57130.—The landlord should be given the full price of the land, 57132.—Which should be estimated by its value, 57133.—According to the quality of the land, 57130, 57135.—The Commissioners should use their expert knowledge, 57142.—The value of the land should be taken to be its value when used for mixed agriculture, 57136.—When used for the purpose for which it was best fitted, 57137.—The basis should not be rent, for excessive rents had ruined the graziers, 57139-40.—Nor on calculation based on the landlord's net income, 57130, 57138.—The Commissioners should estimate the value of the grass land; what it could fairly pay after allowing for husbandry, 57140.—As regards the double interest of the landlord, witness considered that he had received it originally as a free gift from the State, and that it would be unfair that the State should pay a large price to resume it, 57141, 57202.—In the case of a landlord who had been in the habit of receiving rents, and had subsequently bought out his tenants, he had paid something, but had got something for nothing by laws made by landlords, 57143-4.—He should not be deprived of what he has paid for, 57145.—And should be given compensation for disturbance; the double interest was to be compensated, 57148.—But tenant-right, which the landlord got for nothing, should not be estimated as if he had bought it, 57148.—The security for the land was the State and the ratepayers; the Commissioners should deal with the money of the State as a stockbroker would deal with the money of his client, not considering the interest of the seller, but the quality of the stock, 57130.—Witness would not attempt to estimate the number of years' purchase which should cover the landlord's interest, 57151.—The Commissioners should give full value to the tenant to live and fair value to the landlord for what he was selling, 57130, 57152, 57224.—In order to bridge over the difference between the landlord's and tenant's claims, witness would say that Mr. Morley's plan of a twenty per cent., instead of a twelve per cent. bonus, should be adopted, 57150, 57203.—The Judges of the Supreme Court had said that no principle applied to the fixation of fair rent in Ireland, but some of them knew little of the matter, 57153-4.—And with regard to the dissatisfaction with the work of Commissioners, some of the Sub-Commissioners were clever and some ignorant, 57155.—Witness would be sorry to say that the Land Court as a rule was ignorant about land; the Sub-Commissioners knew the land, and were honourable men intent on doing justice, 57156.—Mr. Shawe-Taylor, of Loughrea, who had complained that the Court raised his rent 10 per cent. on his own improvements, had had two valuers who differed by £107 about his valuation, and he had also reckoned as improvements what was only the ordinary good use of the land, 57157.—It did not follow that the 10 per cent. complained of was therefore put on for something non-existent; it might be put on something else; witness heard in Court that Judge Fitzgerald did not think anything should be given for improvements, 57158.—Witness's conclusion was that fair value should be fixed by the Commissioners, 57159, 57225-6.—The annuity should be the guiding principle, 57227.—And that being fixed, anything above that given to the landlord should be provided by the State, 57228.—The State should compensate the landlord for his occupation interest, 57219.—It would not be fair to ask the incoming tenant to pay anything for occupation interest, if after the highest price was given to the landlord, there was a margin between it and the annuity, the land could fairly pay, this should not be put on the tenant, 57203, 57220.—Though the tenant directly he got it can sell it, he had not got something for nothing; it was restitution he got, as he had tenant-right before, 57221, 57223.—The landlord should have the value of the land, and the tenant must be charged a price which would make the State safe, 57222.—The State must bridge over any difference between the price paid by the landlord and demanded of the tenant, 57204.

Grass Lands Available—Evidence of Mr. Tener, &c.

The grass lands compulsorily acquired should be the eleven months' and yearly takes where there was no resident tenant, all outside farms not necessary to the owner's demesne, 57204-5.—And all grass land acquired by the landlord for the purpose of defeating the intentions of the Wyndham Act, 57205.—If the owner could prove that the farm outside is used in connection with a farm inside the demesne it should be left to the landlord; all that was necessary to the demesne should be left him, 57206.—Whether within or without the demesne wall, 57207-9.—Mr. Tener, giving evidence in Loughrea as to there being no farms available on the Clanricarde Estate except home farms, reckoned as home farms Deerpark, 110 acres, with three farmers, and Drumscar 352 acres, two miles from the demesne, and Tom King's farm at Moorfield, and a farm near Lockstown, occupied by E. Fry, besides another farm of 300 acres; these had not for forty years been used in connection with demesne, 57209.

Lord Ashtown's Estate.

Lord Ashtown had also tried to acquire the Cloonoak property; when Colonel O'Hara's land was sold be bought out three tenants; Lord Ashtown said he had evicted only one tenant, but witness knew of two, Feeny, who was in Loughrea workhouse, and Sheridan, who, when witness last saw him, lived in a shed in the parish of Gurteen; a third man, Grady, was dead, 57213, 57214.—Lord Ashtown spoke of his property as being in high farming, but it was all game, 57215.—Lord Ashtown also interfered in the case of Mr. Trench, of Clonfert, who was dealing with his tenants about grass lands, 57213.

Distribution of Grass Lands.

The grass lands when acquired should be given first of all to evicted tenants, making no distinction between Plan of Campaign tenants and other tenants, 57160.—After that witness would provide for uneconomic tenants in the district, giving precedence to those who originally held the land, and after that, congests who were migrants should be considered before the sons of farmers; this was not a popular plan, but philantrophy should not be confined to parish boundaries, 57162.—The congestion in the estate and neighbourhood should first be relieved, and migrants should not be introduced to places where congestion already existed, 57164.—If land still remained land should be given to relieve poverty and congestion in the West before it was given to sons of tenants, 57166.—This unpopular view might be adopted by the people if put before them by people of influence, 57167.—The existing congestion fully justified the breaking up of grass lands, 57168-70.—Therefore if congests were debarred and land given to farmers' sons the argument that grass lands should be broken up for the relief of congestion could be no longer relied upon, 57170.

The Congested Districts Board—Criticism of its Methods.

Witness stated that in that district the people had great confidence in the Congested Districts Board; he considered it would be impertinent to criticise the Board without knowing anything of its larger operations, but in his opinion the work of the Board in that district had been a failure, and had impeded the action of the Estates Commissioners; it had bought four estates in the neighbourhood; the Longfield Estate was bought years ago, and houses had been built on it for two or three years, and the land divided, but owing to the high annuity under which the estate was purchased no tenant had yet taken a house, 57171-2.—Migrants had been invited from Derryclare, a scheduled district, 500 yards away, and none would go, 57172.—The Oakfield farm had been for some years in the hands of the Board, 57173.—Witness had heard that owing to the expression of dissatisfaction regarding the purchase of the farm for the benefit of migrants, the people from neighbouring farms, under the direction of the clergyman, had parcelled out the farm, and then applied to the Board for confirmation of their action, 57174.—Something of the kind may have occurred, 57175.—The Board might have found poorer congests from the neighbourhood of Oakfield, 57176.—But he understood that the present law did not admit that solution; Section 75 of the Act of 1903 restricted their action, 57177.—The agitation against the Board was brought about by the contrast between the delays of the Board and the action of the Estates Commissioners; witness would not have two buyers like the Board and the Commissioners in the same market, which raised the price of the land, 57179, 57181.—Where the Board had been successful its facilities should be increased in the congested districts, but it should take no action outside these; the Estates Commissioners should be supreme with regard to the purchase of land outside congested districts, 57180-1.—Landlords preferred to deal with the Board on account of the high prices it gave, 57181.

Purchase of Land.

The Commissoners should not be excluded from operations in Connaught on account of the non-existence in the provinces of sufficient land to relieve local congestion; witness did not think that all land bought by the Commissioners in Connaught, but outside the congested districts, should be ear-marked for the purposes of the Board, but evicted tenants and uneconomic tenants should be provided for, 57183.—Local congestion should be relieved by the Commissioners, 57184, 57187.—And then the balance should go to the Board for distribution amongst congests, 57185, 57188.—Witness's point would be met if the areas over which the two bodies acted could be separated, 57189.—Witness had seen the working of both bodies, and considered that where the Commissioners

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settled uneconomic holdings they saved the ratepayers, 57190.—The improving and distributing authority should be the same as the purchasing authority; witness had lately seen an estate bought by the Commissioners; it had consisted of thirty-nine houses on small plots of land, with scattered patches all over the village, and adjoining a farm of 400 or 500 acres; the Commissioners had consolidated the plots of land, and built good houses with a large kitchen and three rooms and a pantry; here the people had the greatest confidence in the Commissioners, 57191.

Advertisements of the Encumbered Estates Court.

Witness had no document showing that the Encumbered Estates Court induced buyers to come forward by stating that the rent of the lands was too low, and could be raised, but he had heard that this was so, 57192-3.

Legislature to Prevent the Buying out of Tenants.

There was a danger that when all the land of Ireland was re-settled in economic holdings shopkeepers and others with capital might buy out annuitants unless it were guarded against by legislation, 57197.—For the mania for land still existed, 57194, 57196.—The mania would cease when people were supplied with enough land, 57195.—Legislation might make the present owner merely a life tenant, with remainder to his children, so that he could not mortgage it, except for his life interest, 57198.—But it was not possible to prohibit shopkeepers from buying land, 57199.—The matter was of great importance, 57201.

Drainage.

Witness had been asked to draw the attention of Commissioners to the Report of the Drainage Commission, stating that the non-productive part of works carried out under the Act of 1863 amounted to £133,333; before the Act the State bore all the extra expense, but now it did not, 57228.

GRIFFITHS, Miss R. A.

The Lace School at Carraroe—Appointment of Teachers, Audits, etc.

Witness was instructress at the lace classes at Carraroe until last August, when her sister took her place, 57232, 57255.—And witness took her sister's place at Lettermore, which she still held, 57255.—She was brought from Donegal to Carraroe by the Congested Districts Board to be trained in lace-making by French lace-makers, 57236, 52740, 57246-7.—Witness and her sister were the only lace workers from Donegal or that district who were so trained, 57237-8, 57249-50.—Two Mayo girls were trained at the same time, 57249.—These obtained positions at Lettermullan and Kilkerrin, County Galway, 57251.—Witness went to Carraroe as pupil teacher to learn the French lace industry and then to teach it, 57248, 57254.—She and her sister were previously experts and qualified teachers of other kinds of lace, 57239, 57243, 57245, 57247.—Mr. Naughton's statement in his evidence which witness had read, 57233-4.—And wished to contradict, 57235.—With regard to the lace school at Carraroe must apply to witness and her sister, 57256.—As no other girls had been brought from Donegal and trained in Carraroe and became lace teachers there, and subsequently married; witness's sister was now married, 57255.—Witness did not know of any proposal to continue migrating girls from Donegal to Carraroe and to train them as lace teachers, 57242.—There may have been Galway girls at the time of witness's appointment who could have taken her position, 57252.—But the Galway girls at the school knew little about the particular industry taught there, 57254.—Though they made other laces, 57253.—Carraroe was the first school where this particular industry was taught, 57244.—Accounts were kept at Carraroe School of work done and money paid, 57256.—The money received for work was paid to workers weekly, 57256.—The girls had pass-books, which were kept at the school and the amount earned entered in them, the same amount being entered in the returns sent to the Congested Districts Board, 57261.—A weekly copy of accounts of money paid out was sent to the Board, 57261-3.—The books kept at the school were also inspected by Mr. Walker, the Board's Inspector, when he visited the school, 57257, 57263.—This was fairly often, 57265.—The girls had never made any complaint to Mr. Walker of their claim for payment, 57266.—Nor had they complained to witness that the money, instead of being distributed among them, was appropriated by the teachers; when asked individually they had denied this suspicion, 57258.—But they might have mentioned these suspicions to others, 57260-1.—And in former times, when Mr. Nestmore was at the school, similar allegations were made, 57259.—Earnings of the school had fallen off last year owing to the lack of employment, 57267-8.—Mr. Naughton, who gave evidence about the school (at Oughterard), had a shop, 57270.—But there was no account between the school and that or the other shop, 57271-2.—Mr. Naughton sent to the school the materials used in the industry, which were manufactured in Germany, 57272.—He took the goods again, and supplied money with which to pay the workers, 57269.—There was no jealousy on the part of local shopkeepers with regard to the purchase of materials which were not manufactured in Ireland, 57272.

ASHTOWN, The Right Hon. LORD.

Breaking up Grass Lands—Disadvantages, etc.

Witness was a resident landlord in County Galway, farming a large tract of land, and employing much labour, 57275a.—He considered that the breaing up of grass lands would alter the whole system of farming, and was a larger change than was contemplated by the Act of 1903; the staple industry of a country should not be disorganised till it could be replaced by something as good or better, 57283.

Land Unsuited to Tillage.

There were four distinct classes of grazing land in Galway, 57283, 57348.—These were: (1) Deep, heavy rich land, which could never be profitably tilled; (2) light land, on limestone rock, with the rock generally near the surface, this was impossible for tillage, but most valuable for some classes of stock; (3) land which could be tilled, but was more profitable in pasture—this chiefly occurred in the East Riding; (4) land which could be improved by tillage—this occurred chiefly in the West Riding (excluding Connemara); witness farmed 1,200 statute acres of No. 2 himself, 57283.—Any authority which required land for mixed farming must eliminate 1 and 2, 57349.—The land first acquired for the beginning of the experiment should be 4, 57350; And if this was not successful parts of grass farms in Class 3 could be tilled, 57351.—The land should be acquired in this order, 57352.—Witness could not say how much there was of classes 3 and 4, 57419.—There was more land available for mixed farming in the West than in the East, 57420-1.—The boundary between the East and West Ridings was a police boundary, 57414.—Roughly speaking, the land east of a line between Tuam and Athenry was some of it good for tillage, but much of bog country was too rich; witness tilled some of it himself; rich land in the neighbourhood of bogs was not good for tillage, 57417.—Oats grown on it would lie down; witness grew his oats on bogs, 57418.—The most valuable thing he knew was cut-away bog, 57418.—Land in Galway was not so good as land in Wexford for tillage, 57288.—There was no land in Galway really profitable for tillage, thought it might do for mixed farming, 57289.—The Wexford land required constant cultivation to produce crops, 57356.—The land there was not grass, but light tillage land, 57357-8.—Land of classes 3 and 4 would be most profitable if used for mixed farming, of which the chief object should be the raising of stock, 57288.

Breaking up of Grass Farms would destroy the Market for Stock.

The small farmer bred stock, and sold it to the store grazier of Connaught, who, after keeping them a year or a year and a half, passed them on to the Leinster graziers for finishing; if the grass farms were broken up the market for young stock would disappear, as the Leinster graziers would not buy stock till it was two years old, 57276.—The witness who bred all his stock, tried to mature them as soon as possible, 57276, 57277-8.—He generally sold them at less than a year old, 57279.—Small farmers could not do this owing to their ignorance of stock and their habit of keeping them in the open, 57280.—There was no reason it should not be done if small farmers had the knowledge, 57281-2, 57284.—Capital was also necessary, 57282.—And some land also, 57282.—It could not be done on forty acres or anything like it; it would require much more land than the small farmer had now, 57283.—On the present system the grazier bought from the small farmers, 57291, 57861, 57366.—Witness meant small farmers in that district, 57360.—The small farmer here purchased from the small farmer of the South, 57291, 57362.—The larger farmer bought from the very small farmer, but he also bought calves from the South, 57364.—There was a large import of calves from the South to the West; Western graziers often went South to make up their lots, 57283.—The farmer who bought calves from the South passed them on to the grazier, 57364.—Consequently the general breaking up of grass land in the West would seriously injure stock-breeders in both the South and West, 57282.

Injury to Horse-Breeding and Sheep-Rearing by Breaking up Grass Lands.

All the good horses were reared on grass lands; horses could not be properly reared on small runs, 57283, 57296.—On small farms the tenant could not afford to keep a quality horse, as there would be no market for it, 57293.—The remedy would be to enlarge the holding, but it could not be made large enough, 57294.—Thirty or forty acres would not be enough, 57295-6.—It could only be effectively done by large graziers, 57277.—The same thing was true of sheep, 57283, 57293.—All kinds of stock would deteriorate if the grass lands were broken up, for small farmers had neither money nor enterprise to use good sires, 57282.—The Department provided them, but the farmers would not use them, 57298.—As they thought an under-bred animal was easier to keep in the winter.

Gradual Change Recommended—Considerations Limiting Distribution of Land.

Witness did not believe that division of grass lands would cause prosperity, 57526.—But if it were undertaken, it should be done gradually, 57283, 57352.—The consequences of breaking up the existing system would be so serious that Government should not do so until they were sure the new proposals would work well; it would take years to educate small farmers into the new system; they must be taught how to fatten their stock, and be provided with suitable farm buildings, and steps must be taken to ensure that their stock was well-bred; land should not be given to men who are hopelessly bad farmers, or men much in arrear with their judicial rents, 57283, 57380.—Tenants' sons should not receive holdings, as this system tended to multiply very small holdings and discouraged enterprise; migrants should understand the system of agriculture suitable to their new holdings, and be provided with sufficient stock, implements, and capital in the form of loans or free grants, 57288.—These latter were absolutely essential; they could not start without them, 57378-80.—Measures should be taken for the supply from year to year of information as to how purchasing tenants were using their farms, 57283.—This was at one time collected by the Royal Irish Constabulary, 57283, 57368-9.—These were furnished every six months, but not published, 57368, 57370.—The practice was now discontinued, 57368.

Labour of Uneconomic Holders.

Witness considered it would be a mistake to enlarge any small holdings where the tenants or their sons could obtain employment in the neighbourhood; a so-called uneconomic holding could be made economic if the holder would work; a small holding, supplemented by local employment, migratory labour, jobbing in small stock, etc., was more desirable and profitable to the tenant than a larger holding without them; it was not necessary that a farm should be of £10 or £12 or any fixed valuation to make it an economic holding, 57283, 57456.—Witness did not agree with the present definition of "economic," 57456, 57458.—If a man had a ten-acre holding on a block of granite it would be all right, if he could get labour from that block, 57457.—A scheme for the relief of uneconomic holdings based on valuation is on a false basis, 57407.—By a fixed valuation witness meant Griffith's valuation, 57405.—The valuation made sixty years ago was now out of relation to the inherent value of the land; the valuation in the West Riding was much higher than in parts of the East, 57406.—And in dealing with the question of uneconomic holdings many considerations beside valuation had to be taken into account, 57408.—To abolish the so-called uneconomic holdings would decrease the supply of labour in the district, and cause land to be badly farmed, and compel many owners and tenants who had land suitable for tillage to lay it down to grass, 57283.—Witness heard from Mr. Daly that since the uneconomic holdings were abolished he could not get labour, but had to lay his land down to grass, 57353.—With the addition of the labour witness provided on his estate many of the uneconomic holdings on his property were really economic, 57339, 573342.—Witness could give the history of the holdings if necessary, 57340.—He employed a great deal of labour, 57341.—The actual sums were, in 1900, £2,079 1*s.*; in 1902, £2,534 7*s.*; in 1903, £2.690 0*s.* 8*d.*; in 1904, £2,510 1*s.*; in 1905, £2,906 17*s.*; in 1907, £2,778 15*s.*, 57338.—The change from uneconomic to economic holdings diminished the labour supply, 57511.—Because the economic holder had no time for other employment, 57283.—Witness employed his own labourers on farm labour, improvements, fencing, and draining, 57512, 57518.—He employed some in connection with the demesne and some outside, 57514.—The labour employed in the demesne came to about £954, in addition to the cost of that employed in farming operations, 57517.—Stock-breeding employed much labour, 57513.—Witness also employed men in building, 57518.—His wages were practically fortnightly; a man would not lose his wages unless he were sick, 57522.—If he broke up his grass land there would still be employment on the land, but a man with an economic holding would not make so much a year as these labourers, 57519.—It depended on the size of the holding; but witness did not think a man with thirty acres would clear £2 an acre on it, 57521.—If witness were to go out of his land the farm work would probably remain, 57523.—And if he ceased to take an interest in the land the labourers might get economic holdings out of his land, 57524.—It was true that a man would be more safe and certain on a holding than when depending on the whim of an employer; but at present witness gave plenty of labour, and there was no need to consider the question, 57525.—Where there were uneconomic holdings and no demand for labour there was no resource for the tenant but migration or emigration, 57354.—Witness found that the sons of his tenants did in fact work for him for three or four months and then go to America, 57527-8.—It was not because the American wages were better, but because they had no opportunity of hunting in Ireland, 57529.—The migration of labourers from Ireland was due to want of demand for labour, 57531.—But they went to America to be more independent, 57532.—The outcry about uneconomic holdings in the West was largely owing to the fact that the land was held by tenants who would work no more than they could help, and had no ambition to improve their circumstances by their own efforts, 57283.

Emigration.

It was claimed that it was not thriftlessness but want of opportunity which kept the peasantry in their present condition; witness did not see the want of opportunity, 57435.—There was no reason they should remain in Ireland, 57436, 57438.—They could get employment elsewhere, 57437.—They would do better to remain in England or in Scotland when they migrated in search of work, 57439, 57445.—There was no need to be on the verge of starvation when work was obtainable, 57440-1.—If £2,000,000 per annum was obtained from outside Ireland for the support of her population it was earned by the people, 57444.

Mode of Cultivation Adopted by Small Holders.

Witness had endeavoured to obtain information as to the mode of cultivation practised by tenants in holdings created or enlarged by the Commissioners or the Board by the division of large grazing farms in the neighbourhood, 57283, 57201.—In almost all cases witness found that very little land was tilled; most of the new land had been sub-let for grazing or meadowed, and the meadows sold by public auction; in some cases the tenant had turned formerly-tilled land on his old holding into grass, while he tilled a small portion of the enlargements; this was not surprising to witness, since the land paid better in grass than in tillage, and the tenant had a less laborious life; but instead of creating a hard-working peasantry this system was creating a class of new proprietors who were perpetuating the grazing system, which it was desired to abolish, and did but little work themselves, 57284.—This plan of letting the land for con-acre meadowing was temporary only because it created a supply of hay for which the owners could get no sale, 57300, 57371.—Hay should not be so'd off the farm, but it was the practice in the neighbourhood, 57372.—It was quite a wrong system, 57373.—It would take a long time to accumulate capital by letting land in con-acre, 57301, 57303.—Witness could only speak as to its being practised for two years, 57302.

Intimidation and the Price of Grass Lands.

Witness stated that it appeared to be the practice of the Commissioners to purchase grass lands where there had been gross intimidation, whereby the value of the lands had been reduced, 57283.—They obtained them at prices much below their value to the vendor, 57283, 57304.—On all those estates the Commissioners had given a very low price, 57397.—Witness would not go into the question of whether they were influenced by the fact of there having been intimidation, but the Commissioners were apparently under the impression that where there had been intimidation the landlord must sell, and there they had not given as good a price as elsewhere, 57309, 57398-9, 57486—The rent was reduced to a mere song at Clooncals, 57307.—Abnormal circumstances, due to agitation, could not alter the real value of the land, 57395.—Therefore, if a landlord wished to sell, the Commissioners should give him a fair price, and not a price produced by agitation, 57394, 57396.—There was a danger of the price of land being whittled down in consequence of intimidation, 57393, 57481.—Witness had had no dealings with the Commissioners, 57308.—Witness had made an offer for the Clooncals land, because he thought it ought not to be bought by the Commissioners, 57304.—He did not want to buy the land, but to discourage intimidation, 57305.—He did not unfortunately stop intimidation, since the Court of Appeal allowed them to make title to the land, 57306.—Witness thought the landlord should (in case of intimidation) be allowed to sell his land, but the tenants should not get it to enlarge their holdings, 57310-1.—The Government should be careful not to countenance intimidation, 57312.—If intimidation were allowed to continue the landlords would be forced to sell, 57313-4.—Witness did not say that where a landlord had resolutely held out for a price with which he would be satisfied the Commissioners should refuse to allow the sale, 57316.—It was not the case witness wished to put, 57315.—A landlord should not be forced to sell, 57317.—But if satisfied with the price he should be allowed to sell, 57318.—Witness was a representative of the Landlords' Convention, 57275, 57313.—No one should buy a property of which the value had been whittled down by agitation, 57481.—There had been agitation in Clooncals, in consequence of which the price declined, 57484.—Agitation should not reduce the selling price of land, 57482.—Witness made an offer for the property 57485.—And if his offer had been accepted would

have got it at a lower price than the Commissioners afterwards gave for it, 57487.—He did not admit that if he had obtained the land he would have profited by the agitation, 57488.—To secure the property was a minor end, 57493.—He would have outwitted the tenants, 57491.—They would not have gained their ends, 57489.—He would have bought, 57490.—And would in fact have profited by intimidation, 57494.—The price of land was now too low for the seller, 57497.—Witness's rents had not fallen, though he had been intimidated as much as anyone, 57448, 57450.—His tenants had not been intimidated, 57453, 57455.—But there had been intimidation on the Athenry Estates, and the Dunsandle Estate had been sold, 57466.—The tenants on witness's estate, if he asked them to throw up the land, would not give the same price for their yearly take; he knew of a case in the town where rent had fallen from 47*s.* to 40*s.* on account of intimidation, 57454.—Witness's rents had not fallen, but then he had not sold; he would not take the price at which they valued land, 57450, 57452.—He could hold his own, while some landlords would have left, 57451.

Rise of Land Prices.

Land was being sold too quickly, 57498.—Witness did not think prices were going down, 47448, 57499, 57500.—They remained steady, 57501.—It had gone up since the Ashbourne Act, 57053-4.—The land sold under the Ashbourne Act was heavily mortgaged, 57502.—The price of land had risen concurrently with intimidation, 57508.—But intimidation had put down prices, 57508a.—Which would have been higher if the country had been peaceful, 57506, 57509-10.—Much more should be paid for some lands than at present, 57496.—There was not much likelihood of the Commissioners being able to abolish the large farms at present prices, 57495.

Fair Price of Grass Lands and Compulsion.

Sufficient land could be obtained for enlargement of holdings or migration of tenants where either of these courses was desirable if a fair price was given for grass land, taking into consideration the landlord's dual interest as owner and occupier; Commissioners had justified the low prices they gave by stating that these were necessary to the re-selling of the land to small tenants without prospect of loss; which implied either that the lands were more profitable under grass or that the tenants were incompetent; if the State wished to carry out a backward policy it should in equity pay the landlord a sum based on what a solvent and thrifty tenant would give if the law were enforced; Acts of Parliament had been utilised to plunder the loyal and thrifty classes of the population in the hope of keeping the country quiet; if a landlord sold untenanted land he sold a property including not only the income, but his proprietorial rights, which might be of great value, whereas if he sold tenanted land he sold little more than his income from judicial rents; compulsion could not be justified as long as land was sold more quickly than the State could pay for it, 57283.—If the grass lands were to be acquired witness would accept the net income as a basis of price, plus the landlord's goodwill, 57459.—The landlord had as much goodwill in the land as the tenant had in his, 57460.—Grazing land did not cover all that, 57462-4.—If the landlord were to put up the land to auction he would probably get seven or eight years' purchase, 57464.—He would, of course, estimate grazing land at a competition value, 57465.—The competition would not cease, 57466.—Witness did not accept the net income from grazing land as its full price, 57467, 57469.—He could not help it if his Convention had accepted it, but he did not think they had, 57468.—He thought grazing land was worth more than thirty-five years' purchase, 57470.—Grazing land was bought now by the Commissioners at twenty-seven or twenty-eight years, 57471.—And he would add a number of years to that for the landlord's good-will, 57472.—The price of a small holding depended on its size; you might get nine or ten years; you get more for a small piece than a large one, 57473.—If the landlord himself grazed his lands it was difficult to arrive at the net income, 57477.—Not if all the lands were grazed, 57476.—But witness could not give an opinion as to arriving at the income from the landlord's books, ASHTOWN, The Right Hon. LORD—*continued.*

57478.—Unless he were selling the land himself he could not suggest another basis, 57479.—He would not take Mr Boyd's definition, nor did he think the present valuation right, 57480.—Where there had been regular transactions in a series of grazing years there was not much difficulty about net income, but in the case of untenanted land outside the demesne, 57401.—When one farm remained in tillage outside and two or three farms were worked together, and all worked in one manner, you could not possibly show the income from any one farm, 57408.—Nor could an outsider know how the rent would be affected by taking a certain quantity for meadowing, 57404.—And buildings done by the landlord would take some years to give a return, 57408.—There were three sorts of grazing lands—lands held in present tenancy, lands held in future tenancy, and lands on the eleven months' system, 57335.—There had been a reduction in the two former, 57332, 57335.—But the grazing rents had not fallen, 57327, 57330-3, 57336.—It was not fair to calculate selling price as the value of all three kinds of grass land; calculation of rents of land on the eleven months' system alone was a fair basis, because the only way of getting a fair price for land was by open competition, 57336.—It would be fair for the Commission to look back and see how long the lands had been let, and whether the landlord had asked an exorbitant rent, 57328.—Witness's own grazing lands had continued about as they were in 1880, except when a tenant died, 57319.—These were let on the eleven months' system and by the year, so that the rent could be raised every six months, 57321.—In the case of land farmed by the owner the Commissioners generally offered a fair price judging by the number of transactions that had passed through; if the landlord was satisfied they could not keep the estate from sale, 57325.—But when the land was let to a shopkeeper he got from it a certain income, which the Estates Commissioners had not always been willing to give, 57325.—Many farmers had been ruined by want of success, 57327.—But it was not true that many shopkeepers, though failing to make a profit by grazing, still held on in hope of better times, and paid the rent from the shop; it was not witness's experience at all; shopkeepers were, in fact, fond of other investments; graziers might be too hopeful, but for failure to make profits you must go back to 1879, when there was pleuro-pneumonia and foot-and-mouth disease, 57327.

High Grazing Rents paid to Annuitants.

Small holders let grazing land at double the rent the landlord used to charge, 57283, 57374—And in some cases the graziers let it back at double the price, 57374.—The explanation of the fact that the grazier should give these high prices to annuitants (when it was stated that he was being ruined by prices given to landlords) was that the grazier had to find grazing somewhere, and if he could not obtain it in large pieces he took it in small, 57376.—If he did not, he would have to give up, and start a new business, 57377.—And in that case he did not know in what to invest his capital, 57375.

Game and Fishing.

There was only two inducements for a landlord to remain in Ireland—the farming of his own land and the enjoyment of game and fishing; landlords resident on their estates gave employment, and were an example in farming to their poorer neighbours, 57283.—Game and fishing were, however, not to be considered as a class interest, but as an element of national wealth, and from this point of view were to be safe-guarded, 57392.

Management of Large Tenants and Attraction of Capital.

Witness would rather see the land in grass than divided; a large tenant employed more labour, 57446.—Every encouragement should be given to residents, both owners and tenants, to employ labour, giving employment to small tenants and their families, 57284, 57409.—By this witness meant not small annuitants, but big tenants who had already bought their holdings, 57410.—The large tenants should be given a feeling of security; they were afraid of having their holdings cut up, 57411.—This prevented them making improvements or employing any considerable amount of labour, 57412.—Just as before the Act of 1881, were afraid of doing anything for

ASHTOWN, The Right Hon. LORD—*continued.*

fear of confiscation, 57385, 57413.—Capital should be encouraged to come into the country by every possible channel, 57283, 57381, 57422.—If the land were distributed among the tenants no improvements and no industries would be started, since no one would invest in local enterprises unless theoretical legislation were discountenanced, 57283, 57424.—No one was secure in investing money in Ireland, either in land or industries, 57283, 57384.—Landlords who had sold their property would not invest in the country, 57384.—Landlords were being frightened away from the country, 57423.—Neither would tenants go in for local investments, 57432.—The large tenants were not at all happy, for they were expecting to be deprived of their land, 57385.—This desire to attract capital was the foundation of the Incumbered Estates Act, which had led the country into difficulties, 57383.—Similar difficulties could be obviated if land could be made more profitable, and there was no fear of intimidation or compulsory purchase, 57383.—If distribution of grass lands were the State policy and matters were to be faced from this standpoint witness could not point out any means of attracting capital to the country, 57388.—If the grass lands were destroyed many landlords would leave the country, taking their capital with them; and most of the graziers, who were the backbone of the agricultural system, would be driven out also, and the country would become bankrupt, 57283, 57390.—Witness was aware that there had not been much money in the landlord class; that the estates were heavily mortgaged, 57425.—In former years, before 1880, before the bad times, landlords had not invested capital in Ireland, 57426.—But it would not be invested now, 57425-6.—On some estates there was considerable investment in improvements in agriculture or industry before the Land Act of 1881, 57427.—Witness did not know whether all the money invested in improving and reclaiming land was invested by tenants; he did not know about Connemara, 57428-9.—He thought that a large part of Ireland would be impoverished by improving the position of poor tenants in the West, 57433—The thriftless should not have benefited at the expense of the thrifty, 57434.—The legislation in question would make the country bankrupt, 57392.

Improvements on Land.

Some witnesses had stated that landlords in the West of Ireland had spent little or nothing on improving or developing their estates, and that the tenants' rents were not well paid, 57283.—Witness himself received rent to the amount of £2,130 15*s.* from his estates in Galway, 57343.—And the amount spent by him on the place last year was £3,732 10*s.*, 57344, 57346.—The money spent was on labour, 57345-6.—Many Irish landlords had spent large sums in improving estates consisting of very small holdings, such improvements as landlords in England and Scotland were not expected to make, except possibly in the North of Scotland; it would cost nearly, or possibly more, than the fee-simple of the holdings to erect substantial houses on them; and tenants could not pay rents which would recoup such expenditure; these facts had been recognised by authorities in England and Ireland, including Liberal statesmen; in 1845 the Devon Commission, on page 16 of their Report, drew attention to the matter, stating "that the smallness of the farms made the introduction of the English system extremely difficult, and in many cases impracticable"; in the debates on the Land Bill of 1881, Mr. Law and Mr. Shaw Lefevre had taken the same view, and Lord Spencer, later on, in the House of Commons, had agreed, quoting examples, and stating that "rent represents different things in the two countries; speaking, roughly, in England it represents the value of the land and the interest on the landlord's capital spent on the land: in Ireland it represents only the letting value of the land"; no Irish landlord could be blamed if he did not make these extensive improvements, 57283.

Documents put in by The Right Hon. Lord Ashtown.

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CUNNINGHAM, Mr. JOHN.

Congestion in Mount Bellew.

Witness was Chairman of the Mount Bellew Board of Guardians, and had from the statistics that there were 2,759 holdings in the union of under £5 valuation, of which 300 were in the scheduled division of Cloonkeen; only one electoral division in the union was scheduled, though all had congested townlands; the system of scheduling was misleading, because the most congested townlands were not scheduled owing to their adjoining grazing farms; one grazier had 893 acres, while all the other holdings on the property were uneconomic, and thirteen of the holdings were of four acres, with a valuation of £1 15*s.*; these were not scheduled, 57533.

Mount Hazel Division.

In this division one landowner had 795 statute acres in his own occupation, but refused to sell to his tenants, of whom there were forty, with average valuations of £2 9*s.* on holdings averaging seven statute acres, 57533.

Gunnade and Curraduff.

In Gunnade and Curraduff, in Ballinakill division, were nearly thirty tenants with a valuation averaging £3 10*s.*; the estate was sold twelve years previously in Ballinasloe by order of the trustees, and bought by Mr. M'Donnagh, of Tuam, at abuot twelve years' purchase; subsequently he refused to sell to the tenants at less than twenty years' purchase; and after the Land Act of 1903 he considered the land still more valuable, and the purchase was not effected, 57533.

Estates Purchased by the Board.

The Congested Districts Board, before 1903, bought the estate of St. Brendan's, 57533-4.—This was bought at fourteen and a half years' purchase in 1895, 57533-4.—It was their first and most successful purchase, 57535.—Before this, the tenants had judicial rents fixed, but witness did not know the amounts, 57535.—So he calculated it on the Poor Law valuation, 57536-7, 57547.—The Poor Law valuation could not really be the present value of the land, 57548.—The valuation was higher than first term rents, 57541, 57548.—It was about the same all over the Connaught district, 57548.—The poor rate was higher in the district than ten years previously, 57555.—Witness did not know what it was in 1871, 57554.—Tha land must necessarily be taxed higher, 57555.—Witness stated that the population of the union had declined by 3,404 between 1871 and 1901, 57533, 57554.—The Netterville Estate was also purchased by the Board before 1903, 57533, 57538.—The tenants were now very comfortable, and though they did not get much land, they got it on reasonable terms, 57555.—The price given was fourteen and a half years' purchase, 57533, 57556.—Previous to 1903 the Board bought the M'Donnell Estate, a large grazing farm, at twenty-eight years' purchase or less, 57540.—And the Fallon Estate at thirty-one and a half years' purchase on the valuation, 57533, 57339.—But, taking the average of the three estates purchased, the price was twenty-eight and one-third years, 57333, 57339.—Witness lived on the Fallon Estate, and knew it well, 57333, 57541.—He had a holding of eighteen statute acres, 57551.—He also had a small country shop, but no licence, 57552-3.—His holding had been resold to him, and the price fixed, 57542.—He was more satisfied with his annuity than some of his neighbours, 57543.—As the holding was fair, having been improved by the Board, which had drained the estate and made some roads; if a projected road was made the tenants would be satisfied, except that the land was too dear, 57546.—Witness paid more per acre than before, but he got a small allowance, 57544-57545.—He would not blame the Board for the dearness of the land; they made the best bargain they could, after having been petitioned by the tenants several times, 57546.—The Board had been obliged to give too much for the land, 57543, 57549.—This opinion witness did not base upon valuation, but upon the fact that the landlord had been getting more for the grazing land than it was really worth; it was in the centre of a congested district, where there was no means of earning money, but by going as migratory labourers; the people were obliged to have grass enough for a cow, and were willing to give exorbitant prices to obtain it, 57550.

Methods of the Board and the Commissioners.

Witness thought the Board was the best body to deal with distribution of land in a congested area, 57557-8.—They should be able to buy as cheaply as the Estates Commissioners, 57559.—He thought that money was wasted in land bargains; he had seen little done by the Commissioners in his district; the Board had more experience, and would effect drainage and improvements that the Commissioners would not undertake, and would also lend money to stock farms at a reasonable rate; he did not think the Board could get land cheaply enough without compulsory powers, 57557.—There were 33,600 acres of grass land in the union available for distribution, 57533.

WARD, Mr. JOHN F.

Attitude of Witness.

Witness was appointed by the Galway County Council, but was not a member of that body, 57560.—But of the Board of Guardians and the District Council, 57561.—He lived at Ballinasloe, and was trustee of an estate belonging to his late father, 57562-4.—About eight acres of the estate were in Roscommon, and held by agricultural tenants, and he was trustee for this; and also an annuitant under the State, 57564.—He had long severed his interest from the landlords and was thinking for himself, 57565.—He was a Socialist, believing the State should manage everything, and that land and railways should be nationalised, 57581, 57579.—He thought the State should pay for the scheme he suggested, being eventually repaid by the development of the country, as in Australia, 57579.

Congestion in Ballinasloe.

The union of Ballinasloe was situated in Galway and Roscommon; in the Roscommon division the area of grass land was 5,274 acres at a valuation of £2,060, or 8*s.* per acre, and there were 243 holdings under £5 valuation, and 285 under £10; in the Galway division the total acreage was 45,709 acres, valuation £23,304, or 12*s.* an acre; there were 798 holdings under £5 valuation, and 521 under £10 valuation; in the whole union the acreage was 50,983 acres, valuation £25,365, while the total number of holdings under £5 was 1,041, 57565A.—And between £5 and £10, 285, 57565A, 57566.—The grass lands made up 32·4 per cent. of the area, less the urban area; the population of the union in 1841 was 48,811; in 1891 it was 20,993, a decline of 59 per cent. in fifty years; the number of inhabited houses in 1841 was 7,646; in 1901 they were 3,412, or 55 per cent., 57566.

Cause of Congestion.

This state of things was owing to the extensive sales of land by the Encumbered Estates Court, which between October, 1849, and September, 1857, sold twenty-five millions worth of land, of which twenty-four and a half million's worth passed to creditors, including £3,692,611 to purchasing encumbrancers; the powers of the court were in 1858 extended to the sale of unencumbered estates and its jurisdiction perpetuated in the Landed Estates Court; the cheapness of land transfer in these courts was an advantage, but to the cultivator their action had been disastrous; many of the new purchasers were investors who looked on the land as a source of income, and recognised no old customs or duties to tenants; others were speculators, who jobbed in land, as in other merchandise, and raised rents when they came into possession with the object of inflating the selling price of the estates; the result of the system was a constant change of landlords, and a custom grew up of offering to "clear the estate" to facilitate sale, 57566.

Clearance of the Grazing Lands.

Extensive clearances were made by two Scotchmen, Pollock and Mathers, who come to Ireland fifty years ago, 57565, 57565a.—The Pollock Estate lay on the Galway side of Ballinasloe, a large triangle of waste land, on which no habitation but a herd's house was to be seen, the human population having been superseded by bullocks; when Pollock, the grandfather of the present owner, purchased the estate (which lay between Ballinasloe, Banagher, and Eyrecourt), it was thriving and populous; the St. George's Estate in Roscommon was purchased by Mathers, and wholesale evictions were carried out on both estates, and in nearly every parish in the union; Pollock's tenants owed no rent, and some were bribed to give up their homes; Mather's tenants owed one year's rent, or less, but they were evicted on Christmas Eve under circumstances of great barbarity; many of them died, some got farms on other estates, and most went to America; there was no resource open to them when deprived of land; some of the evicted went into Ballinasloe, and to the workhouse, and eventually died, 57566.

Distribution of Grass Lands.

There were vast tracts of untenanted land near Ballinasloe which, if distributed, would satisfy all the needs of evicted and uneconomic tenants, and leave a balance for migrants, 57565a, 57587.—Land should be first given to the contiguous evicted tenants, 57584, 57593.—Then the uneconomic holders, 57584, 57593.—These should be congests from the estate to be divided, and neighbouring estates, 57585.—And then sons of congests, 57584, 57586.—If a man had a twenty-five acre holding it would support himself and two or three sons; it was better, if possible, to give the sons another twenty-five acres, 57592.—Witness would migrate before giving land to sons of tenants, who could go into trades or to America or elsewhere, 57594, 57590.—He would not recommend extreme sub-division, which was dangerous, 57588.—Existing poverty was to be dealt with before providing for sons of tenants, 57595.—Witness thought his opinions as to congestion were those general in County Galway, 57597.

Re-afforestation.

The advantages of re-afforestation were many; it would afford shelter to man and beast, would moderate storms, avoid inundations, and prevent the silting up of rivers; the wood produced would be invaluable for household and industrial purposes; wood was imported into Ireland while her waste lands were lying idle; an outlay of £3 to £8 per acre would provide for the preparing, planting, and fencing of land, which in twenty years would be worth £20 to £30; whole districts in Germany were dependent on forests and wood industries; in the Thuringian forest 50,000 persons earned over a million pounds annually by toy-making; the cost of afforestation should be undertaken by the Treasury; if the forests of Ireland had not been neglected, they would now be worth a hundred millions, 57597.

Osier Planting.

The lands along the Suck and the Shannon, which were liable to flooding, should be planted with osiers, which after two years paid steadily, and were eventually worth £25 an acre, less the rent of the land; this would make it possible to develop a basket-making industry in the district, 57566.

Arterial Drainage.

The problem of arterial drainage in Ireland had been under consideration for 150 years, and was still unsolved; Professor Tyndall had said it would raise the temperature four degrees Fahrenheit, and immensely benefit not only the land, but the inhabitants; the Dutch, a poor nation, had drained the Haarlem Meer, with the aid of £860,000 from Parliament, and reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee half a million acres, which paid a profit of something like £12 an acre to the State; the drainage of the district was hampered by maintaining the navigation level of the Shannon; the profits arising from navigation of the Shannon were inconsiderable, and several County Councils had withdrawn their contributions from the Shannon Development Company owing to there being no trade; if all impediments to the free flow of the river were removed, the catchment area would benefit, the fallow lands could be cultivated, and the bogs would subside, and be more easily utilised for peat moss industries, 57566.

Milling.

Mills should be subsidised by the Agricultural Department, as their presence would encourage the production of wheat and oats, 57566.

Agricultural Banks.

The question of Agricultural Banks was one of extreme importance, for when the farmer became the tenant of the State he could expect no abatements in bad years, and must therefore be able to borrow on reasonable terms; he had now either to go to urban banks, which demanded high interest and excessive security, or to the money-lending shopkeeper who exacted usurious interest and eventually seized the farm; this could be avoided by the establishment of co-operative banks, several of which had been started in the West; at these banks money could be borrowed at 3 or 3½ per cent. for periods of six months to several years, 57566, 57567.—These banks got their capital from joint stock banks, 57568-9.—The joint stock banks would be able to lend them money at less than 3 per cent., 57570.—The Provincial Bank, or National Bank, and other joint stock banks might charge 5 or 10 per cent., 57571.—The class of people who patronised Agricultural Banks would not be the same class as the patrons of joint stock banks, 57572.—Wealthy patrons might also put money into the Agricultural Banks, 5753.—Witness did not think there would be many philanthropists among these, 57574.—Since people who lent money to agricultural banks must have some interest, witness thought the interest charged by the banks should be 3½ per cent., 57575.

Co-operative Depots.

The witness recommended the formation of co-operative depots connected with the railway stations by a motor service, a plan which would enable the farmer to sell in the dearest market, and obtain feeding stuffs and implements at the lowest rates, and would also reduce cost of transit and extinguish middlemen's profits, 57566.

Nationalisation of Railways.

Railways should be controlled by the State, as in Australia, and though this might not pay the State directly for its capital outlay, its influence on the development of the country would eventually increase the national revenue and ease taxation; in Australia no profits beyond working expenses were aimed at, but if they were realised they were expended on bonuses to officials and the extension of railway lines, and the relief of rates for the benefit of the travelling public; State control of railways had been recently advocated by Lord Brassey, 57566.

Agricultural Instruction.

The rudiments of agricultural science should be taught in rural National schools, for Ireland could never hope to be anything but a country depending on agriculture and its dependent industries, consequently agricultural instruction was of the first importance; National schools should have a farm of an acre or so for practical illustrations, and the teaching should be given by itinerant instructors, or else the teachers sent for six weeks every year to Glasnevin or some other agricultural college; on leaving school the boy could complete his education in a higher school, of which there should be one in each county, 57566.

The Decline of Ballinasloe.

Ballinasloe forty years ago was a prosperous town, having a market for wool, wheat, oats and rape; it had four mills (one flour and three corn mills), three tanneries, one brewery, and two large buildings for meetings and agricultural shows; one of these was the finest building of the kind in Connaught, and cost £9,000, but for thirty-seven years it had not been used for its original purpose, and at the October fair horses were sometimes stabled in it; the decline in the town was owing to the clearance of the Galway and Roscommon grazing lands, and a contributing cause was the passing of the Relief Act; the town was badly off for land, and there were hundreds of acres of town parks which, if divided, would give two acres to every large householder, who would then be able to supply his family with milk and vegetables, and would employ some of the labourers who now could not get work; Ballinasloe, which was situated on one estate belonging to Lord Clancarty, should have been included in the 1903 Land Bill and scheduled as congested; the provisions of the Labourers' Act should have been extended to towns where labourers were huddled together in filthy slums, 57566.

THE RELIEF ACT.

The Relief Act of 1838 encouraged evictions, and gave rise to much suffering, since landowners, afraid that the poor would become chargeable to the rates in their locality, evicted them, and drove them into the towns, where they could find little employment and suffered great want; Mr. J. Walsh, J.P., in 1845 destroyed, near Belmullet, an entire village with the exception of six houses; this was in mid-winter, and forty miles from the nearest workhouse; the Act, as passed by the Commons, made the union the area of chargeability, but the Lords charged the division with the maintenance of those who had resided in it before they became dependent on the rates, with the intention of inducing ratepayers to provide employment, 57566.

INSANITY IN GALWAY AND ROSCOMMON.

Insanity increased in Galway and Roscommon in spite of the decline of population; in 1890 there were 731 patients in Ballinasloe Asylum, and in 1905 there were 1,340, an increase of 83·3 per cent.; between 1891 and 1901 the increase in insanity all over Ireland was 41·5 per cent. of the population, while in Galway and Roscommon it was 54·6 per cent., or 13·1 above the total for Ireland; the primary cause was that the flower of the population had emigrated, leaving those weak in mind and body behind; another cause was the want of nutritious food, and the loneliness and monotony of the people's lives; if isolated persons were removed to villages, and variety introduced into their lives, a fruitful source of insanity would be removed; if peasants were given good land, and had games and libraries, insanity would have declined considerably at the end of ten years, 57567.

"ENGLISH TENURE."

When witness said land was held on an "English tenure" he was referring to Mr. Hardy's property, 57576.—The land belonged to Colonel Mitchell, who set it on the eleven months' system to another man, and then on a ten months' tenancy to Mr. Hardy, the present occupier, 57577.—"English tenure" meant a yearly tenancy, 57578.

FEENEY, Mr. THOMAS.

CONGESTION IN ATHLONE.

Witness was representing the district of Athlone, 57598-9.—The district was not scheduled, 57602.—It contained 838 holdings of under £5 valuation, and about the same number under £10, 57602.—Some of the holdings of £10 valuation were as low as £5 (in actual value), and in that union a valuation of £8 or £9 might represent £5, 57602.—Poor law valuation was no test, 57612.—The holding of witness, which was thirty acres, and the rent less than £5, 57609.—Was of a poor law valuation of £11, 57610-1.—There was not a decent holding between this union and the mearings of Roscommon, thirty miles from the River

Suck, 57612.—If three of the holdings were put together it might make a holding on which it was possible to live, 57613-6.—The people always lived on money earned in England or America, 57614.—A holding of £8 or £10 valuation would not be economic, 57602.—Thirty acres of fairly good land might be economic, 57603.—This would be valued at about £15 if good land, 57604.—And that would be valued at £15, 57604.—The quality of the land made a great deal of difference, 57606.—It might be all sand and bog, 57605.—It was possible to have a holding of thirty acres and not be able to live on it, 57607.—The valuation of an economic holding of thirty acres might be £8 or £10, 57605.—To make the holders economic two out of three must be migrated in some cases; Kiltoom consisted of 230 small holdings of inferior land, of which ninety were under £5 valuation, 75 between £5 and £10, and 65 over £10; the soil was bog or sandy upland; the tenants lived by sowing conacre potatoes or oats at £6 or £8 an acre, and buying conacre hay from a considerable distance, by lime-burning and turf-selling, and by money sent from America, 57617.

GRASS LANDS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

There were 2,000 acres of grass lands within the parish boundary, some of which would be sold in the near future, 57617.—In Ballyforan there was grass land, and in Derrycahill, which was a populous district, 57618.—The following lands could be acquired for distribution:—Rockhill farm (residential), Mrs. Wilson, 300 acres; Carrodlohan (non-residential), Mrs. Connell, 300 acres; Moyvannon (non-residential), Mr. Smyth, 200 acres; Ardmullen (non-residential), Mr. Pim, 400 acres; Kiltoom (non-residential), Mr. H. Strevens, 500 acres; Newpark (non-residential), Mr. Levinge, 300 acres.—The landlords were willing to sell, but they demanded twenty-one to twenty-four and-a-half years' purchase, which prevented purchase by tenants; some other properties in the parish had been sold under the old purchase Acts; the prices asked in Kiltoom were from six to ten years more than those obtained for neighbouring estates under the Ashbourne Act; the Watson Estate had been sold twenty years ago at thirteen years' purchase, the Bailey Estate ten years ago at seventeen years' purchase, and the Hudson Estate four years ago (under the 40th section in bankruptcy) at from eight to seventeen years' purchase, estates should be inspected before purchase; compulsory powers were the only solution to the difficulty of providing the young men of the district with home and livelihood; definite action should be taken to prevent emigration and improve the position of uneconomic holders, 57620.—Negotiations were pending between the following landlords and their tenants:—Mr. Waithmore, 21 years' purchase; Mr. Mitchell (Curramore Estate), 22 years' purchase; Mr. Lloyd, 24 years'; Mr. Levinge, 21 years'; Mr. Goff, 24 years; Mr. Hamilton, 24½ years', 57620.

INDUSTRIES.

The small holders had few industries, 57620.—If a factory could be established near Ballyforan it would be a great advantage, since it was a remote place, twelve miles from Athlone; the rents were high, and the landlords unwilling to sell, 57619.—A wool factory would be best; a crochet or lace-making industry would arrest emigration among the girls, 57620.—The tenants used to make money of turf, lime, and cabbage-growing, but the turf and lime now brought in but little, 57620.—And since the Department of Agriculture had distributed information about cabbage-growing all over the country the growing of cabbage in the district had declined, 57620-1.—The Kiltoom cabbages used to be first in the market, 57622.—The Department had done good to some and harm to others by interfering, 57623.—The grass lands were formerly under tillage, and grew wheat; this accounted for the greater value of land fifty years previously, when the valuations were made, 57624.

MIGRATION.

Congests would be willing to migrate if it were made clear that they could live in comfort in their new ones; but so far as witness knew no pains had been taken to give them this information, 57624.

UNSUITABILITY OF GRASS LAND FOR TILLAGE.

Witness was a member of the Grazing Farmers' Association, 57625.—Much of the grazing land in Roscommon was quite unsuitable to tillage, 57626.—It was deep, heavy, and cold, hard to till, and producing a poor crop when tilled, 57627, 57632.—Some of it bore marks of having been previously tilled at a remote period; some was now occupied and cropped by small farmers, 57628-9.—They tilled a very small proportion; a man having a holding of thirty acres might till 1½ acres, 57629-30, 57632.—The return on this was small, and the labour great, 57631.—The small tenant used the land chiefly for breeding young cattle or sheep, and the larger people might breed a few horses, 57632.—The tillage of the land had been discontinued, because it had been found unsuitable for the purpose, 57705.—The best tillage ground was quite different from the best grazing land, 57706.—The discovery that the land was unfit for tillage was made by the men who farmed it, 57694-5.—They were fairly intelligent, and if it paid them to till, would naturally do so, 57695, 57697-8.—One of witness's own tenants with a five-acre holding did not till half an acre, 57696.—This man owned his land, 57696.—On another farm the tenant had no tillage at all, but let the land to witness for grazing, 57698.—It was impossible for tillage farming to pay when carried out on a large scale under present conditions in that district of Ireland, 57699, 57700.—Witness had no experience of other countries, 57691, 57701-3.—The soil there might be lighter or sandier, 57702.—This evidence was with reference to the centre of Roscommon to Ballinasloe, 57633.—The land about Strokestown was more suitable to tillage, 57633.—That was the land from Knockcroghery to Ballinasloe, 57634-5.—Some was suitable, 57635.—And this should be separated from what was not suitable, 57636.—In farms near Knockcroghery of 100 acres not more than one-third would be suitable, 57637.—Taking the whole district from Roscommon to Boyle less than 50 per cent. was suitable for cultivation, 57638-40.—Perhaps 30 to 40 per cent., but the suitable portions were scattered, 57641.

POSSIBILITY OF GRAZING BY SMALL OWNERS.

Witness had 600 acres of grass land, 57642, 57644, 57706.—This was in several holdings, of which the largest was 300 acres, 57644, 57646.—If this was divided into six fifty-acre holdings the tenants might use them in the same manner as witness, 57646, 57655.—But with a holding of fifteen or twenty acres there would be a difficulty, 57646.—A man with twenty-five acres would be principally a breeder, 57647, 57713.—Witness himself bought cattle at two years old, 57648.—But breeding was more profitable, and small breeders could breed cattle more cheaply than it could be done on a large scale, 57649.—A man who grazed a twenty-five acre farm would get so small a profit that he could not live on it; witness did not think he could live on a fifty-acre farm entirely devoted to grazing, even if his profits were proportionately larger than at present, 57651.—If he had an acre or two suitable for tillage, and could thus provide for the wants of himself and his family it could be done, 57652-3.—If all the small farmers were to start breeding there would be no market for their stock, 57650, 57712.—And if they depended on grazing alone they could not live, 57651.—Witness had seen one or two of the farms that had been split up, and they were carried on just as the graziers managed their land, 57654.—Whether a man with forty acres could do the same depended on the effect that division of land would have on the price of stock, 57656.—The abolition of the grazier would lower the price of stock, 57657.—Large graziers were necessary to carry on the stock trade of Galway, 57682.—If a man was under an annuity for improvements made on his farm by the State he must meet that annuity, and therefore, unless he had capital, must often be forced to sell at a low price, 57679.—Nothing could be done in grazing without capital, 57678-81.—In comparing the small and the large holder the difference was that the larger man had capital, which would enable him to hold on, instead of being forced to sell; witness did not say a large part of the grass land might not be divided profitably, 57682, 57714.—But that larger graziers were also essential, 57682.

CO-OPERATIVE GRAZING.

If four men got twenty-five acres of grass land each, there was nothing, from a trade point of view, to prevent their knocking down the fences, and renting the 100 acres as a joint holding, 57661-2, 57668, 57660.—But it would be unworkable, 57661-2.—It would be difficult to adjust the number of cattle put on by each owner if they were of different ages, 57663-7.—If this plan were adopted you would have six graziers instead of twelve, 57676.—The sons of the graziers would probably get the right to put cattle on the farm, 57683.—It might lead to one man with a considerable amount of capital getting all the land, 57684.—This might happen with the present graziers, 57685.-6.—But as a fact it did not, 57687.—Because they stocked their own land, 57689.

COMMON GRAZING.

Witness objected to grazing in commons, 57690.—Every man should have control over his own holding, and work it separately, 57691.—The plan was followed in Roscommon at present; many grass farms were let for six months' grazing every year, and no one had difficulty in getting grass at a reasonable price.

RENTS OF GRAZING LAND.

If the price of stock were cut down it might not extinguish the graziers, as rents would go down in proportion, 57658.—Rent was a very important factor, 57659.—For the last ten years Roscommon graziers had held their own, 57716.—They were content with paying the present rents, and were able to live and support their families, 57717.—There may have been applications for reductions; some rents were higher than others, 57718.—Rents had gone down within the last twenty years, 57669.—But for the past ten years they had been steady, 57670-1.—New rents were too high, but the rent of land that had been in the same occupation for twenty or twenty-five years was fairly reasonable; witness only spoke from his own experience, but he thought good land was dear; people might give too much for land taken by the year, or on the eleven months' system, 57719.—Witness had his own farm for the same price he had paid five or ten years ago; the farm he occupied was large; it was taken in 1883, and had gone down since then a pound an acre; it was taken at £2 5*s*., and was now at £1 6*s*. or £1 7*s*.; no reduction had been made during the last ten years, 57672.—He had held the land as a yearly tenant, 57673-4.—There was no judicial rent, 57675.—He paid less than 30*s*. an acre now for his land, but it was only for six months in the year that he gave that; in the winter it would probably be half that amount, 57710.—He did not pay less in the winter, but it took less stock in the winter, 57711.

STOCK GRAZED BY WITNESS.

Witness had no rule as to the number of animals an acre would maintain, 57707.—The best part of the land would probably have a beast for every two acres, 57708.—It was difficult to make an average for the year; changes of stock often took place, 57711.

PAYMENT OF HERDS.

Witness paid his herds in kind, 57721.—He gave them so many "sums"; a sum of cattle was a cow and a half; the usual thing in Galway was to give grazing and hay for a cow, an acre for every fifty acres of land that the man minded, 57722-3.—One man who put in no stock had cash in lieu of grazing, 57724.—The herds rented their land, 57722.—Witness thought they were very well off, 57725-6.—They had calves and poultry, and many of them young stock and a pig, 57726.—When these animals were saleable they sold them for cash; the herds worked practically on the same lines as the small farmers of Roscommon, 57727, 57730.—Witness never heard that they went to shopkeepers for long credit, 57728-9.—The herds sold stock in May and November, and generally had pigs to sell, 57730.—Witness thought a herd on a good farm was just as well off as a small farmer, 57731.—

RYAN, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

The herd was not occupied all day on witness's business, 57734.—His family was there, 57733.—The herd employed by witness, and who had four acres of land, cultivated half an acre and grazed the rest, 57732. —If the land were divided the grazier would lose his occupation, and was entitled to compensation, 57735. —He had nothing else to fall back on, and would be ruined by the change, 57735-6.—It was quite possible that a man now having 600 acres of land might be left without any land at all, 57738.—Witness had a farm that had been held by him for twenty-five years; owing to the Land Acts the landlord had changed the agreement, so that the tenants were to take no advantage of Land Acts, and at the same time gave a substantial reduction; so long as the landlord retained the land his tenants were no worse off than judicial tenants, but if the land was sold they were excluded from benefiting by the Act, 57737.—Witness would not be prepared to purchase his land on the sixty-eight years' system by paying for that time an annuity equal to his present rent; it would be too long to look forward, 57739-40, 57744.—The question as to whether the grazing rent paid now was a fair basis on which to found a purchase agreement depended on the number of years' purchase, 57741.—Witness would not pay 27-30 years' purchase, 57742.—Twenty years' purchase of an ordinary grazing rent would be fair, 57743, 57745, 57750, 57752.—As a typical grazier of Roscommon, he said anything like thirty years would be absurd, 57746-7.—Graziers did not like being left without a livelihood, but if they were left to purchase up to the limit in the Act, say, £7,000 worth of land, they would be prepared to surrender the rest of it, 57748.—They did not object to fair division of grazing lands, and would be satisfied to purchase what was not suitable for tillage, 57748-9.

ESTIMATES FOUNDED ON VALUATION.

Witness's rent in one case was slightly over the valuation, and in the other slightly under, 57751.—Valuation was but little test, 57754, 57756.—The purchase price should be based, not on valuation, but actual rent, 57755.—If there were any rule for arriving at the fair price of land they had an interest in, many graziers would be prepared to sell that interest, 57756.—In the case of grazing land the tenants and landlord's interest were not both concentrated in the landlord; in the case of a leasehold farm occupied by a grazier he would have an interest he might wish to sell to the Board or Commissioners; there was no way of arriving at his interest; if a farm of 200 acres at a rent of £300 a year were purchased by the Board and then sold to the grazing tenant his rent would be reduced one-third (to £200), and he would have £100 more interest in it than before the operations of the Act; if he were to sell his interest he would calculate this additional interest on his farm, 57758.

CROSBIE, Mr. DAVID TALBOT.

See also p. 231.

THE RIVER SUCK DRAINAGE CHARGES.

Witness had given evidence in London with regard to the heavy charges on occupiers for drainage of the River Suck; it would be a great incentive to purchase if the drainage charges could be written off where landlords sold to tenants, 57759.—The charge was very heavy; the landlord paid a portion, 57762.—And the tenant paid a share in addition to his annuity, 57760.—He had to pay as a tenant, and if he became a tenant-purchaser the drainage charge should greatly increase his annuity, 57661.—The charge had been paid for eleven years, which witness thought was long enough, 57664.—It was in the nature of a sinking fund to pay off the original cost of drainage into the River Suck in forty years, 57763.—The Royal Commission on Drainage had reported that though the estimated cost of draining this river was £106,481, the actual cost had been £200,000, of which £50,000 was a free grant; £13,000 charged on county cess, and £67,000 represented the increased value of the lands, while over £70,000 was unfruitful expenditure, falling on owners of land in the district; thus only one-third of the expenditure was reproductive, the remaining two-thirds yielding no return, and representing an annuity of £6,000 a year on the inhabitants of a poor district, 57764.—This expenditure, having failed to benefit the people, should be borne by the State, as under the old codes of 1842 and 1863, 57764-5.—The people during eleven years had already paid off the annuity on the part that was reproductive, 57766.—Further payments should cease, as an incentive to purchase of land by tenants, 57764, 57767.

SATCHWELL, Mr. HERBERT.

PLAN OF CATTLE RAISING FOLLOWED BY WITNESS.

Witness was a member of the Irish Cattle Traders' and Stockowners' Association, giving evidence at the request of the Commission, 57768-9.—He resided at Creggs, in County Galway, just outside Roscommon, and had some farms in Roscommon, 57770.—He tilled a large amount of land, and stall-fed cattle, 57770A.—Witness's farm consisted of over 500 acres Irish, and he tilled sixty to ninety acres every year, according to the size of the fields which fell in; with the produce he fed cattle and sheep on his farm, 57771.—He sometimes had 200 beasts stall-fed in a year, 57864.—And fattened them till they were ready for the London or Dublin market, 57772.—Witness had some cattle on his land, and all his sheep, 57781. —But also bought cattle at any age from six months to three years old, 57773, 57782, 57853.—The earliest age at which the cattle were ready for the butcher was 2½ years; some were not ready till three years, 57774, 57856.—Witness when he bought calves did not sell them again, but kept them till they were ready for store feeding, 57854.

GENERAL PRACTICABILITY OF THIS PLAN FOR SMALL FARMERS.

Three or more other men in Roscommon followed the same system as witness, 57862.—It was not general, and witness knew no one in Roscommon who stall-fed as many as 25 beasts, 57863.—It would not be suitable to the average small farmer in Ireland, for the farmer of twenty acres, 57865.—A man with thirty acres might be able to keep his stock till it was ready for the Meath buyer, but it was unlikely, as he would have a succession to keep up, 57857.—As the acreage of the farm was increased this system was more suitable, 57858.—But a man with forty acres would only be able to practise the system in a very small way, 57777.—On twenty-five acres it would be impossible, 57784-5.—It could be done in a small way on fifty acres, but the farmer would require more capital than on an ordinary farm, 57787.—A tillage farmer had to invest much money on implements, etc., 57788. —If a man had a thirty or forty-acre farm he would have a horse or two, and some sheep and young cattle, 57778-9.

NECESSITY FOR LARGE GRAZING FARMS.

A large grazier was required to buy up store cattle from the smaller farmers, 57779.—The Scotch and English buyers would not buy cattle direct from the farmer in small numbers, 57780.—If the graziers disappeared there would not be the same market for store cattle, as the graziers commonly bought young cattle in small numbers, kept them six months to improve, and then sold them to the Scotch and English buyers in lots of twenty or twenty-five, which gave the buyer less trouble, and ensured a more uniform class of cattle, 57780, 57794.—If buyers could not get Irish cattle in suitable numbers they would make an effort to get Canadian cattle, which would ruin the small holder, 57780.—Buyers did sometimes take cattle young and in small numbers, 57795, 57797, 57810.—But some buyers would take them at 1½ years old, 57796.—And some at 2½ years old, 57798.—Scotch buyers said that cattle at 1½ years old, which still had their calf teeth, fattened best, 57881.

BREEDS OF CATTLE.

Witness preferred cross of the Roscommon heifer with the Aberdeen-Angus breed, though practical men were divided as to the merits of the polled Angus and the cross of the Hereford, 57814.—He sometimes got good calves from Kerry, Cork, and the South, 57844.—Witness could not compete with the Scotch finisher, 57812.—If he bought his calves, 57818.

Graziers' Profits, &c.

Witness thought that the grazing trade had been more steady for the last ten years than previously; it had been better especially during the last four or five years; but the graziers had never recovered from their losses in 1879, 57845-6.—Witness could give no opinion as to whether Roscommon graziers were much in debt, 57847-9.—Any prospect of the admission of Canadian cattle created a kind of panic; of this there was an example eighteen months previously; the price of wool also had been better the last three years, and the market steadier, 57851.—It was uncertainty as to the Government regulations as to import of cattle which produced uncertainty as to price, 57852.

Letting of Grazing by the Board.

With regard to letting out of grazing by the Congested Districts Board, witness thought it a good temporary measure, as it was an advantage to the poor to get grass for their cattle, 57860.—Witness was sure the Board gave it always to the deserving poor, but there was always a good deal of complaint, 57859.—Grazing was to be had more cheaply from the Board than from private individuals, but it would be better to divide the lands as soon as possible rather than let them out as grazing, so that every man should own his own part, and know what to do with it, 57860-1.

Classification of Lands—Burning Land.

Witness had not heard Lord Ashtown's evidence as to the classification of lands, 57799.—But he thought some of the lands in Roscommon were unsuitable for breaking up, not being very suitable for tillage; the deep clay soil was best suited for grazing, 57800-1.—While better crops could be grown, "lively" light soil was generally the best; this soil was in mid-Roscommon, at Strokestown, Elphin, and Boyle, and round about Tulsk, 57802.—The plains of Boyle were rich feeding land, 57804.—And where the subsoil was gravelly it would not be too damp and heavy to break up, 57805.—These lands were formerly cultivated, 57806.—Burning land, as formerly practised, ruined the soil, 57807-8.

Land Held by Witness.

Witness took his farm yearly, and also had some land on the eleven months' system, 57821.—He now held some farms his father had sixty years before in yearly takes; if such farms were taken from graziers they should have compensation, 57822.—He could not have had a twenty-one years' lease on the Scotch system, whereby land taken from year to year is on lease, as the owners did not like the plan, 57824.—There was some leasehold land in Roscommon, 57825.—Witness had no tenant-right at present, but was to be treated by the Estates Commissioners in the same way as judicial tenants, 57826.—If witness got a lease of his grass land for twenty-one years he would not be willing to give his present rent, 57834.—It would not be so valuable to him, since lands in Roscommon were not so valuable to a man with a residential holding as to one who must buy stock in May and sell in October, 57835.—If witness had the offer of a twenty-six years' lease at 25*s.* an acre of the land he now had for 30*s.* he would take it at that rent for fifty years, 57838.—If witness were able to purchase the farm he lived on and also one of his outside farms to work in connection with it, he would be willing to give twenty or twenty-one years' purchase for the outside farm, 57827, 57833.—As working the two farms together would save a good deal of stall-feeding, 57827.—The home farm being land of a middling class only, 57776, 57828.—And the outside farm good enough to fatten stock, 57776, 57828.—Witness took the farm on which he had his cattle, 57830.—And on which he lived twenty-four years ago, and was still paying the same rent as at first, 57829, 57832.—He was also paying the same rent as always for the grazing farm, but

not so much as was paid by his father, and witness himself had not had it so long as the grazing farm, 57831.—The present rental of the grazing farm was 30*s.* an acre; witness had had better land at £2 an acre, which proved to be the cheapest land he held; but it had been bought by the Congested Districts Board, and witness had at once relinquished it; witness had had it from Sir Nicholas O'Connor, who was a middleman, when it belonged to Captain Caulfield French, 57837.—Witness had been well treated, and allowed to keep the land for grazing for six months; it was now set for grazing to the poor of the neighbourhood, 57837.—Witness's rent on the property of the Board was much above valuation, 57840.—He paid rates and taxes on the home farm, but not on the outside farms, 57842.—He did not know what was the valuation of the outside farms, 57841.—Therefore, when he said he would be willing to give twenty or twenty-two years' purchase on the outside land, if he could also buy the home farm, he meant twenty or twenty-two years' purchase without deduction for rents and taxes, 57843.

Land Tenure Discouraging Building—Advantage of Resident Owners.

Witness would like to see land broken up and divided among industrious young men, 57779, 57789.—Land of all kinds, but especially that which was suited for tillage, 57791.—Good grass land should be divided if it could be put in the hands of residential owners, 57791.—If people lived on their farms, even large farms, things would be better for the country, and the labourers would be attracted back from the towns, 57866.—If land tenure had been different in the past, and farmers could have built houses for their sons, there would have been more residential holdings, and all parties would have been benefited, 57776.—The agreements as to letting being from year to year discouraged building, 57776, 57822-3.—Witness was anxious for such a system as should produce the residence of owners under economic conditions, 57792, 57866-7.

GLYNN, Mr. THADDEUS.

Position of Witness.

Witness was nominated by the Ballinasloe District Council and by the Fohanagh branch of the United Irish League; he was the son of a tenant evicted in 1852, though there were no arrears of rent; his uncles also were evicted, 57868.—To make a grass farm, 57870.

Divisions of Annagh, Clonbrock, &c.

In the division of Annagh, in the union of Mount Bellew, there were ninety-eight families on holdings of £5 down to 5*s.*, and nearly 2,462 acres of untenanted land; in the parish represented by witness there were eighty families, having on an average eight or ten acres at a valuation of £2 to £7; in these parishes all land was held in conacre, and paid for by money from America, sent by children of tenants; in the Clonbrock division there were 215 tenants at valuations of £5 and under, and only eight to the value of £20, also held in conacre, 57870.

Applications to Purchase.

Several applications to purchase under the Act of 1903 had been made in the district, but these were refused, unless on condition that the tenants should buy their own small holdings, and no sales had been made; several branches had met, and had petitioned Lord Clonbrock, Mrs. Johnstone, and Mrs. Mahon to sell to them through the Commissioners at any price approved by the Commissioners; the Commssioners, however, had refused unless the tenants could make their own bargain with the landlords; Lord Clonbrock had offered, through the parish priest, to sell if he got twenty-two years' purchase for the holdings, but he would not sell the grass lands except to the Commissioners, and then, only at a sum bringing him in his net income; the tenants believed that any bargain made by the Commissioners would be an equitable one, 57870.

GLYNN, Mr. THADDEUS—*continued.*

LISNACREENA.

The tenants in the village of Lisnacreena had bought holdings under the Ashbourne Act in 1899 at 18½ years' purchase; the holdings were of valuation from £2 to £6, and in three cases out of the seventeen tenancies over £10; in the same district were three farms, which, if compulsory purchase were in force, could be bought and distributed among the congested tenants, whose ancestors had been evicted about 1855, from an estate of 1,100 acres; the tenants could not live on holdings of £2 to £7, 57871.

THE USHER ESTATE.

In 1899 Mr. Usher offered sale to his tenants at 18½ years' purchase, but when the Act of 1903 came in he wanted twenty-five years' purchase; it had now been in the hands of the Commissioners for eight months, and Mr. Arthur Taylor, the arbitrator, had a letter from the Estates Commissioners, and also from the agent of Mr. Usher, stating that the sale was not yet complete, and this report was given by the Inspector to the Board; the tenants could not account for the rise of 5½ years between 1899 and 1903, 57871. —The tenants did not buy at 18½ years because they were expecting increased holdings; they were congested, some of them having valuations as low as 5*s.*, and thirteen under £5; these were tenants who in 1850 and 1855 were evicted from good land, and driven to the bog and the river banks; the river constantly destroyed crops, and the landlords would not clean the rivers; witness thought the Commissioners should take action with regard to drainage, 57873.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Witness wished the Commissioners to report that there was no remedy against landlords' unwillingness to sell except compulsory purchase, 57871.

HIBBETT, Mr. T. B.

EVILS OF THE GRAZING SYSTEM.

Witness lived at Kilconnell, County Galway; was a shopkeeper with a licence, 57874, 57877-8.—He had eighty-five acres of land, 57938.—He farmed 100 acres of land, 57875, 57880, 57909, 57938.—And managed 2,000 acres for a friend, 57876, 57884, 57909.—Witness wished to give evidence as to the evils of the grazing system and its consequence, congestion, 57878-9.—Grazing land for the raising of store cattle was only suitable to a sparsely populated district, 57878. —And letting or hiring of grass lands wanted for cultivation was politically immoral; congestion always followed grazing in Ireland where former owners of land had been evicted from good land, which was now used for grazing, and transferred to miserable patches of worthless land, 57879.

CATTLE.

The grazing system produced cattle inferior to those raised by small holders; they were badly fed and housed during the winter, and taken to market in poor condition, with the result that they were left to be sold at low prices at the end of the fair or market, while the small holder's cattle were sold immediately at from 3*s.* to 4*s.* per cwt. live weight more than the grazier's stock; the Connaught grazier was content with a very small profit for his six months' keep of cattle, 57879.

DETERIORATION OF LAND.

The greater number of graziers failed to repair fences, clean watercourses, or effect drainage; in many cases they received money from the landlord for these purposes, but the landlord was indifferent as to the expenditure of the money, 57879.—Graziers allowed weeds, thistles, and furze to spread over the land, 57879, 57917.—There were many more weeds on untenanted than on tenanted land, 57917.—Consequently more than five per cent. of the grazing farms in Connaught were useless to king or country, 57879.

HIBBETT, Mr. T. B.—*continued.*

HARD BARGAINS BY GRAZIERS.

The grazier's one idea was to work the land with as little outlay as possible, 57879.—And to drive as hard bargains as he could, 57879.—Everyone tried to drive good bargains, 57919.—But graziers more than other people, 57920.—Shopkeepers made hard bargains, 57921.

LABOUR—DETERIORATION OF LABOURERS.

Graziers hardly gave any employment to the labourer, 57879.—The example of graziers had to a large extent altered the habits of the peasantry from thrift and industry to sloth and negligence, 57879, 57913A.—This characterised all classes, shopkeepers among others, though there were individual exceptions, 57915-6.

GRAZING DESTRUCTIVE OF TRADE.

The worst towns for business were those situated in grazing districts where the finest store cattle were fed; Templemore and Loughrea were examples of this; except on fair days these towns were almost deserted, being without trade, labour, or traffic, and troops of Irish Constabulary in Loughrea guarding the Clanricarde rent offices made the town like a camp, 57879.—Ballinasloe was not exactly a grazing centre, 57933.—Though grazing prevailed round it, 57934.—But it was not a good business town since the evictions, which had virtually ruined it, 57935.—The graziers, since they made very small profits, if they were to continue in business must economise in every way, and could therefore be of no benefit to the country, 57979.

GRAZING IN THE BARONY OF LONGFORD.

The barony of Longford, in East Galway, was the least remunerative district in all Connaught (and possibly in all Ireland); though it was the most fertile and the highest rated; its soil was rich, and suited for any agricultural purpose, yet its 99,000 acres were all grazed or in the hands of graziers; its population at the present time was 13,000 or under, while in 1841 it was over 33,000; the decrease in the number of houses since 1841 was 58·75, or 3,283, and the number of evictions had been greater than in any barony in Galway; after the evictions trade disappeared from Eyrecourt and from the market of Ballinasloe; agriculture ceased, and labour was but little employed; this was true of Connaught in general, 57979.

ABOLITION OF GRAZING WILL NOT INJURE STOCK-RAISING.

It was stated that if the ranches were acquired by Government, and the eleven months' grazing system abolished, that the number and value of cattle produced would decline; this was absurd; if a farm of 100 acres were grazed it would carry thirty cattle and eighty ewes; if this were divided into four holdings of twenty-five acres, each holding would carry one horses, two cows, three two-year-old cattle, three calves, and twenty sheep, while the holder would till five acres and meadow five acres; thus the number of cattle would not be diminished by the change; on the five acres of tillage each holder could grow two acres of oats, two acres of potatoes, and one acre of turnips; whatever the price of store cattle the small holder would find it most profitable to store-feed his cattle; his two acres of oats would produce two tons of oatmeal for this purpose, and one acre of potatoes, seventeen tons of food for stock; this with a ton of turnips and a ton of hay would supply food for fattening eight cattle and some pigs, 57879, 57930.—Any beast in fair condition could be fattened with three stones of turnips and meal cooked, together with a stone of turnips and a stone of hay daily for ninety days, 57879, 57921-2.—This, allowing £5 5*s.* for fattening each beast, would bring the profits of fattening eight beasts to £42 8*s.* 4*d.*; two tons of oatmeal were worth £18, seventeen tons of turnips £22 13*s.* 4*d.*; one ton of turnips 10*s.*; one ton of hay £1 5*s.*, 57879.—The fattening would continue from November to April, during five months, 57926-7.—A beast would consume varying quantities of food per month, according to the nature of the food, 57927.—Witness would not give them turnips, 57928-9.—But three stone of potatoes and meal cooked with turnips daily for five months, 57932.

Capital Needed for Stall-feeding.

Witness thought a forty-acre farm could be furnished with buildings and implements for cattle-finishing for £150 to begin with, 57890.—If a tenant's son got a new farm his father would give him some money, and possibly he might get a ten-pound note from America, and for the remainder might borrow from the bank, 57888.

Land Suitable for Tillage.

Witness did not agree with Mr. Doran or Mr. Taylor about land suitable for tillage; Mr. Doran said that some lands in Meath were too good for tillage, 57891.—In Galway he would recommend tillage of any land which would grow wheat, 57892.—He would utilise clay land, 57892, 57893.—Heavy clay would give good crops if properly tilled; tillage made land more porous, 57894.—Witness himself, from his experience, knew that to till land made it more easy to handle, 57896.—No soil in Ireland was incapable of tillage, 57897-8.

Land Available for Tillage.

Witness thought that there was quite more than enough land now let on the eleven months' system for all congests in Galway, 57879.—But he only knew from observation how many acres were available in Galway, 57901.—Nor had he figures as to the applications from congests in Galway, 57901a.—Nor the number of tenants' sons wishing for land, 57902.—But it was possible to know these things without going into figures, 57905-6.

Grass Land Held by Witness.

Witness himself managed 2,000 acres of grazing land and held 100 acres of grass, 57875-6, 57909-10.—He himself made money out of a system he condemned, 57912.—He and his friend were as bad as the others, 57883-4.—Witness did not till his land, since it was not all fit to till, 57882.—And because he was waiting for the new era, 57883-4.—Also because there was not sufficient labour available, 57887, 57922.—And because he and other graziers did not understand tillage, 57886.—He did not say he knew nothing about tillage, 57925.—Until the new era came it was more profitable to keep land under grass, 57885.—If the land were broken up and house built there would soon be sufficient labour, 57887.—Witness, though he owned grazing land, was not a grazier, 57937.—He had bought eighty-five acres, which he grazed, but he was not an eleven months' grazier, 57937-42.—He was a tenant, and had bought under the Act, 57943.—He thought land should be taken from large owners and striped and cut up, 57946, 57947.—His eighty-five acres was a small piece, compared to the land available, 57961-2.—A man with 2,000 acres should be bought out, but not one with 100 acres; uniformity was not possible, 57963.

Grazing by Resident Owners not an Evil.

The difference between a yearly tenant and an eleven months' man was that the yearly man, having a tenancy, had an interest in the land, while the eleven months' man only cared to make what he could from the land, 57957-8.—Any owner who grazed his own land should be allowed to retain it, 57949.—The eleven months' land should be first taken up, 57948.—And the lands occupied on tenancies, or by their owners, if necessary, 57949-50.—Owners living on these grass lands usually employed labour, and often were interested in the improvement of stock; their living in the country tended to harmony among different classes; but if they held land to an unreasonable extent, or if there were unusual congestion in the district, their land must be acquired by the State, 57879.

Price of Grass Lands.

Witness thought the price at which grass lands should be acquired by the State should be fixed by persons knowing the land, and appointed by the Commissioners, 57951.—Witness would have to be satisfied with the decision of such persons, even if the price fixed were less than the value of the land, 57952.—This might or might not be fair, 57953.—He would not give an opinion as to whether it were fairer than for a man to fix the price of goods in witness's shop, 57954.

FINNERTY, Mr. MARTIN.

Witness's Holding.

Witness lived about seven miles from Athenry, 57964.—And farmed about 60 acres, 57965-6.—Of which he had had 30 acres always, and 30 had come to him from the division of a brother's land, 58000.—Of this he tilled sometimes three and sometimes four acres, 57967-71.—Of the original 30 acres he used to till sometimes four or five acres, 58001.—A man with 15 acres might till as much as a man with 60 acres if labour was scarce in the country, 58003.—Witness's land was fairly good, 57967.—He grazed the remainder of his farm, 57972.—And had his own cattle, selling them at two or three years old, 57973.—Witness did not till more of his own land, because it was especially good for grazing, 57999.—He intended to till more, and admitted himself wrong not to till more, 58009.—A man who had to live out of his holding could not break much land at a time, 58009.

Compulsory Powers.

Witness believed a proper settlement of the country could not be effected without compulsory powers, 57974, 58040a.—For dealing with unreasonable landlords, such as Lord Clanricarde and Lord Ashtown; if a landlord here and there refused to sell it caused great discontent among the tenants who were thereby debarred from purchasing their holdings, as their more fortunate neighbours on other estates had done; thousands of tenants had been settled by Estates Commissioners, and large areas of untenanted land acquired and distributed, but much remained to be done; the peasantry, seeing their neighbours settled in holdings, would no longer be content to see their sons emigrate, 57974.

Prices of Land for Distribution.

Even landlords who were willing to sell often asked exorbitant prices, being encouraged in this by competitive prices given for land after satisfying the uneconomic holders, witness perling to sell often asked exorbitant prices, being encouraged in this by competitive prices given for land by rich shopkeepers, who, nevertheless, often ruined themselves by land speculation; if tenants were given land at excessive prices, their position would be worse than it was without the land; tenants in Galway would be willing to leave the questions of price and purchase in the hands of the Estates Commissioners, who had won their confidence, 57974.—The land should be acquired for the tenants at a fair price, whether the landlord were left in a financially worse position than before, or no, 58041, 58043-4.—Witness did not think that if the land were secured at a fair price to the tenant the landlord would, in fact, suffer loss, 58045, 58048.—A fair price could be arrived at by calculation, 58049.—It would not be fair that landlords should obtain more than their net income, 58047.—But witness would not say he should get less, 58049.—It must be calculated on the number of years' purchase that would bring the landlord a fair income, 58050.—The people were there and must have the land and the landlord must bear a certain loss, 58044.

Distribution of Grass Lands.—Migrants from a Distance, etc.

If a fair price were offered by the Commissioners for the grass lands of Galway witness thought that it should be distributed to local applicants with experience of farming, 58010.—Firstly, to uneconomic holders in the neighbourhood for the enlargement of their holdings, 58011.—If there was large land enough after satsfying the uneconomic holders, witness personally would not mind the introduction of migrants, but he thought there would be a tendency to oppose the inroads of outsiders, 58012.—There would be little room for migrants after enlarging uneconomic holdings in the locality, 58013-4.—On Sandford-Hill's Estates there was only five or six acres left after enlarging the small holdings, 58015.—If land were available witness would not be averse to bringing in congests from Connemara if they knew how to work the land, but a fisherman from Donegal was not suitable for a holding in Connaught, 58016.—A Donegal man, who was not a fisherman, might be a good tenant, 58017.—A man coming from a distance to a hostile territory would be much handicapped; it would be easier for a man who had brothers in the neighbourhood to make a start, 58018.—Other people might object to these migrants, 58019.—They had witness's sympathy, 58020.—Something must be done for them, and he would not advocate emigration, 58021-24.—There were selfish people everywhere, 58025.—He could hardly say whether local hostility to migrants would be sufficient to prevent the Estates Commissioners relieving congestion in the western areas by introduction of congests into Galway, 58027.—He would not blame the man who, by opposing their introduction, should condemn the poor of Western Galway to remain in their wretched holdings, 58039.—Farmers' sons who would have to go to America if they got no land had as good a claim to grass lands as anyone, 57974, 58026.—Farmers' sons who wanted land for themselves would object to migrants from Connemara, 58082-3.—It would naturally be felt that the farmers' sons should be satisfied first, 58085.—And the welcome of the migrants would, at any rate, not be warm, 58085.—An argument in favour of breaking up grass lands was that uneconomic holdings must be enlarged, 58032.—This view was held by all fair-minded persons, 58033.—But everyone could not have enlarged holdings, and witness would give them first to uneconomic holders and then to young people from the neighbourhood, 57974, 58035.—All uneconomic small holders must first be supplied, 58038.—From whatever locality they came, 58037.—Witness himself would not draw any line between local applicants and migrants, 58036, 58089-90, 58015.—If the needs of local uneconomic holders were fairly satisfied, 58091-3.—And the migrants not too numerous, 58091, 58107.—Witness, if he were satisfied there were room for them, would use his influence to discourage hostility towards migrants, 58106-9.—If land were given to sons of tenants it would only be a temporary remedy, for when their sons grew up there would be no land for them, 58028.—But when the land question was settled and the country settled there would be more openings for young men in trade and manufacture, 58029, 58031.—If the land question were not settled this progress would not be made, 58030.

ACTION OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

The transactions of the Board in Galway had not won the approval of the public or the interested tenants, who would be slow to have dealings with them in future, though the landlords had good reasons to like them on account of the high prices they gave, 57974, 58100.—The Board was hampered by being unable to enlarge holdings of over £5 valuation, 58095.—If this difficulty were got over witness still would not wish the Board to operate in the district, as the price they paid was exorbitant, 58095, 58100.—It was a hardship that tenants of the Estates Commissioners who had uneconomic holdings should have enlargements and their neighbours, under the Board, be differently treated, 58096.—If the Board gave satisfaction in Mayo and other counties it was very likely because the Mayo people were no judges of land, 58102-3.

ACTION OF THE BOARD WITH REGARD TO THE BENMORE ESTATE.

The Board purchased the Benmore Estate over the heads of the tenants, and, without consulting the tenants, gave the landlord three years' purchase more that the tenants had been prepared to offer, 57974, 58042.—The Board bought without the approval of the tenants who had been bargaining direct with the landlord, 58053-4.—And paid an exorbitant price not only for tenanted land, but for grazing land, 58054.—Moreover they grazed the land for three years, contrary to the wish of the tenants, 57974, 58057.—And mismanaged the divisions, so that a man paid £23 for an enlargement to an uneconomic holding; the land was not worth half that price, and the holding, when enlarged, was not suitable for a man to live on at any price, 58054.—There were many uneconomic holdings on the estate, 58055-6.—But there was room for new holdings, 58056.—The Board, after a fight with the local committee, improved some holdings, 58057.—And increased some, but they also increased the cost to the tenants, 58058.—The holdings were improved at the tenant's expense, and they were charged £2 an acre for land little more than half that value, 30 per cent. too dear, 58058-9.—The home holdings on which the tenants lived and on which they paid the extra three years' purchase were not improved, 58061.—The prices on the grazing farms were too high, 58062.—The prices of the tenanted land were not so extravagant, but it did not matter how things were mismanaged if tenants had to pay too much for the divided untenanted land, 58063.—No one was satisfied but the landlord, 57974.—Witness inspected the holdings and found them much too dear, 57974, 58051. 58094.—The tenants were anxious to meet their liabilities, but would find difficulty in so doing, and bad times might drive them into bankruptcy, 57974.—It was said that prices on the Kenny and Longworth Estates were even higher, 57974.

THE O'FARRELL-DON'S ESTATE.

The O'Farrell-Don's Estate was purchased by the Commissioners, and within six months the land was divided, houses built, the tenants taken from the congested village of Cahernagarry and given compact holdings and decent houses on untenanted lands; the old holdings, which had been divided into small plots, miles apart, were re-divided, and the tenants remaining in Cahernagarry, were benefited almost as much as those who were migrated; the tenants were grateful and hopeful for the future; witness would like to see the district between Ballinasloe and Portumna settled in this manner, 57974.

THE TYAQUINN AND COLMANSTOWN ESTATES.

Both the Tyaquinn and Colmanstown Estates were near Dunsandle, and were purchased under the Ashbourne Act; in Tyaquinn, a Mr. Richardson, of Dublin, divided the grass land among his three sons for the purpose of a purchase; in Colmanstown, 900 Irish acres had been purchased by the Smythe Brothers, of Cootehill, Co. Cavan; all these were absentee landlords, who expended no money in the locality; Richardson said he was willing to sell, but declared himself unable to do so until legislation was enacted to facilitate the sale of lands paying an annuity to the Irish Land Commission; the Smythe Brothers held 300 acres in Dunmore, and also large tracts of grazing land in County Cavan; the tenants at Colmanstown were almost confined to pieces of cutaway bog, and other estates adjoining had no hope of enlargements except from a division of the Colmanstown lands; the position of the Tyaquinn tenants was even worse, 57974.

THE DUNSANDLE ESTATE.

On the Dunsandle Estate, on which witness lived, 58086.—There were no difficulties about division, it was carried out by arrangement between tenants and landlord, 58088.—There was no question of appropriating land to evicted tenants from another estate on the Dunsandle land, 58097-8.—The Dunsandle tenants purchased the grass land on that estate, 57974.

THE WOODLAWN ESTATE.

Witness thought his evidence should gain weight from the fact that he had been appointed by the tenants of Lord Ashtown's Woodlawn Estate to state their grievances; Lord Ashtown had said he was willing to sell, but had assembled his tenants only to trifle with them; he held, outside his demesne lands and near Woodlawn, near 3,000 Irish acres of grazing land and the demesne consisted of about 1,000; Lord Ashtown had stated that these were grazing lands of ancient standing, 57974.—But within the memory of men of sixty there had been 160 evictions on the property, 57974-5.—Later on there were seven subsequent evictions, six of which were recent; the 160 evicted families were taken in by Lord Clancarty, whose estate was recently sold but their holdings were uneconomic, 57975-6.—And no grazing land was available for their enlargement, 57975.—The holdings were £7 or £8 valuation, but where the land was not good even £10 valuation was not sufficient, 57977.—They would not, in any part of the country, be considered sufficient unless the tenant got help from America or England, 57978.—Witness thought that if Lord Ashtown's ranches were acquired these Clanricarde tenants should have a share in the distribution, 57975.

THE WOODLAWN ESTATE.—CONGESTION, ETC.

There were, on Lord Ashtown's Estate, forty-seven tenants whose Poor Law valuation was less than £15, of these, thirty-eight were under £10 valuation, and seventeen were under £5, all these were working their own land, 58004.

EMPLOYMENT.

There were only fourteen of these forty-seven uneconomic tenants who were employed by Lord Ashtown, 57983-4, 57986-7, 57993.—Lord Ashtown had stated that the tenants derived great benefit from employment given by him, 57983.—And witness did not deny that he employed others of his tenants who were not sons of uneconomic holders, 57986.—But only fourteen persons living on uneconomic holdings were employed, 57984-7.—Witness could not say how many sons of an age to work these forty-seven uneconomic tenants had, 57987A, 57988.—The holders themselves would have no time to work for Lord Ashtown, 57989.—If a man had an economic holding of £500 it would take all his time, if he were a good worker, to cultivate his own farm, and he would require a man to help him, 57990.—A man who had an uneconomic holding and also worked as a labourer would be better off if he were a labourer since his position as an uneconomic holder with occasional employment was so insecure, 57991-3.

WAGES.

These men employed by Lord Ashtown, with the exception of a few tradesmen, earned only 10*s.* a week, 57983, 58006.—This was reduced to 7*s.* a week by "broken time," 58006, 58064.—Witness had this from the tenants' statements, 58065.—Witness believed it, and several persons were present yesterday to corroborate his statements, 58067.—Lord Ashtown paid 10*s.* a week, but a man must be very successful to earn a full week, 58067.—If a man did not go to work in bad weather he was not paid, 58068.

DAMAGE BY GAME.

The crops of Lord Ashtown's tenants were much injured by the game he preserved, 57978, 57983.—By rabbits and preasants, 57930.—By big vermin, 57980.—By hares and pheasants, 57981.—The tenants could not kill the game which came up in the night to eat the crops, 57982.—They had not sufficient independence to kill game, as they knew it would anger Lord Ashtown.

DESTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

The lands round Woodlawn were poisoned, and sometimes the tenants' pigs and dogs and cats were poisoned, and if they escaped poison they were sometimes shot by gamekeepers, 57994.—Witness had known a gamekeeper shoot a poor man's cat at his door and cut off its tail, 57991, 57993-4.

DAMAGE BY DAMMING A RIVER.

Lord Ashtown had built a concrete wall across the river flowing through the estate, quite close to Woodlawn mansion, and this caused constant flooding of tenants' holdings, making them almost valueless, 57993.

EXACTION OF "HANGING GALE."

Lord Ashtown had ordered the fourteen sons of uneconomic tenants who were employed at 10*s.* a week to pay up the "hanging gale" or be instantly dismissed; similar threats had been used to induce payment of hanging gale by nearly all his tenants, lest they should be deprived of their ownership; the tenants felt their position very insecure owing to the number of evictions on the estate, 57993.

THE WOODFORD ESTATE AND EVICTED TENANTS.

There is an estate called the Woodford Estate, 58070.—Where there was a proposal to settle evicted tenants, 58071, 58079.—Witness knew the estate and that evicted tenants were there, 58076.—He was not aware of a proposal of fix up evicted tenants there, 58073, 58075.—The estate belonged to Lord Clanricarde, 58078.—There were objections to this by the planters, 58081-1.—Witness was not aware of the tenants evicted from the Clanricarde Estate fearing any opposition from any quarter to which they were sent, 58072.—There must have been difficulties on the Woodford Estate, since the evicted tenants were not settled yet, 58077.—Witness thought evicted tenants should have the first claim before uneconomic holders, and Plan of Campaign tenants, who went out on principle, should come first of all, 58069.

LACK OF LABOUR AND OF EMPLOYMENT.

If a Galway man became a general labourer he was much in demand for a few months in the year and could get no employment for the remainder; three months' employment in the year at 10*s.* a week was not sufficient inducement for a man to marry and settle in Ireland, 5807.—The men, sons of uneconomic holders on Lord Ashtown's Estate, who could not get employment from their landlord could not get employment from witness (though he needed labour), because he lived seven miles away from them, 58006.—Nor from other men in his position, because they could not afford to go anywhere; they wanted economic holdings, and when Lord Ashtown had asked them whether they preferred labour to purchase they, thinking they were to be dismissed, told him they wanted the land, 58006.

DRAINAGE, ETC.

Witness thought large tracts of low-lying lands in Galway were in need of drainage, and remote bog and mountain should be planted, thus benefiting the country by remunerative work and keeping the people at home and employed, 57974.

SUITABLE LAND FOR TILLAGE.

Witness thought no land in Galway too heavy for tillage, though heavy land was not so good as other qualities; no holding could be cut out of the grazing lands which was not fairly suitable for tillage; if it was not best for one crop it would grow another; by attention to spraying a fairly good crop of potatoes could be grown on almost any land; a farm might be very good for tillage and yet not very good for certain crops.

EDMONDS, Mr. LESLIE.

See also p. 540.

THE BENMORE ESTATE.

The Benmore Estate was bought as part of a bargain, the landlord having refused to sell his estate in Mayo, unless the Board also bought his Galway Estate; this the Board did, taking possession in May, 1904, but were prevented from dealing with the estate at once, owing to the opposition by tenants to grazing being put on; when witness met the tenants he told them that every tenant on the estate (there were only two under £5) would be enlarged to £25, and the remainder of the land would be used for migrants; this was vehemently opposed, and for a long time nothing was done, finally a certain number of tenants were promised holdings; under the existing rules, opposition to grazing prevented the Board from dealing with the estate at once, 58112.—Benmore

EDMONDS, Mr. LESLIE—*continued.*

was not a scheduled area, 58113.—The law that if the Board bought grass land outside a scheduled area it could only do so for the benefit of a poor estate in a scheduled area did not apply to the Board's own tenants; Benmore was the only case in South Galway where tenanted land had been acquired, except for three tenants on Dr. Kenny's Estate.

Causes of Delay in Dealing with Estates acquired by the Board in South Galway, &c.

The delay in South Galway in the work of the Board was, to a certain extent, due to the fact that when it acquired grass lands it had not also control of the tenanted slum estates in which were the people who were to be removed, 58114, 58116.—Otherwise it is necessary, in order to get the migrants the full value of their occupying interest, to get cash fines from their neighbours, and induce the landlord to amalgamate the holdings; this plan, which was unsatisfactory, was adopted in the case of migrants from Derrydoun, a poor estate, held in rundale, and belonging to Lord Clanricarde, 58114.—In other districts the Board had had control of the estate from which migrants were to be removed, but not in South Galway, 58115.—Another difficulty was the necessity of satisfying local needs; in Patfield there were tenant purchasers, and the surrounding farmers were all expecting to get land, but the Board had no power to enlarge any tenant purchaser over £5, 58116.—It was desirable, but not essential, that lands for relief of congestion should be near the congested areas; a distance of twenty miles would not matter much, 58117.

REIDY, Rev. THOMAS.

Congestion in South Roscommon—The Moore District.

Witness tendered evidence as to the unsatisfactory condition of No. 2 Rural District of Roscommon, at the extreme south of County Roscommon, 58118-9.—Within five English miles of Ballinasloe, to the south-east, 58119-20.—Lying on the Suck and the Shannon, towards Shannon Bridge, and to the north of it, 58120.—This district of Moore contained the only scheduled electoral division in South Roscommon; witness thought the other districts should be scheduled, 58121.—There were 106 tenants under £5 valuation, 58121, 58130.—And 190 between £5 and £10; some of the tenants paid a rent of £2 5*s*., some £1 5*s*., and some paid nothing, and were probably asked for nothing; nearly all of these were living on sandhills, or plots once covered by the Shannon, 58121.—They were hardworking, and cultivated barley almost exclusively, working night and day to thrash it; they were not much in debt, 58131.

A Typical Landlord in the Moore District.

Mr. Mather, one of the three landlords in witness's parish who, between them, owned more land than all the 400 tenants, had six or seven farms at his home in Scotland, and in witness's parish had eleven large farms, but otherwise lived in Scotland; the farms he held were—Cappontogher, 179 acres, valuation £50; Coolderry, 228 acres, valuation £81 5*s*.; Coulderry, 140 acres, valuation £46 15*s*.; Rathpeak, 550 acres, valuation, £178 10*s*.; Hillsend, 71 acres, valuation £28 10*s*.; Failte, 548 acres, valuation £257 12*s*.; Cloonburren, 864 acres, valuation £353 10*s*.; Cloonabrack, 81 acres, valuation £42; America, 290 acres, valuation £76 5*s*.; Rooty, 132 acres, valuation £66; and an eleventh farm of 80 acres, making a total of 3,163 acres; witness wrote to the landlord on behalf of the tenants (of whom there were only seventeen of an average valuation of barely £5) asking him to sell some of this grass land to the Board or the Estates Commissioners; he replied that he did not know what to answer, as to break up the Rathpeak and Coulderry farms some of the men there must be dismissed, which would create a grievance; the number of labourers employed was twenty-two or twenty-three, at 9*s*. a week; Mr. Mather also stated that nothing could be done just then, as the place was fully stocked, and the crops down, and that it would be difficult to estimate the value of Rathpeak and Coulderry, as thousands had been spent on improving them, and both the landlord's and tenants' interests must be compensated for; in the last letter of the correspondence Mr. Mather stated that he could give no definite answer, as the working of the farms was so dovetailed in, that re-arrangement would cause considerable loss, and take time; the lands held by Mr. Mather in this district were held in fee, and were once old demesnes, for the most part held by tenants, who were evicted sixty or seventy years ago; before the evictions there were 800 families, but now only 400, 58121.

Another Typical Landlord in the Moore District

Mr. Potts, of Correen, had seven farms in the district, and six outside it; in the parish, Correen Demesne, 300 acres; Killegley, 200; Culliaghmore, 180; Culliaghbeg, 80; Cloonfad, 50; Raherabeg, 50; Creggan, 90; outside the parish, in Moate, County Westmeath, 160 acres; in Drum, County Roscommon, 300; Scregg, County Roscommon, 400; Belfield, County Roscommon, 300; Cloonascragh, County Galway, 200; Clooncannon, County Galway, 500; in all, 1,760; witness wrote to Mr. Potts, who replied that he had no intention of selling any lands he farmed himself, but that if the tenants agreed to buy their present holdings, with a certain amount of turbary, he would let witness know the terms of sale; these tenants, of whom there were sixty, were very poor, twenty-four of them paying under £5 in rent, and thirteen having valuations of under £5; eleven paid from £1 to £3, and five paid no rent; Mr. Potts tilled sixteen to twenty acres, and employed twenty-five to thirty labourers, at an average wage of 7*s*. or 8*s*. a week, 58121.

Action of the Congested Districts Board in Roscommon.

Witness had arranged for the tenants to purchase on the Lane Estate and the Kyle Estate, one at nineteen years' purchase and the other at eighteen years' purchase on first-term rents, but when witness thought the matter was settled, the Board had said it could purchase no land; again, he had offered them the Materley Estate, with six tenants, 58122.—Of whom one, Mr. Harty, had 800 acres, 58122-3.—Harty cultivated only a small quantity, and set some in con-acre, and took in con-acre cattle; witness, at the request of the people, opened communications with the agent, who offered the estate to the Board, but the Board shelved the purchase; witness thought the Board should take up these lands at once; he could have gone to the Estates Commissioners, but he had more experience of the Board, 58123.—The Board, as at present equipped, seemed to be unequal to the task of benefiting South Roscommon; witness recognised the amount of good done in Connaught, but South Roscommon was overlooked and neglected, 58121-2.—Witness personally had sympathy with the Board, which had done a great deal for him, 58121-2.—Now witness must fall back upon the Estates Commissioners, 58123.—Witness understood that the Board had lately received a large sum from the Treasury, which they had resolved to spend on Roscommon, 58123-4.—The Board was authorised to purchase grass lands in Roscommon, but not elsewhere, 58125-6.—But the Board would not purchase these grass lands mentioned by witness; witness had no objection to Mr. Harty continuing to live in his house, and being considered in a reasonable manner by the Commissioners; witness was anxious for the Board to deal with estate, since there was so much rundale in the district; he also suggested that they should acquire and use the fortress or barracks which existed in the district, 58126; and make new roads, 58122.

Compulsory Powers.

Witness considered that congestion could not be remedied without compulsory powers, 58121, 58122.—These must be "severe," giving absolute power to the Board or Commissioners to deal with landlords of Mr. Mather's type, who held large ranches, and refused to sell, 58122.

REIDY, Rev. THOMAS—*continued.*

DRAINAGE.

Witness thought the Board should undertake arterial drainage in this district, five or six miles inland, leading towards the Shannon, 58122, 58126, 58128.—Draining the country, not through the Suck, but directly into the Shannon, 58129.—In years gone by much money had been spent on drainage, 58127.—Witness thought there was no objection in the district to pay whatever was assessed on account of drainage; whatever drainage was effected was of little use with the Suck near the Shannon; it could not be drained any lower, as the larger river was not sunk, 58127-30.

REILLY, Mr. THOMAS.

ATTITUDE OF WITNESS.

Witness resided at Lismakeague, Kiltormer; he wished to give details of some estates in the parish, to show the necessity of enlarging holdings, 58132.

QUANSBURY ESTATE.

On the Quansbury Estate there were seventy-seven uneconomic holdings, with rents from 6*s.* to £15, and five grazing farms, two occupied by the landlord and three by grazing tenants, and amounting to 700 acres; the landlord had offered to sell the grazing lands to the Commissioners, provided the tenants made direct bargains for their holdings, at twenty-three years' purchase of their present rents, including two or three years' arrears; three of these farms are situated conveniently to the small holdings; it would be a useful public work to drain 300 acres of bog on this estate, which greatly needs it, 58132.

GARTYMADDEN ESTATE.

The Gartymadden Estate belonged to John Smyth; it was sold to seven tenants five years ago at eighteen years' purchase of the valuation, but all these holdings are uneconomic; about 200 acres on the same estate are occupied by Smyth as a grazing farm, and this was a great hardship on the small tenants, 58132.

THE ADRAGOLE ESTATE.

The Adragole (Ryan) Estate, which adjoined Lord Clonbrock's, consisted of 300 acres, and was now in Judge Ross's Court; adjoining estates were sold under the Ashbourne Act at fourteen to seventeen years' purchase, 58132.

THE DILLON-BROUNE ESTATE.

The Dillon-Broune Estate, purchased under the same Act, had two uneconomic holdings; seventy acres of the best land were sold to the grazier in possession at eighteen years' purchase, 58132.

OTHER ESTATES.

The Trench Estate had five uneconomic holdings; the O'Sullivan Estate, five; and the Drumatubber grazing lands, of 350 acres, were convenient to this; there was one evicted tenant on the Trench Estate, 58132.

MULLA—POPULATION, ETC.

The population of the district was 579, of whom three-fourths lived on remittances from America and elsewhere; there was in the parish of Mulla 2,780 acres of grazing lands, with 134 uneconomic holdings, and 450 acres of bog, which required drainage and roads, 58132.

CAHILL, Mr. THOMAS.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness was a commission agent, 58134.—A president of the New Inn Branch of the United Irish League, a member of Ballinasloe No. 1 District Council, and of Ballinasloe Board of Guardians, 58138.—He had formerly been a herd in the employment of

CAHILL, Mr. THOMAS—*continued.*

Lord Ashtown, and had taken some part in the management of the farming, 58136.—He was herd and estate manager, 58137.—And had practical knowledge of farming, agriculture, and horticulture, 58135.—He had been evicted by Lord Ashtown on account of his being a Catholic, 58133, 58165.

THE WOODLAWN ESTATE—EVICTIONS, ETC.

There were constant evictions on the Woodlawn Estate—in one instance a man and wife and eleven children were evicted while the children were in bed with whooping-cough, 58139, 58140.—This man was not a tenant of Lord Ashtown, but the herd of a grazier whom Lord Ashtown threatened with dispossession if he did not dismiss the man; Lord Ashtown was almost the only employer of labour in the district, and his staff was almost entirely from Scotland, though at one time he had employed Irishmen, and was very popular, and took an interest in local sports, 58139.—Witness considered that the change in Lord Ashtown's attitude was caused by external pressure, 58141.

LORD ASHTOWN AND THE TRENCH ESTATE.

The sale of the Trench Estate to the tenants was completed but for the game rights when Lord Ashtown bought it at an enormous price, for the purpose, it was supposed, of defeating the sale; this disturbed the neighbourhood, and brought odium on Lord Ashtown; one of the Trench tenants, named Doolan, had a flaw in his tenant-right, and was dispossessed by Lord Ashtown of everything but one acre of marshy callow, though he had formerly held sixty acres, 58139.—This case caused much discontent, 58141.—Doolan had eleven motherless children, 58139-41.

EVICTION FOR ARREARS.

Lord Ashtown had an old tenant who, with his three sons, had employment from Lord Ashtown, and got into arrears with his rent for three years, 58141-3.—Lord Ashtown served a process upon him, and his friends helped to pay the rent; the holding was in a bog, and was small and uneconomic; Lord Ashtown said he would give the man employment for himself and his sons if he would relinquish the land, of which he was unable to pay the rent, 58141, 58144.—The man refused, whereupon Lord Ashtown dismissed him and his sons, "processed him for the hanging gale," and persecuted him for five years afterwards, 58141, 58144.

LAND IN BALLINASLOE.

In the twenty electoral divisions of Ballinasloe there are 1,041 holdings of £5 valuation and under, 806 of over £5, and under £10; the number of acres under grass, 50,983; population in 1901, 19,279; inhabited houses in union in 1841, 7,646; in 1901, 3,412; valuation of union in 1841, £64,817; in 1901, £77,851; in 1906, £79,469; on Lord Ashtown's Estate were 3,557 acres of good grass lands, almost all owned and occupied by Lord Ashtown, and without one acre of tillage, and very few cattle and sheep; almost entirely stocked with rabbits, 58139.—The population of Killean had diminished by half in the last twenty years from emigration caused by landlordism, 51838.—More than 100 young men in the district had no prospect but emigration; though there was so much grass land, many had to buy condensed milk, because they could not buy milk nor the grass for a cow; compulsory purchase alone would put an end to this state of things, 58139.

RAFFERTY, Mr. JAMES.

LAND PRICES, ETC.

Witness was a farmer, shopkeeper, and valuer, residing at Athlone, 58145.—He had a licence, 58146.—Witness had made sales on behalf of the tenants of Waitman's Estate, 21½ years' purchase, all arrears of rent wiped out; the arrears had averaged 1½ years;

RAFFERTY, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

Sproule and O'Malley Estates, 19¼ years' purchase, about two years' arrears wiped out, 58146.—Witness had failed to effect the sale of other sales, since landlords would not take a fair price, but asked sums from 25 to 100 per cent. above those accepted by neighbouring landlords under the Ashbourne Act, 58148.

CONGESTION.

There were a large number of small holdings, so small that with the help of industries the people could hardly live on them, 58148.—There were many holders between £1 and £5 valuation, 58157.—The average size was 2½ acres, 58149.—The people should be migrated to the grass lands, and given fair-sized holdings, 58150, 58153-4.—If farms could be found for the farmers' sons they need not emigrate, 58148.—If the grass lands were divided into new farms the original holdings of migrants could be used to relieve congestion, 58155.—The Congested Districts Board should have power to buy and remodel the district, 58155.—Congests from the district of Athlone No. 2 could be migrated, 58156.—There was not quite enough land for the people in the district, even were it all divided, 58157.—There were 1,665 holdings under £15 valuation, and 10,872 acres grass lands, 58157.

INDUSTRIES.

Labour was scarce, there only being work for two months' in the year, at low wages; the only existing industries were lime and peat selling, and the people had to go long distances for a market, 58155.—There were formerly weaving and tannery businesses in the district; local industries could now be established, such as peat, brick-making, iron-ore, quarries, mills, breweries and distilleries, 58157.

DRAINAGE.

The War Office used a bog as a rifle range, but it was feared that they would move if it were not drained; the Shannon also required drainage; some persons had to migrate every winter to Athlone, as the floods covered all their lands, 58157.

MIGRATION.

The congests were willing to migrate if they were told where they could go, and what would be their annuities; but hitherto the visiting inspectors had given no information; when buying lands, farmers should remember that the opening of the ports to Canadian and Argentine cattle would lower the value of cattle 30 per cent., and land would fall in proportion, 58157.

HARDY, Mr. WILLIAM.

WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness resided at Dromalgagh, Ballinasloe, 58158.—His holding was 800 statute acres, consisting of 300 acres of second-class grazing, 100 acres of plantation, 100 acres of bog, 200 acres of rough bog and moor grazing, 58160.—Only 300 or 350 acres of grazing land out of the 800; a fair rent was fixed on the place in 1899, and the Commissioners estimated the carrying capacity of the place as 125 collops, 58161.—The holding was on Colonel Malesley's Estate, 58158.

CONTRADICTION OF FATHER REIDY'S CHARGES.

Witness wished to make a statement relating to his holding, since Father Reidy had said that he held 800 acres of grazing land in the parish of Moore, and that he con-acred hay, and took in grazing cattle; this was not witness's usual procedure, but on May 1st, in consequence of many applications to take in grazing cattle, he had taken in eight to oblige his poorer neighbours, not to make a profit, as would be shown by the prices charged, 58158.—Witness set some meadow for his neighbours at their request, and also fifty acres for his own use; he had forty tons of hay remaining from last year; the hay and corn were both ready at the same time, and as witness could not manage both, he allowed neighbours to have seven acres that he had been keeping for himself, but he had never con-acred hay before this year, nor did he intend to do so again, 58159.

TRENCH, Mr. PHILIP CHENEVIX.

THE ASHTOWN ESTATE—EVICTIONS.

Witness wished to make a statement with regard to Lord Ashtown's Estate; Father Pelly had stated that Grady, Sheridan, and Feeny were evicted; Sheridan, who owed eight years' rent, was evicted; Grady was there still, in possession of Feeny's holding, he having bought Feeny out; the owners of the estate had paid Feeny to go out; except Sheridan, there had been no recent evictions; and all tenants who had left recently had been bought out; there had not been 160 evictions in the Famine times; witness had books going back to 1840, and only thirty tenants appeared to have left at that period; it is noted against nearly all the names, that they were assisted to emigrate, and in some cases the sums of money given are stated; one tenant had £60, 58162.

WAGES, ETC.

The wages at Woodlawn were 10*s.*, 15*s.*, and up to £1 a week, 58162.—All through the year, whenever the men came to work, 58163.—They were given steady employment almost whenever they came, though sometimes they went home to their own farms; thirty-three tenants and tenants' sons were employed, instead of fourteen, as stated, 58164.—Twenty out of the thirty-three would be uneconomic holders, 58165.—It was stated that nearly all the men employed were Protestants, 58166.—But the proportion was about seventeen Catholics to one Protestant, 58165, 58167.—The man Dolan, who was mentioned, had been an eleven months' tenant under a grazing contract (Dolan, interposing, stated that he had leave from the former tenant, Mr. Trench, to till the farm); the farm had been bought from Mr. O'Hara Trench; witness had seen the agreement, in which was no mention of permission to till; Dolan may have had a private arrangement with O'Hara Trench; he broke up the farm, and tilled it, in contravention of his agreement with Lord Ashtown, 58167.

HAYDEN, Mr. JOHN P.

DECREASE OF POPULATION.

Witness was a newspaper proprietor, residing at Westmeath, a native of Roscommon, and representative in Parliament of the Southern Division; and gave evidence on behalf of the Rural District Council of Roscommon; the population of Roscommon in 1841 was 260,000, and in 1901 it had sunk to a little over 100,000; the present estimate was under 100,000; these figures were prepared at the County Council Office, from the rate-books and Census returns, population had decreased all over the county, but particularly where the land was good; in Castleteeheen, where the land was good, valued at 16*s.* per acre, the population had fallen 80 per cent.; while in Ardagh North, where the valuation was 6*s.* 6*d.* per acre, the population had fallen only 3 per cent.; this showed that the people had gone from the good lands, not voluntarily, but because they had to, 58168.

SMALL HOLDINGS IN ROSCOMMON.

60 per cent. of the agricultural holdings in Roscommon were under £5 valuation, and 85 per cent. under £12, 94 per cent. were under £25, and only 3 per cent. over £50, 58168.

GRAZING LAND IN ROSCOMMON.

The 3 per cent. of holdings over £50 valuation amounted to 160,000 acres, and were almost all composed of large grazing farms, 58168, 58293.—Not more than 60,000 acres being held by *bona-fide* farmers, 58293.—The population of these lands were chiefly herds and the families of herds, 58168.—If all the people in Roscommon had land in the same proportion as this 3 per cent., it would take seven counties as large as Roscommon 58168, 58293.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

This congestion could only be relieved by purchasing good, untenanted land, enlarging existing holdings, and migrating people from the poorer districts on to the grazing farms; the limit with regard to scheduling congested districts should either be removed or greatly enlarged, and powers of compulsory purchase given to the existing authorities; compulsion was necessary both for acquiring the land and arriving at a fair price, 58169.—These powers should be extended to the purchase of both tenanted and untenanted land, 58204.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRAZING LANDS—DELAY, ETC.

In distributing grass lands priority should be given to those lands which required re-settlement and enlargement of holdings; these should have priority over other properties, because they were more urgent, 58169-72.—Irrespective of the date of purchase, 58173.—Delay often occurred in the negotiations of the Board or Commissioners after the landlord had agreed to sell and the tenants had agreed to a price; this delay sometimes extended to years; and when the bargain was concluded, no public authority was in a position to pay the money immediately, 58173.—This delay led to landowners who had made an offer to the Commissioners, and discovered that they would have to wait for the money, putting the land up to public auction; in these cases the Commissioners should have the right of pre-emption, for the land, once sold, might not again come into the market for a number of years, 58173.—There was a case of a grazing farm of Lord Tumblesden, where this happened, but Mr. Fitzgibbon, who bought it, afterwards sold it to the Commissioners, 58173.—In another case, at Tontagee, near Tourmilehouse, there was a farm which was bought by public auction by a business man, Herne, of Ballinasloe, who already held much land in Roscommon and Galway; who resided twenty miles away, and grazed the farms, thus giving no employment, 58173-5.—This caused public dissatisfaction, and gave rise to the first case of cattle-driving in Roscommon, and, witness believed, in Ireland; this estate was extremely suitable for the purpose of relieving congestion which prevailed in the district, and, owing to this defect in the law, and the lack of powers of pre-emption, the people were exasperated, until they broke the law, 58174.—The land had been purchased under the Land Act, 58173, 58175.—The small holders, who should have been enlarged, were living on the same estate, 58176.—On the estate of which the farm had originally formed a part, 58178.—The Board would not have been able to enlarge uneconomic holdings in the vicinity of the estate in question, 58179.—An increase of the schedule of the districts would remove this difficulty, 58180.

AUCTION OF FEE-SIMPLE AND SALE OF LAND SUBJECT TO ANNUITIES.

Auction of fee-simple was not now common in Galway and Roscommon, but were becoming more frequent, 58182.—This Tonlagee case was a sale of fee-simple, subject to annuity under the Purchase Acts, 58182.—There was a law providing against the advancement of a loan in respect of land already subject to annuity, 58173.—Until the amount advanced had been redeemed, 58184.—As a matter of fact it was informally done, by the Estates Commissioners advancing purchase money, 58185-6.—In a case like Tonlagee, two powers were really required, the power of compulsion, or pre-emption, and the power of the Commission to use its discretion in these cases, 58183. —In Lord Tumblesden's case there was no annuity, 58182.

LAND RE-SOLD TO LANDLORDS.

Land required for the use of the public was re-sold to the landlord by the Commissioners, 58186-7.—In the case of the Bermingham Estate, near Roscommon, over ninety acres were re-sold to the owner, a clergyman, living in County Meath; witness was informed by the Chief Secretary, in the House of Commons, that this was demesne land, and a residence, but there was no residence, but a herd's house; the owner had never lived there, nor could he live there, unless he were to build a house; Mr. Bermingham afterwards asked the District Council of Roscommon £25 an acre, more than he had paid to the Commissioners, for a portion of the land they wanted, under the Labourers' Act; no land should be re-sold which was not strictly demesne or home farm, 58187.—Witness raised no point against the selling of demesne or home farm, but wished these terms to be more strictly defined, 58188.

THE ESSEX ESTATE.

Lord Essex's estate comprised most of the town of Roscommon; Lord Essex was an absentee landlord, who had only once spent a day on his estate; the agent lived in County Meath, and never visited the district but to collect rents, twice a year; witness was not sure whether the tenants had applied to the landlord, but they had applied to the agent for terms of purchase, and since the agent visited the property so rarely there was a difficulty in dealing with the estate, 58188.—Lord Essex had property outside the town of Roscommon, 58189.—And had agricultural, as well as urban, land in Roscommon; the agent had informed the tenants that Lord Essex was willing to sell, 58190.

TENANCIES IN RURAL TOWNS.

The Commissioners should have more power than they had now for the resettlement of land of, and sale to, town tenants where an estate with a town upon it was sold for resettlement, 58190-1.

FICTITIOUS LEASES—THE BALLINTUBBER ESTATE.

An obstacle to the acquiring of untenanted land was the recent creation of leases of grass land; at Ballintubber a farm on the Hughes Estate had been let on the eleven months' systeam for many years, and a few months ago a lease was made to a man named Payne, for which Payne paid either nothing or a small sum, 58191.—The matter was a friendly arrangement between Payne and the owner, 58195.—There was collusion between Payne and the owner, though collusion was a harsh word, 58199, 58200.—Witness did not refer to Payne's taking the lease of Ballintubber as anything exceptional, 58192.—If he had not taken the lease someone else would, 58193.—It was a speculation on his part, 58191, 58197.—There was a difference between a man who in the ordinary course carried on a business by which he made a living and a man who speculated, as in this case, in the sense of gambling, 58198.—The Ballintubber farm was sold to the Commissioners, and Payne received £1,000 as compensation for his lease; this did not diminish the price paid to the landlord, but was simply a present to Payne, 58191.—Witness would not admit that Payne would have a claim for compensation if he had held the farm a long time, 58195. —A man who had a lease for thirty years and had to relinquish it at the end of ten years would have a claim to compensation, if the granting of the lease were a *bona-fide* business transaction, but not if it were a speculation on his part, 58196-7, 58211.—This case had caused much bitterness and trouble in Roscommon, as the people felt that once the lease was granted the land was taken away from them absolutely, while, when it was let on the eleven months' system, they had hope of buying it at some future time, 58200.—Witness was not satisfied simply by compulsory power to acquire land of this kind, but wished leaseholders such as Payne to be turned out without any compensation, 58202-5.—Payne had interest in another farm, on another estate, 58191.—Payne held one farm on the Ballintubber Estate and his brother-in-law the other; between them they had 500 acres of grazing land; all such leases as Payne's should be voided; any such leases obtained since the Act of 1903 should be declared void by legislation, 58201.—The question of the *bona-fides* of a lease would come before the public authority, when the authority possessing compulsory powers proceeded to purchase the land, and took the evidence of the parties as to their interest in the land 58213-4.—It would be sufficient that there should be an instruction under compulsory purchase that in all cases of untenanted land enquiry should be made as to whether the lease were genuine, 58215. —This could be proved by examining the amount of consideration which passed for the leases, 58216.—Witness was not referring to land in towns, but to grazing lands, 58217-8.—In the case of a shopkeeper buying land in a town as a business speculation, the transaction would take place in the ordinary way of business, and would assist the development of towns, whereas the cases to which witness objected might be due to collusion, 58219.—Witness was in favour of applying to grazing lands principles that he would not apply in other classes of business, 58220.—The Act of 1903 prevented advanced on tenancies, created a certain number of years before the passing of the Act (before 1900, as witness believed); the Act had been promised in the King's Speech of 1900, and the landlords, and a certain class of tenants, foreseeing what would happen, created tenancies for some of the grazing farms; the Act also forbade the advance of more than £500, except in the case of small holdings; this was a precedent for the alteration in the land, proposed by witness, 58210.

Cattle-Driving and Agitation.

The first case of cattle-driving in Roscommon was in consequence of the Tonlagee land sale, 58174.—The Ballintubber lease affair also caused much irritation, and the place had been occupied by a large force of police, numbering from 80 to 300, 58200.—For a considerable time the number was 100, 58201.—Many agitators were presecuted and imprisoned, and even that day four women were released from Castlebar Gaol, after a month's imprisonment, in consequence of agitation about this farm, 58201.—The persons punished had not complained; they were well aware that they were breaking the law, but they had learned that, in Ireland, the way to change the law was to break it, 58206.—In the case of the Crichton Estate, also, there had been considerable disorder, not in the case of the people but of the police, who batoned the persons who had been attending a meeting (at which witness was present), and on their way home passed the farm in dispute; the police may have imagined that intimidation was threatened, but, as a matter of fact, no one was on the farm, the owner being miles away in the town from which the people were returning; since that time the place had been occupied by the police; at a meeting attended by witness at Tourmilehouse eighty policemen were present, most of them armed with revolvers and bayonets, 58220.—Witness knew of no case of cattle-driving immediately following such a meeting, 58223.

Leaseholders impeding Sale of Land.

The trouble at Strokestown about the Crichton Estate, was on account of a Strokestown shop-keeper, who had bought a lease of a grazing farm of about 100 acres, on the estate, 58220.—This lease had been bought for a nominal sum from a former tenant, and had only a few years to run, 58220, 58230.—The landlord was willing to sell both tenanted and untenanted lands, but the sale was stopped by this one tenant, 58220, 58225.—Who refused to sell; the people in the district did not wish to do this leaseholder any injustice, and were willing he should be paid for his interest, 58220.—Witness thought that there should be compulsory powers to acquire land of this class, 58220, 58225, 58230.—The name of the shopkeeper was Owens, 58226.—The case could not be dealt with by the Board since it was outside the scheduled area, but was a case for the Estates Commissioners; there was no power under existing law, to deal with minorities, 58228.—The law providing that where three-fourths of the tenants wished to purchase, the one-fourth should be deemed to have purchased would not meet the case, as witness did not wish the tenant to be deemed to have purchased, but to be turned out, 58229-30.—The tenant was nonresident, and his lease had almost expired, 58230.—If the district were scheduled, the Board could buy the estate, and give this tenant notice to quit, 58231-2.—Witness wished for the same power as in congested districts, 58232-3.

Drainage.—The River Suck.

Much of the land could be greatly improved by drainage, many uneconomic holdings could be made economic by drainage, without enlargement; in two electoral divisions of Roscommon which would be benefited by the drainage of several small rivers, which ran into the Shannon; the River Suck, which ran between Roscommon and Galway, and some years previously the drainage had been undertaken by the landlords, and the money was advanced by the Drainage Board; the original estimate was exceeded, 58233.—And a free grant of £50,000, was procured by the Treasury, 58233-4, 58256.—The whole sum expended was £160,000, of which £50,000 was a Treasury grant, £60,000 was borne by the landlords, and £50,000 by the tenants, 58256.—The tenants, who, according to Act of Parliament, were to bear a large share of the expenditure, were not consulted, 58234-5.—But when the Bill referring to the free grant was going through Parliament, after a considerable amount of money had been wasted, the tenants obtained representation on the Drainage Board, 58233, 58235.—When the assessment was made, the tenants were charged with a sum representing the improvements made on their respective holdings, and the balance fell on the riparian owners; the grievance of the tenants was in the allocation of the amount; improvements were, no doubt, effected, but the tenants held that an excessive value was placed upon them; in some instances the assessment on the tenants for improvements exceeded the rent of the land, 58235.—Of the capital expended, about £70,000 was really ineffective, 58256.—Witness suggested that the Commission should recommend that some portion of the cost borne by the tenants should be wiped out, or the time for repayment extended, 58235, 58254.—The time for repayment varied from 20 to 25 years, 58255.—Witness did not know the rate of interest, but could ascertain it, 58256.—The heavy burden of this drainage assessment on the tenants had discouraged other tenants from carrying out necessary drainage works, and impeded the purchase of land, since the landlords had to redeem the amount laid on them, and tenants would not buy, while they had a burden on them, 58235.—The works were of benefit to the district, 58243.—And were now maintained in a state of efficiency, 58244.—The river was kept dredged, and the drains leading into the river to be kept open, 58245.—The work had included deepening the river, 58246.—It was not being deepened now, 58247-8.—The Drainage Board levied and collected the rate for maintenance, 58249-51, 58253.—It had nothing to do with the repayment of the original money, 58252.—This was collected by the Board of Works, 58251, 58253.—Witness did not admit that the Government was not responsible; the Irish Government might be so, 58236.—The landlords had made their estimate from plans prepared by their engineer, which plans were submitted to the Government and the Board of Works, 58237.—Witness did not question the statement that the Government and the Board of Works took no responsibility for the professional accuracy or character of the plans, but merely saw that they were such as might be passed; and they advanced money on certificates of work done; the work was often suspended for years and had to be re-done; the Irish Government had taken no responsibility for the efficiency of the schemes, 58238.—But he imagined the Board of Works submitted their plans to experts or their engineers, 58239.—They were to blame if they advanced public money without taking any responsibility, 58240.—A Board of Work's engineer visited the district, 58241.—If no engineer of the Board visited the place before the plans were sanctioned they were greatly at fault; since the tenants had been consulted and represented there had been very little wasteful expenditure, and this representation had been the price paid for their co-operation in obtaining the free grant; this was a plea for some mitigation of the burden on the tenants, 58242.

The Board, the Commissioners, and the Department of Agriculture.

Witness agreed in general with Mr. T. W. Russell, that the Estates Commissioners should be the sole purchasing authority, and that any estate which required re-settlement should be immediately handed over to the Board, which alone should undertake such work as re-settling it, splitting up grazing farms, and carrying out drainage works; the work of agricultural instruction should be entrusted to the Department, and there should be no clashing of authority between the three bodies, 58257.—The work of the Commissioners would be temporary, as would that of the Board, which would leave as soon as they had re-settled the estates; while the Department would remain as long as the law left them in existence, 58263.—The Board should operate all over Connaught, Donegal, Clare, and Kerry, and the Commissioners should have similar powers with regard to congested districts in other parts of Ireland, 58264.—Outside Connaught the Commissioners would be not only the purchasing but the settling authority, as congested estates elsewhere than in Connaught were more easily dealt with, 58265.—It was a bad place to have public authorities carrying on business in rivalry, 58266, 58275.—Witness knew of no case where loss or inefficient work had resulted from the clashing of the three bodies, 58261.—There was a general spirit of dissatisfaction on account of the rivalry of the bodies, 58262, 58266.—The difficulty would be met by an allocation of areas, 58277, 58280.—But witness also desired to relieve the Board as much as possible from other duties, that they might more thoroughly devote themselves to their own work, 58276. 58281.—Witness did not suggest that the Commissioners had purchased more economically than the Board, as he had no means of forming an opinion, nor did he attach importance to the opinion of those who made the statement, 58267, 58275.—There would be a danger of friction if the Board had to fix annuities on estates purchased by another body, if the Commissioners did not take the same economic interest in their purchases in congested districts as elsewhere, 58282.—The advantages of the plan would more than counterbalance the disadvantages of possible friction between the bodies, 58283.—Though witness would prefer to see the work of the Board limited to improving estates; he would not, if rivalry between the authorities were prevented, lay much stress on the Board discontinuing its purchase as there was a certain disadvantage in the possible delay caused by the Commissioners being unable to purchase everwhere simultaneously, 58284.—The Commissioners, having an up-to-date Departmental organisation, were likely to arrange purchases more rapidly than the Board, which depended practically upon the personal activity of Mr. Doran, and was obliged to delay operations in consequence of the smallness of their staff, 58285-6.—The question was one of staffing, 58287.—And if the staff of the Board were enlarged, it need not be slower than the Commissioners, 58284, 58288, 58289.—Witness could give no instance of delay having been occasioned by the Board, 58292.—If the Board purchased in congested districts, and the Commissioners outside, there would be no tendency to create a double standard of land value, since the standard in congested districts was naturally different from the standard elsewhere, 58290, 58290A.—Though there was much land of the same character as the Connaught land, in other districts, the altered circumstances would affect the price, 58291.

Land Prices under Compulsory Powers.

If compulsion were resorted to, the purchasing body would arrange the machinery by which the compulsory price would be arrived at, 58263.—If the precedent of the Evicted Tenants Bill were followed the right of appeal would be given with the extension of compulsory powers, 58269.—And the judge or body to whom the apeal was made would sooner or later lay down the basis on which the price of land should be estimated, 58270.—But even then it would still be necessary to relieve the Board of the work of purchase, as even under compulsion there would be negotiations, 58271.—Land prices would not be stereotyped, because there was always uncertainty about going to law, 58272.—By the operation of compulsory law in England, numerous cases were arranged without going to court, for the purpose of avoiding the uncertainties of law, 58273.—Though certain principles might become known, as for instance, that good land would produce from the court a higher price than bad land, there was always the case of untenanted land, which had not been in court at all, and a considerable time would elapse before principles were laid down, 58274.

Representation on the Congested Districts Board.

There should be on the Board representatives of the people, either by direct election or by selection by by the County Councils of each county, that the Board might be in touch with the people, and responsible to them, 58257.—And there should be at least one paid member who would have a certain amount of authority, and be responsible between the meetings of the Board, 58257, 58259.—This would follow the precedent of the Board of Commissioners of National Education, 58257.—The meetings of the Board should also be more frequent than once a

month, 58258.—Special meetings of the Board, as occasion arose, would be sufficient, 58259.—Whenever meetings were called for the purpose of dealing with a particular district, they should be held in that district, 58257.

Maintenance of Improvements.

The improvements effected by the Board and Commissioners should, when these bodies no longer existed, be inspected, so that the improvements should be maintained, 58304.—There was no provision for such inspection now, 58304-5.—Occupiers must maintain improvements on their own holdings, so far as they were security to the State; the Board could not remain for ever on the Dillon Estate, 58304.—As a rule the fact that occupiers would obtain the whole benefit of the improvements would be sufficient incentive to their maintenance, 58303.

Migrants and Sons of Tenants.

In the relief of congestion, the bounds of the county ought not to be the limit to the relief of congestion in that county, 58294.—Witness would not obect to migrants from other places being brought to Roscommon, 58295, 58297.—But the people of the county should have the first claim, 58295-7, 58299.—The ratepayers were, as the law stood, responsible for the repayment of purchase annuities, and should have a voice as to the allotment of the land; they might think a young man from their own district more suitable, solvent, and reliable, than a migrant from a distance, 58296, 58298, 58318.—If a grazing farm in Roscommon were cleared and a migrant settled on it who failed the liability would be on the ratepayers; this liability would not disappear if the tenant were a farmer's son, but the presumption was that a farmer's son, prepared to make his way in America, would do better, 58311.—The liability was likely to be less, 58312.—The sons of tenants in Roscommon had a greater claim than migrants from other counties, 58299.—If there were but little margin for migrants after tenants' sons were satisfied, it was still best to prevent these young men emigrating, 58298.—Roscommon men, who were able to work a farm, had a certain claim to land, as descendants of the original occupiers, 38300.—Persons in Kerry and Donegal might be relieved by drainage of holdings and establishment of industries, rather than by migration, 58297.—Some regard must also be paid to the popular feelings in the district if migration and distribution of grass lands were to be effectual; the grass lands of Roscommon were much needed by the people of the district, and migrants could not be forced upon them without danger to the public peace, 58318.—If this was granted the argument that the grass lands were necessary for the relief of distress in the West of Ireland must fall through, for the grass land would be used to provide land for those who had none at all, 58321.—And the demand for the acquisition of these lands had always been put forward as justified by the need for relieving congestion, 58320.—The Commission had been appointed to inquire into methods of relieving congestion, 58319.—If the policy of providing tenants' sons with land would only put off the evil day for another generation, witness still thought that they might relieve the existing state of things without looking so far forward, 58301.—Nor did he admit that his plan would fail to relieve congestion in the West, 58302.—If a migrant failed it was open to tenants' sons to buy his holding, if they had the ready money, 58305.—The land would be put up to auction and the purchaser must pay cash for the tenant's right, 58306.—In the meantime the arrears on the annuity would have been levied upon the local rates, though they were always collected from the occupier, 58306.—And there was some loss and inconvenience, as the ratepayers were not only the guarantors but had to lend the money; for example, they had to pay this year arrears incurred up to the 31st of March last year, and this might be repaid by Government by March next year; in the meantime, the ratepayers were out of pocket, and they were poor men; 60 per cent. of the holdings were under £50 valuation, 58307.—The sum falling on the rates was small, but it would grow with larger operations, 58308.—A year's annuity, if left unpaid by a considerable number of tenants, would be a serious matter

HAYDEN, Mr. JOHN P.—*continued.*

for the county; even before the land was sold the amount due would have been levied off the rates, 58315.—If all, or a considerable number, of the thousands of occupiers failed, the ratepayers would be liable, 58316.—Some might fail one year, and some the year after, and it might not break the ratepayers; they had already a fair share of rates to bear, 58316.—An annuity came on the rates immediately it was overdue; this year £70,000 had been collected, being two years' arrears, and was stopped from the grants in relief of local rates; the arrears so far had been very small, so that Government, till this year, had not troubled to collect them from local ratepayers; next year the ratepayers would be credited with the amount of arrears paid, 58317.—Witness's objection would not cease if the failure of the annuity would not come on the rates until the Government actually failed to sell the holding, 58318.—The difficulty as to migrants was not so great as some persons thought; it was largely imaginary, exaggerated, and to some extent created by the debates on the Commission and elsewhere; the feeling had grown lately; five or six years ago there would have been no objection in Roscommon to importing migrants, 58309-10.

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POË, Lieut.-Colonel WILLIAM HUTCHESON.

GOOD AND BAD LAND—PRICE DIFFERENTLY ESTIMATED.

Witness wished to comment on evidence given at Cookstown and Newry by Canon Quinn and Mr. John Doris, and produced tables showing prices given in the last five years by tenants on the estate of Mr. M. A. Poë, and also cases in which witness had exercised the right of pre-emption; these figures were assessed by the Estates Commissioners, 58322.—Witness thought Canon Quinn's evidence was directed to show that it was unjust that the landlord should ask the same number of years' purchase for bad land as for good; witness held that rent was fixed according to the quality of the land, and that the landlord was entitled to get even for bad land a price which would produce his second-term net rental, 58323.—Witness admitted that the inherent recuperative properties of good land were much greater than those of bad land, 58324.—If two men were selling land, one in Meath, and one in Connemara, both bringing in £100 per annum, it might be fair that the Meath man should be capitalised at a lower rate of interest than the Connemara man, 58324.

HIGH PRICES OF LAND.

Witness gave as an example of pre-emption a bad farm which had much deteriorated; the mortgagee had sold his interest, and the Estates Commissioners fixed the price to be given by witness at twenty-five years' purchase, 58324.—In another case witness paid forty-four years' purchase for a small holding, of which the rent was £2 per annum, 58324.—This was not a town-park or accommodation park; witness had during the past five years paid 25, 35, 42, 43, 44, 63, and 72½ years' purchase for holdings, 58325.—One was a farm of which the valuation was £4, and the second judicial rent £2 8*s*., which witness bought in 1900 at 44 years' purchase; in another the valuation was £10 10*s*., and the rent £8 10*s*., second term, and witness, in 1905, had to pay twenty-six years' purchase; in this case forty acres were arable, but had greatly deteriorated, 58332.—In this property the rents were collected without any trouble, 58325.—The arrears had been £1,600, and they were reduced without any trouble to £400; in such a case the landlord, as his rental was secure, was entitled to a sum, which, invested in ordinary securities, would bring in his rental, 58328.—To ask 24½ years' purchase was not exorbitant when one considered the high prices the tenants were willing to give, 58325.—The purchasers were not returned Americans, but the man who bought at the greatest number of years' purchase had had a large sum of money sent from America, 58326.—In estimating the capital sum to be received by the landlord you must be guided, not only by the judicial rent of the holding, but the price one tenant was willing to pay to another, which represented the true market value, 58329.—The security for the State would be the inherent agricultural value of the land, but the market value in open market was the real criterion of value, 58328.—To a certain extent the price must be influenced by considering whether the rent was well or badly paid, 58330.—The market for slum holdings might collapse; if industries made progress, and the poor had other resources than agriculture, 58329.—In the case of the twenty-six years' purchase, taking the landlord's interest at 24½ years, the interest of the occupier was shown to be greater than that of the owner, 58333.—A dual interest existed in untenanted land, as the owner was both owner and occupier, 58335.—The dual interest of landlord as owner and occupier illustrated the value of grazing land, 58334.—In the case witness had in mind, he had bought out the tenants' interest, so that the interest became one, 58336-7.—So it could not be deduced that where there had never been a tenant there was a tenant's interest, 58338.

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See also p. 235.

SELECTION OF MIGRANTS AND ALLOCATION OF LANDS, &C.

Witness wished that representatives of the county should have a voice in the selection of migrants, since the success of the scheme would depend on the kind of tenant selected for the new holdings, 58339.—There should be a nominated or elected representative from the county on the body responsible for selection, 58340.—It should be their business to inquire about the character of migrants, 58341-3.—Evidence should be taken from the holdings from which it was proposed to migrate them, 58339.—The representative would make an inquisitorial investigation into each holding from which migration was proposed, 58344.—He should not be solely responsible for the selection of migrants, but should share the responsibility with the Congested Districts Board, 58339, 58345.—If migrants were approved they should be brought into Roscommon after the needs of the county were settled, 58346.—There was a difference of opinion as to whether a member of the Board would be more likely to recommend a policy for the relief of congestion which offended local prejudices than one who was not a member of the Board, 58347.—He might, but outside the Board his influence might be equally great, 58349.—Witness would not go into the question of his own attitude if nominated, 58350.—He thought one of the duties of the representative would be to see that resources in Mayo were exhausted before migrants from thence were introduced to Roscommon; otherwise the introduction of migrants would be resented, 58348.—The balance of the grass land available in Roscommon after relieving the local congestion might be held over till it were ascertained whether it were required by congests from other counties, and not claimed by farmers' sons till the matter were settled, 58351.—The entire problem of Roscommon should first be dealt with, for there were thousands of holdings in the county under £5 valuation, 58352.—The holdings on the estate purchased should first be dealt with, 58352.—Then uneconomic holdings outside the estate 58353.—Whether scheduled or not, 58354.—And if land were left over would hold it, and not earmark it for migrants, 58355, 58357.—There were parts of Roscommon to which migrants would be unwilling to go, 58356.—The Board and Commissioners should have powers to make additions to holdings in close proximity to untenanted lands, even when the valuation exceeded £10, or sometimes where it was over £14; he knew many cases where the area did not exceed sixteen statute acres at these valuations; all congested townlands should be similarly treated where they had been sold to tenants, no matter under what conditions they had been purchased, 58358.—It would not be advisable only to buy grass lands for specific cases of congestion already decided upon, 58359.—All should be purchased which was obtainable at a reasonable price, 58360, 58365.—The land the Board had now on its hands was useful for accommodating the cattle of congests, and supplying them with cheap hay, 58360.—The settlement of Roscommon, however fast it was proceeded with, would take five years, 58366.—If the loss on the flotation of stock necessary to buy £5,000,000 worth of grass lands in Roscommon would be very great; it might be sufficient to put a pre-emption clause in future legislation, securing the land to the people, 58361.—By this he meant that land should not be sold except through the public bodies appointed for the purchase of lands, 58363.

The Board as Purchasers.

Witness disagreed with Mr. Hayden as to the body appointed to purchase, and would give the Congested Districts Board the purchasing of lands with which they must afterwards deal, as this would be likely to work better; the Board would deal with Connaught and other congested counties, and would not class with the Commissioners dealing with other classes of estates, 58363.

Evidence of The O'Conor Don.

Witness differed from parts of the O'Conor Don's evidence, for though there was no doubt that the O'Conor Don's father was a kind and indulgent landlord, he should, if he wished to consider his tenants, have sold his Clonallen Estate to the Board, for now nothing had been done for the tenants, except four, who had been migrated, 58367.—The O'Conor Don had said that congests were not anxious to migrate, 58367-8.—But in this case they were prevented from migration by the offer of land in insufficient quantity, and at too high an annuity; the Commissioners had told them they would get cheaper land if they waited, and they now occupied land on the Balfe estate, thirty per cent. cheaper than those obtainable on the Ballinger Estate; if the tenants had taken what was first offered they would have had small additional patches far from the road, and two miles from their homes, only suitable from their position for grazing or meadow, 58368.—The O'Conor Don had also stated that the disappearance of the grazier would be a misfortune, but the grass lands were deteriorating, not producing thirty per cent. of what they did thirty or forty years ago; a man with twenty acres of good land could manage it better than graziers could; some of the new tenants, migrants, had supplied Castlerea butchers with beef; one of these men migrated from The O'Conor Don's Estate; it would be an advantage if (as The O'Conor Don stated) the market for hay would disappear with the grazier, since when the hay went to a good price the farmer did not as a rule take it to market, but gave it back to the land; witness agreed with the evidence of Father Kelly at Ballinasloe, 58368.

Water Supply and Fuel.

Witness did not think it an insurmountable difficulty to supply new holdings with water, 58369.—Where there was only one well or river, as on the Irwin Estate or the Balfe Estate, the Commissioners arranged for all the tenants to have a pass to the same water place; the question of fuel was urgent, since the Board had houses ready for migrants, which must be supplied with fuel; the sooner a shortened route was made to the Arigna coal mine the better; the compressed peat fuel industry should also be encouraged, 58370.—Both peat and coal must be provided, 58371.—Bogs were closer to Roscommon than coal mines, 58371.—Carriage on peat was greater than on coal, 58372.—It would be the cheapest fuel in a grass country, and people were more accustomed to it; migrants would prefer peat, 58373.—Witness had heard that the price of peat and coal would be the same if access to the Arigna coal mines were easier; witness agreed with Mr. Hayden as to the drainage question, 58374.

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WILLS, Mr. E. W. SANDFORD.

Distribution of Grass Lands.—Objections.

Witness gave evidence on behalf of landlords; he resided in a congested district, and believed that the distribution of grass lands should be proceeded with with caution, 58375.—The people of his district were unwilling to migrate, though they were anxious that their neighbours should do so, 58375, 58380-1.—He could not say whether they would go in colonies, 58380.—They emigrated without compulsion because they had friends on the other side, 58382.—A man who had 14 acres of land in witness's neighbourhood had said he would not change it for forty of the best land elsewhere, 58375.—If he had had only 5 acres it might have been a different matter, 58375-6.—If the grass lands were cut up there would be little increase of tillage, as they were unsuited for this purpose, badly supplied with water, and a long way from turf; even where the best crops were now grown the tendency was to till less and less, 58375.—Migrants would not resort to tillage where the land was hard to work; in a townland in the vicinity of Castlerea, divided into 20-acre holdings, eighteen months ago, there was practically no tillage, but all grass, 58377.—This was not due to want of labour, but to the fact that it was more profitable and less toilsome to rear cattle, 58378.—Grass lands were not deteriorating at all events in the heart of Galway, 58379-80.—The tendency to till less was shown by the decline of Castlerea market, where less than half as much produce was sold than 25 years ago, 58375.—If the land were divided it would lead to continual meadowing and an increase in production of store stock; an increase in the production of calves and a diminished market for store stock of 1½ and 2 years old; the market for cattle would be restricted and the supply increased, which would seriously injure the small farmers, 58375.—The cattle trade was the mainstay of the country, and was conducted on lines shown by experience to be the best, and not to be inconsiderately distributed, 58376.

The Congested Districts Board.

Everything possible should be done to improve the state of the small farmer; the Congested Districts Board had assisted the farmers to improve their stock by providing good sires (bulls, horses, asses, boars, rams and goats); there was a depot for them at one time at Loughglynn; witness would regret it if the Board were disestablished and its work transferred to another department; much good work had been done and was still carried on by the Parish Committees under the Board; in his parish the grants in aid of building had led to great improvements; more might be done if the Board could grant funds to the Parish Committees for drainage purposes; though the people benefited should be compelled to maintain the drains in order, or the improvement would be only temporary, 58377.

CONCANNON, Mr. MARTIN.

Congestion in Ballintubber.

Witness was nominated by the Castlerea District Council, and the parish of Ballintubber, in which he lived, 58384.—This parish was congested; thirty-six

CONCANNON, Mr. MARTIN—*continued.*

families, numbering 136 persons, were living on 86 acres of bogland, and twelve other families were living on 50 acres of a by-road like tenants of a town-block, and holding their land in common; they had been repeatedly summoned on account of the way in which they lived, 58383.—It was not scheduled though very much congested, 58383, 58385-6.—Because it was contiguous to large grazing ranches, 58386.

HOLDING OF WITNESS.

Witness was a small farmer, 58387.—Holding, 15½ acres, of a valuation of £14 10*s.*; of this, 3½ acres were arable land and 11 acres bogland, which would not grow anything, 58390.—He would rather have 16½ acres of the worst possible clay land than all his bogland, for even when the farmer was successful the produce of bogland was worth little, 58391.—In the last 13 years witness had spent £47 15*s.* for grass manures; he used formerly to have meadow land at poor house and to go to three conacre fields, 58388.—He did not break up his other fields, because then he would have had nothing with which to feed his cow and calf in winter; bog-hay was not good for animals, though it kept them alive, 58389.—If witness had 30 acres of good land he would require capital with which to work it, 58390.—He would enclose four acres for tillage, 58390-1.—And about the same quantity for meadow, and would pasture the rest; he had a conviction that Irish farmers could not live without tillage, but the land they had to till was bad, 58391.

COTTON, Mr. COX.

AGREEMENTS FORBIDDING TILLAGE.

Grazing was prevalent in Roscommon because in most leases and agreements between landlord and tenant penal clauses prevented the occupiers from building or converting into tillage; grazing was looked on as a legitimate business, and laws were enacted to make agreements between landlord and tenant binding, 58392.—Witness was bound by one of his agreements not to till more than 10 acres where he resided, 58393.—The clause against building was also intended to discourage tillage, 58395.—Witness had an agreement made with his father in 1858, preventing more than four acres being tilled; this amount was allowed for a herd's garden, 58396.—There were 252 Irish acres on the farm, 58397.—The landlords were afraid the rich pasture lands should be broken up, as they were more valuable under grass, 58394.—Acts of Parliament made these agreements binding, and when the agreements were broken the penal clauses were frequently enforced, 58398.—If it had not been for these agreements many farms would have been tilled and houses built, 58392.

LANDS UNFIT FOR TILLAGE.

Much of the land in Roscommon was deep, cold clay, deep in growth and unsuitable for tillage, similar land in England had been found unsuitable for tillage, 58398.—In Leicestershire and other counties where there was deep clay, witness could not locate it, but knew it for a fact, 58399-402.—In the district to which witness referred there was bad water and no bog, the potatoes grown were almost unfit for food, and witness had seen green oats nearly at Christmas time, 58402.—This was not between Athlone and Roscommon, but the road leading from Castlerea past the cross roads, three miles from the town and past Rathmoyne to Rathcroghan; the Board had acquired a good deal of land in the neighbourhood; the district of which witness spoke was bounded on the west and north by the road from Rathcroghan, through Tulsk, to Cloonaquin; the few occupiers only grow small patches of crops, finding it uneconomic to do more, 58404, 58406.—The land was between three miles of Castlerea, 58403.—The ripe oats the Commissioners had seen would be between Athlone and Roscommon; the best district in Roscommon for ripening crops, 58403.

COTTON, Mr. COX—*continued.*

HOLDING OF WITNESS.

Witness was a grazier on a fairly large scale, holding between 400 and 500 Irish acres, 58413-4.—He had not a single acre on the 11 months' system, 58415-6.—But held some under a judicial lease, 58415, 58417.—And had purchased 130 statute acres 17½ years ago under the Ashbourne Act, 58415, 58417.—He had also arranged to purchase the land where he resided, 58415, 58417.—He was, as the land stood, pretty safe himself, 58421.—The farm 7 miles away was non-residential, 58421.

LAND HELD WITHOUT FORMAL LEASE.

On some estates leases were not given, but there was an understanding that as long as a tenant paid his rent he was left in possession, 58406, 58438, 58439.—Some families had been in possession for forty years on this understanding, and if it had been in the North of Ireland they would come under "Ulster Custom"; when these estates were bought by the Board or Commissioners the occupiers had to go without compensation, which sometimes meant ruin to them; for an example, John L. Cotton, of Longford House, Castlerea, had held a farm on the Pollock Estate for 38 years, and since the expiration of his lease had been a yearly tenant; the agent of the estate had given him notice to quit, as the Commissioners wanted the land; there was no mention of compensation, 58406.—The tenant had made no claim on the Commissioners, but witness thought it was due to him to obtain compensation, 58408, 58411.—The agreement was not a parole agreement, the lease had been for 21 years, and the land had been held from year to year for 18 years after this, 58409.—The landlord had no thought of evicting Cotton if he had not sold the land, 58410.—The mortgagees were the landlords and had given notice, stating that in the event of their not selling the land they should be glad for him to continue, 58142, 58433.

COMPENSATION FOR DISTURBANCE.

In many cases men who had held land during their lives had been induced by reduction of rent to sign agreements which made them 11 months' men, 58422.—Witness thought men whose leases had expired and who had since been yearly tenants and those who held their land by honourable agreements and had become 11 months' men, should get compensation for disturbance and be allowed to buy a portion of the land; the landlord was allowed to buy some of his estate; the agent was paid commission, and the herd got a portion of the land, but the grazier got nothing; it had been the practice of the Government to compensate, they had paid £20,000,000 to slave-owners in the West Indies, and if it were advisable to divide grazing lands the State should compensate the occupier, bearing in mind when fixing the amount that there was no open market for the sale of land since the Act of 1903; if compensation were given it would tend to maintain peace in the country, and more land would be available without compulsion, 58422.—The Small Holdings Allotment Act of 1907 stated that when a labourer had been regularly employed on any land acquired by the County Council for small holdings and proved that he was deprived of employment and could obtain no equally suitable work in the locality, the Council might compensate him, this, witness thought, was a precedent for compensating the occupier, 58432.—The landlord should not pay compensation, as it was for the benefit of the community, it should be paid by the State, 58434.—There was a kind of compulsion, because the Commissioners might refuse to buy the estate unless they got the grazing land, 58436.—Not even the United Irish League would say the grazier should be refused compensation, they did not think a man should be sent to the workhouse, 58436.—The incoming tenant should not lose, 58434, 58437.—There should be a Treasury grant, 58437.—If the landlord should pay compensation it would be reasonable that the total amount paid by the tenants in their purchase prices should be increased, 58438.—Witness had no doubt some landlords objected to sell, because they thereby would injure tenants with whom they had an honourable understanding, 58439.

MIGRATION.

Migrants should not be introduced into Roscommon until local needs were satisfied; each county should relieve its own congestion; there was more grazing land in Mayo and Galway than in Roscommon, it was more suitable for tillage, and fuel was more abundant, while in Roscommon migrants would have no chance of getting turf; witness believed that Mr. Doran must have been carried away by enthusiasm when he recommended migration on so large a scale; witness had compared the crops in Roscommon with those in Mayo when, in 1891, he was sent by the Land Commission to report on the potato crops of both counties, and was struck with the yield of all kinds of crops in Mayo compared to Roscommon, 58423.

GRAZIERS AND THE CATTLE TRADE.

The quantity of land which would be given to tenants if the grazing lands were distributed would not be sufficient to enable them to hold their young cattle for beef in the English or Scotch markets; it took from four to five statute acres to feed a sum of cattle summer and winter, so that unless food were bought the tenant could not keep up the succession; it was possible that the occupier might have to part with some of his stock to meet his engagements; if no graziers remained to buy the young stock it would be impossible for the tenant to support his family and pay his instalments, and even more so if Canadian stores were admitted; the graziers and small holders had been a mutual benefit to each other in the cattle trade; any change in the grazing farms would tend to the extinction of the high-priced Roscommon rams which had been placed by graziers at the disposal of small holders, free of charge; horse-breeding would also be checked, and hunters and army remounts become very scarce, as it would not pay a farmer to breed foals when there was no grazier to buy them, and young horses needed a wide run; the graziers had been accustomed to buy foals at from £12 to £20; in all these ways the grazier had been useful to the community, 58423.—When the country was more populous the prices of cattle were much lower; witness had among his father's papers a fair book dated May, 1850, giving the prices of cattle at the fair at Strokestown in that year, 58422-3.—Among the cattle bought at Strokestown for the farm of Carnagat were 25 two-year-old heifers at £4 each; one three-year-old, £5; yearlings, £1 7*s*., £1 3*s*. and £1 10*s*. to £1; the highest price for yearlings seemed to be £2, and the lowest, £1; according to this record thirty-eight beasts were bought for £121 6*s*. 6*d*.; at the fair at Frenchpark, which was a more congested district, fifteen yearling bullocks, the highest price paid being £1 2*s*. 6*d*., two were bought for 17*s*. 6*d*. each, and the whole fifteen for £19 16*s*., 58423.—No two-year olds were bought at Frenchpark, the highest price was £5 for a three-year-old heifer, 58424.—Witness was statistician for the Agricultural Department and had all the statistics for cattle prices this year in this district; the price of two-year-old heifers at Strokestown would now be £11, 58425.—The prices in May were from £12 10*s*. to £10 and £9 10*s*., and the average about £11, 58426.—The statistics had been collected by Government for the last twenty years, 58424, 58426.—Witness was born in 1844 and had been early acquainted with the grazing trade; his father had told him that calves were sold when newborn; they were sold at prices from 5*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*.; the population was then very large; the price of stock rose by degrees, 58427.—The rent of the farm on which these cattle were fed was then 28*s*. per Irish acre, 58428.—It was now 32*s*. per Irish acre, 58439.—This was an exceptional case, as his father had had the farm in 1858, when things began to rise, and the landlord (to whom he gave £500) gave him a long lease for a slight rise, 58429.—The farm had for a good part of the time at £3 or more, 58430.—Rents had fallen in 1878; in seven or eight years the rents of these lands fell from enormous prices to nearly half, and since 1882 or 1883 had been fairly steady, 58431.—There had been a rise in rent proportionate to the rise in stock, 58430.—And the graziers had not made large fortunes in consequence of land increasing 50 per cent. while stock prices rose 300 or 400 per cent., because the price of store cattle went up in proportion; sometime ago witness had gone over fifteen years of the statistics in the witness box and had shown Judge Fitzgerald that year-old cattle were a good deal out of proportion to two-year-old cattle now, 58432.

WEBB, Mr. PATRICK.

ALLEGED COMPETITION BETWEEN BOARD AND COMMISSIONERS.

Witness lived at Loughglynn, and thought that competition between the Board and Commissioners should be abolished; he had had experience of estates where both Board and Commissioners had approached men of influence to have estates transferred to themselves, 58440-1, 58443.—They wished County Councillors and other persons of influence to sanction them as purchasers, 58441-2.—This competition raised prices, particularly on the De Freyne Estate, 58442, 58449.—Witness and others were asked to memorialise the Board, 58444-5.—In a case where the Board wished to buy, an official of the Board approached witness to induce him to influence the tenants to memorialise the Board, 58446, 58468.—And an official of the Estates Commissioners also approached witness, 58447-8, 58461.—Both were referring to the Murphy Estate and to the De Freyne Estate, 58449-50.—The person was not an Estates Commissioner, but one of their representatives, 58451.—Witness would not give the name, 58452.—But if the Commission would guarantee it should not injure the official he would do so, 58457, 58459.—The man in question was still a prominent official under the Board, 58460.—It was not Mr. Doran, 58458, 58469.—The man came to Loughglynn to witness's own house, 58470.—He did not say he had been deputed by the Board to consult witness with regard to the sale of the De Freyne Estate, 58471.—He said the Board was anxious to purchase the estate, and knew the Commissioners were also anxious, and if witness could induce the tenants to sanction the Board it would place him in a very responsible position, 58472.—This was three months previous to the announcement of the sale, 58463, 58473.—It was not the same person who asked for both, 58474.—The representative of the Board and of the Commissioners approached witness simultaneously, 58466.—But not on the same day, 58467.—They knew that Lord de Freyne had made witness an offer of a reduction of 7*s*. in the £ on first, and 5*s*. in the £ on second-term, rents on behalf of the tenants, 58467.—Witness was then a County Councillor and a District Councillor, and one of the foremost men in the agitation, 58464.—Witness had replied that he would not interfere, 58465.—It might be that the person who approached witness had no influence with either Board or Commissioners, 58477.—He advocated persuading the tenants to sanction the Board on account of its great improvements on the Dillon Estate, 58478.—Witness was not labouring under a misapprehension, 58456, 58462.—It was on these grounds he wished to have only one or other of those bodies, 58462, 58475, 58478.—Witness would not be surprised to hear that Lord de Freyne and Mr. Murphy both proposed to Sir Antony MacDonnell to purchase their estates, 58453, 58468.—Sir A. MacDonnell never wrote witness a line on the matter, 58454-5.—With such a keen market for land the prices should be good, 58476.

SUGGESTED DUTIES OF BOARD AND COMMISSIONERS—FAVOURITISM OF THE BOARD.

Witness wished the Commissioners to be the purchasing body, and approved their fixing the rents and apportioning the lands, leaving the Board to carry out improvements, 58478.—The Commissioners might restripe the land, 58479.—Witness made these distinctions because he thought the Board showed favouritism, 58480-6.—On the Dillon Estate large holders had received land, while tenants with one to three acres had not been enlarged, 58480.—In the village of Aughalower Mrs. Creighton, who held sixteen acres of the best land, got, in addition, six or seven acres, 58487-8.—While Peter Gilligan, Michael Brady, Thomas Fitzpatrick, and Francis Duigenan, who held only one acre of arable land and one acre of bog were overlooked altogether, 58489, 58488, WEBB, Mr. PATRICK—*continued.*

58490.—Duigenan got a holding, 58491.—He did not hand it over to witness, 58492, 58493-4.—One of the officials of the Board had also received twenty acres of land, and a mansion formerly used as a police barrack, 58495.—This was Mr. O'Connor; the land he was said to have given the Board in exchange was a plot he grabbed in Loughglynn at the eviction of Mr. Hussey, 58496.—A new police barrack was being built in Loughglynn at a cost of £1,000 to £1,200, 58494.—The old barrack could accommodate twelve or thirteen policemen, 58495.—If witness had not brought this before the Commission he would have taken it to the House of Commons, 58497.—The witness had been sent to express this, the opinion of the district, 58498.—The witness showed the authority of 1,400 persons when he won the game question for the tenants on the Dillon Estates; he hoped the game would be vested in the tenants, 58501.—He gave his word that he had authority from the tenants to make the above changes, 58502-3.

GRIEVANCE OF WITNESS.

Witness had holdings on the De Freyne Estate and the Dillon Estate, and for the first year, 1902, he got the reduction of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound like all the tenants, 58503, 58525.—Four widow women who thought they had been badly treated by the Board, complained to witness, and he wrote to Mr. Doran, who replied that the Board could manage matters without his interference, 58503.—The women were Mrs. Duigenan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Moore, and another Mrs. Rush, since dead; witness wrote to Mr. Wyndham, with the result that the widows got their land, 58504.—And after that he was refused the reduction which all the other tenants had, 58504.—Everyone on the estate had the reduction, 58525.—The Board explained that owing to his attitude towards Mr. Doran they could not see their way to interfere, 58506.—Witness then refused to pay, 58507.—And was served with six processes of ejectment, and decreed for the whole amount, 58507, 58549.—Mr. Doran then said witness had refused to sign his purchase agreement, but he had signed it, and lost it; he signed a document, but the assignment was cancelled, and witness was processed for the old rent, 58507.—He was made pay the full rent with costs, because he had asked for justice for the widows, 58549.—Witness had written to the Board on two occasions, and had offered Mr. O'Connor a signed cheque to fill in for the rent, minus the deductions, 58507, 58508.—This had been done at the suggestion of the Judge last October, that if he paid up he would get his purchase agreement, 58549.—Consequently he had gone to Dublin, and offered the cheque to the Board's Solicitor, who had promised to lay the matter before the Board, but had subsequently returned the cheque to witness, and had him served with six processes of ejectment and a writ, 58508, 58549.—And refused his purchase agreement, 58549.—Witness was not to appear on October 5th, 58520.—He was with the Board on Friday, and left a cheque with Mr. O'Connor on certain conditions, and had a wire yesterday cashing the cheque for the full rent, 58515, 58522-4.—He only paid the rent when the writ was issued, 58517-8.—He would not have paid if he had not been forced by receiving a notice to quit another holding, and also a writ, 58526.—This was only a move in the game, but it ought to be exposed, 58526-7.—Witness had originally offered a cheque for the rent minus the reductions, 58511-2.—He was entitled to reductions, 58519.—Witness did not think Mr. Doran would have gone to such lengths if he had not been prompted by others, 58559.—He was now paying the old rent (Lord Dillon's rent) to the Board, 58545-6.—He could not redeem his holdings, as the Board refused to put his purchase agreement before him, 58547.—He had paid his rent in full for the De Freyne Estate holding two months ago, 58508.—Witness had nine or ten holdings, 58250, 58529.—He had had one holding on the Dillon Estate and one on the De Freyne Estate, 58528.—He had held them all himself; when his wife was ill he had taken in a brother from Manchester, but as the Board refused to accept him for a tenant, he returned to Manchester, and witness took the holding again, 58530.—Witness had purchased the holdings from occupying tenants in open market, and built the houses himself; he had built four houses in Loughglynn, 58531.—He was a farmer and cattle-dealer, 58532.—And a shopkeeper with a licence, 58533-4.—He did not lend money, but people sometimes owed him money for shop goods, 58535-6.—None of the holdings which came into his possession had anything to do with his shop debts, 58538.—He had opened a shop only lately, 58537.—That was about eight years ago, 58539.—And had had all the holdings but one for twenty-three years, 58540-1.—He had had a portion of this for thirty years, and the rest for five or six years, 58542.—The persons who had formerly occupied the holdings had died, and the relatives had sold the holdings; a man named Mangan had held some, and the parish priest had had one, 58543.—It was a usual thing for persons to sell holdings in this way; witness would sell them now if he got a fair price for them, 58544.—Witness farmed his seven holdings himself, 58550-1.—He had two or three tenants in the cottages on the holdings, 58552.—They had a good house and garden for 2*s.* a week, 58553.—Witness had thirteen or fourteen men working summer and winter, and paid them 12*s.* 6*d.* and 9*s.* a week and support, 58554.—They were ordinary labourers, weekly tenants, who could be turned out at a moment's notice, 58555, 58557-8.—Witness had offered to sell his houses to these tenants, and had signed agreements to be sent to the Board; one holding was enough for witness, and he was prepared to sell even his lands on the De Freyne Estate to the Board if he could get what he gave for them, 58558.—He was not a landlord, 58558A.—He had signed agreements, and would leave the valuation to the Board or even to Mr. Doran, 58559.

DIVISION OF GRASS LANDS—MIGRANTS, &c.

Witness did not think the cattle trade would suffer if the better lands in Galway were divided; it would rather be an improvement; witness did not agree with Mr. Fitzgibbon as to earmarking the land after certain persons were supplied; he thought they should not be too particular in selecting tenants, as this would put off the final settlement indefinitely; the small farmers were the best farmers witness knew, and he thought an agricultural tenant who was suited to farming and understood agriculture should have a holding whatever part of Ireland he came from, 58559.—Congests should have the preference before the sons of tenants, 58560-1.

THE DILLON ESTATE.

There was more enterprise and activity on the Dillon Estate than there used to be, 58563.—Before the estate was dealt with there was hardly a bag of oats to be bought in Loughglynn, and now the farms all had two to four acres of tillage, and thousands of barrels of oats came in to Loughglynn, many of which were bought by witness; and persons who used to fatten one or two pigs reared six or seven, 58561-2.—There was now a good pig fair in Loughglynn on the last Thursday in every month, 58563.—Witness was of opinion (barring the difficulties which he personally had with the Board) that its action in the Dillon Estate had been successful, 58564, 58565.—Though there were some tenants overlooked, 58564.—The people on the estate owed witness only a few shillings or a pound as a rule, 58566.—He had not had four processes since he kept a shop, 58566.—If they bought a bag of flour they might pay next week, or not for five years; witness gave them a pass-book, 58567.—He made up for lying out of his money, because the people generally dealt with him; he charged no interest, as his books would show, 58568.—The people were getting to be good payers since they got an enlargement of holdings from the Board; before that they were not so good; as a rule the shop-keepers in Castlerea and Ballaghadereen bore with the tenants, and did not press them for money while they were stocking the land or making improvements, and now they were trying to pay off what they had owed for four, five, or six years; witness thought there was a general improvement, 58569.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY.

See also pp. 1, 410, 495, *and* 623.

MR. WEBB'S ALLEGATIONS AS TO COMPETITION BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness had heard Mr. Webb's evidence, and had made notes on the points he mentioned, 58570-1.—

He did not think it necessary to go into the question first touched on, since Mr. Webb did not allege that he had been approached by any member of the Board or Commissioners, or by Sir A. MacDonnell, but by a subordinate, who exceeded his duty; witness himself had never spoken to Mr. Webb about any estate, 58572.

Alleged Favouritism of the Board.

Mr. Creighton, of Aughalower, was a rival cattle dealer, which accounted for Mr. Webb's mention of him; his case was in the 13th Report of the Board, at page 182, on which there was a list of all migrants up to date, with particulars of their old and new holdings, 58573.—Mr. Creighton had a holding of twenty-five statute acres, with a rent of £10 17*s.* 7*d.*, 58576.—Mr. Webb's figure of £16 was inaccurate, 58574-5.—It was necessary to alter his holding for the purpose of re-arranging boundaries, 58576-8.—And the Board enlarged his holding to the extent of £15 12*s.*, 58576.—The Board did not think the £10 holding was sufficient for a man of his kind, 58577.—He was one of the most respectable, hardworking men in Castlerea or Loughglynn, 58576.—The holding was enlarged partly on account of the boundaries, and partly on account of Crighton's character, 58578.—The other holdings were enlarged, but not to the same extent; they were £3, £4, and £5, and were brought up to £10 and £12; in the case of the four tenants at Loughglynn who had no land, Gilligan had refused to take the land offered him, but the Board still had land held over for him; his reason for refusal was that he occupied on his brother's holding, a mile from the village, a small portion of reclaimed bog which he had had for a number of years; he and his brother were on bad terms, and before the Board sold the holding to the brother they insisted on this Peter Gilligan giving up his portion of the holding, and the brother paying him £10 compensation; this the brother promised, but Gilligan refused to give possession, and the Board had to proceed against Peter Gilligan, and put him out by legal means, after which he refused the land offered him; Thomas Fitzpatrick was an old man of over eighty, partly blind and deaf; he had never been a landholder, but a blacksmith by trade; he had been living in a wretched cabin, and the Board built him a house, but gave him no land; no member of his family lived with him except his wife, who was between 70 and 80; Francis Duigenan was given a piece of land, but after a month or two witness found Mr. Webb's cattle on the place, and was told by Duigenan that he had arranged to hand over the land to Mr. Webb; as the land was wanted for other people the land was taken from Duigenan and given to another person; it was Mr. Webb who had prevented Duigenan having land; the fourth man, Michael Brady, was not a regular tenant, but a postman at Loughglynn; his claim was not so strong as that of several others, and he was not provided with land; the Board still had a small portion of land, and if Gilligan would not take it, it could be given to Brady, 58580.—Witness could not recognise the case of the widows, but every person in the townland of Ballyglass who was able to manage land had an enlargement; there were two old women who had no help who might be the persons referred to, 58580.—There was no person in Ballyglass with a family who did not get an enlargement; Fitzpatrick's son lived in London, and was a man with one leg, 58580.

Loughglynn Police Barrack.

Mr. Webb had complained that a police barrack was being built at Loughglynn, while a substantial house formerly used for this purpose was to be given to an official of the Board; this official, Thomas O'Connor, had been clerk to Lord Dillon for 22 years; he was living in a small house in Loughglynn village; when the Board took the estate they took O'Connor on as rent-office clerk, as he was familiar with the tenants, and they had employed him in different capacities ever since then; before disposing of the demesne of the Dillon Estate the Board looked into his case, and decided to give him the building which was used as a police barrack; at this time the building had been unoccupied for three or four years, since the police were living in a house owned by Mr. Webb on the De Freyne Estate; the house was given to O'Connor in consideration of his long service, and in exchange for the house in which he lived, which was a mile outside the village; everyone would admit that this was the best thing for the Board to do, 58580.—O'Connor was charged an annuity for it, to be sold at a price agreed on, 58581.—The police at this time had notified the Board that they would not resume the house for a police barrack, since it was too far from the village, and it was desirable to have the police near the publichouses (of which Mr. Patrick Webb's was the principal one), since there was no police trouble except in reference to drunkenness; there was to be no barrack unless the Board would build one in the village; the Board negotiated with the Constabulary, and agreed to build a house on an approved plan on the Constabulary agreeing to take the house for thirty or forty years at an agreed rent; the rent was agreed on, and the plan approved before the Board began to build, and Mr. Webb could not fix any responsibility upon witness, since everything was done under a minute of the Board, 58581.

Mr. Webb's Grievance.

With regard to Mr. Webb's grievance that he was persecuted, and not allowed to buy his holding, the holding alluded to could not be sold to Mr. Patrick Webb, as he was not the holder, and this had been explained to him more than once; in October, 1903, without the knowledge of the Board Mr. Webb has assigned to his brother, James Webb, of Manchester, the principal part of his holdings in Loughglynn; under an agreement sent to the Board's solicitors by Messrs. Field and Cunningham, solicitors, of Manchester, six out of the eleven holdings of Patrick Webb, were assigned to James, 58581-2.—Quite lately Mr. Webb had got rid of two holdings, 58582.—The six assigned to James Webb were the most valuable, including the publichouse, where he still carried on business under the name of Patrick Webb, and valuable agricultural holdings in the adjoining village; the Board was unaware for a considerable time that the assignment had been made, but when the bankers required the approval of the Board to the assignment the Board declined, hearing that the object of the assignment was to avoid paying debts; since no action was taken, the assignment became valid, and then Mr. Webb refused to pay his rent; he and his brother had refused to pay rent for three years, and the Board had had to serve writs or to process them each year; witness had a file to show this, 58382.—Mr. Webb said he did not pay his rent because he did not get the reduction which was given to the other tenants; the reduction was only given, pending the fixing of the purchase price of their holdings, and the price of Mr. Webb's holding was fixed at the same time as that of the adjoining tenants; he applied to come and sign his agreement, but did not do so, and about this time assigned his holding to his brother; the Board were willing to sell to him, but he did not sign the agreement or pay his rent, and was sued for rent at Quarter Sessions; when after that he applied to sign his agreement the Board had heard of the assignment to his brother, and could not allow him to sign; when the brother asked to sign he was refused, because he was in Manchester, and not in possession of the holding; thereupon James Webb left his business in Manchester, and went into possession of the publichouse at Loughglynn, and of all that Patrick Webb seemed to own in the neighbourhood; witness told James he could sign his purchase agreement when he had paid the interest he owed, but the brothers then quarrelled, and James returned to Manchester; the Board did not know which was the owner of the land and publichouse; their solicitor did not know who to sue for rent; Patrick Webb had written to the solicitor stating that he had never assigned any property to James Webb; but the Board had the bankers' notice of the assignment, and a copy of the registration of the assignment, under which James paid Patrick £1,050 on account of the purchase money; Patrick Webb had now paid all rent and costs due, 58583.—The Board had no difficulty in accepting from Patrick rent due on property belonging to James; Patrick Webb was a dangerous gombeen man, who had much influence with the people at Loughglynn, 58584.—It had been suggested that it was desirable to prevent shopkeepers from acquiring tenants' holdings through their business, and in all these cases but three, Webb had acquired the land in this undesirable way, 58585.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY—*continued.*

[Mr. Webb here interposed, stating that at the time he assigned his holdings to his brother the De Freyne dispute was at its height, and that he and Mr. Fitzgibbon, Mr. Redmond, and Mr. O'Brien were served with a writ for their shares of £20,000, and it was suggested to them that each member served with a writ should make an assignment of his land to a relative to save himself from the consequence of the writ, 58586-9.—The necessity for the assignment had passed away, 58590.—Witness had not received any money for lands, and had not known the assignment was perfected, 58589.—Mr. Doran would not let him purchase, 58591.—For the last five years he had asked to have his agreement perfected, but was refused, even for the holdings for which no assignment was given, 58592.—There was no need for the Board to be careful in their dealings with him, in view of his admission that the assignment was made to evade payment of debt, for the Board had known nothing of the assignment till that year, 58593-4.—Witness continued to pay the rent all along, 58596.—He assigned the lands to defeat Lord De Freyne, but remained in possession all along, 58597.—His brother had never entered into possession, but was in another house belonging to Patrick Webb, 58599.]

The Board got notice of the assignment in October, 1903, 58595.

NEARY, Mr. JAMES.

Valuation, Acreage, and Population of Strokestown District.

The valuation of Strokestown Union was £51,800, the acreage 90,000, and the population last year 15,560, showing a decrease of 6,174 in twenty years; of the twenty electoral divisions five or six were very poor, the valuation of holdings seldom exceeding 30*s*. where there were no grazing farms; in seven or eight divisions some of the best land was held by graziers; some of these big farms were held on the eleven months' system; some under yearly tenancies; others had fixed judicial rents, while others again had been bought, 58600, 58637.

Gradual Acquisition of Land Proposed.

A great many of these farms should be acquired for distribution amongst small holders; from some, at least, tenants had been evicted sixty years ago, compulsion being resorted to in certain cases; those held on the eleven months' system should be taken first; then any other 200 acres held by graziers, then those of the shopkeepers and professional men with other means of living; these last held a great deal of land, mostly on the eleven months' system; adequate compensation should be given, except in the case of eleven months' men, 58647-8, 58600, 58603, 58625-7.—Farms would have to be acquired simultaneously if all applicants were to be supplied with land, but only men with some capital should be considered, 58628-33.

Question of Priority of Claim in Distribution of Land.

Uneconomic holdings in Roscommon should have priority of claim over those in other counties, and witness would like to see any surplus land given to sons of tenants, in order to stop emigration; these men would have every prospect of being able to pay their rent if given lands like some of those taken up by the Estates Commissioners, where £30 or £40 were allowed for building and so much paid for making fences; it would be just and reasonable to allow a prior claim to congests from a distance if these could be induced to migrate, but middle-aged men with families would prefer to stop on their little holdings, 58600, 58634-46.

Amendment of Land Purchase Act Proposed.

The Land Purchase Act should be amended; £7,000 was too much to give one man for purchase of holdings; £3,000 or £4,000 would probably be sufficient, 58600.—There should be a Government supervision in regard to land purchase, for the landlord sometimes induced tenants to give him the price he demanded by pressing for arrears or for payment of the hanging gale; probably, too, the addition of a year's rent to the purchase money had the same effect, 58600.

Grazing *v.* Tillage—Labour Difficulty.

Witness's farm of sixty or seventy acres was all meadowed pasture, except for three acres, which he tilled; the soil, like most Roscommon land, had a limestone bottom; it was fairly light on the whole, though part was sticky and heavy; it could not be worked very well in the wet season, and was not well suited for tillage, though a little more might be cultivated if labour were not so scarce; this difficulty would exist if the farm were only twenty acres; the majority of people preferred grazing to tillage for the above reasons, 58606-19, 58623.—More land would be cultivated when there were more labourers' cottages; there were 300 applications for these; many young people hoped to have five acres of land under the Labourers Act, and to become small farmers themselves; it was very difficult to obtain land on which to build the cottages, 58600-1, 58620-4.

Lack of Railway Accommodation.

There was no railway within eight or nine miles, and the district suffered in consequence; a scheme set on foot years before by the Grand Jury to have a branch of the Cavan, Leitrim, and Roscommon Light Railway built from Dromod had been abandoned; an attempt to revive it last year had been without any result at the time; there had been a grant to make part of it on the Leitrim side of the Shannon, and the Leitrim County Council had refused a grant of £29,000 from the Irish Development Fund, 58600.

Fairs.

Fairs were rapidly going down, the October Fair of Strokestown, once the largest in Connaught, having been the worst of the season, 58600.

Drainage.

The arterial drainage was not so good as formerly, and the district greatly suffered through the flooding of the low-lands in winter, 58601.

IRWIN, Mr. JOHN.

Land in Roscommon unsuited for Tillage.

Witness had been superintending for nearly 50 years the management of between 1,600 and 1,700 acres and held 3,000 to 4,000 acres himself; in the sixties from 5 to 10 acres of the land of Rathmoyle or Kilmurry had been kept in tillage, but this had entailed heavy loss because of the unsuitability of the soil; the working horses had eaten practically all the oats raised, and there had been little profit except from the straw used to feed cattle; no grain had been sold off the land, though agricultural prices had been higher then than now; a man had refused as a gift a rood of ground, with manure, because he did not think it worth the labour of cultivating potatoes, 58649-50, 58674-5.—On the above estate, now Colonel Irwin's, from 1879 up to the date of sale to the Estates Commissioners, the farms had been let in grazing-tenancies; the rents had been paid punctually, and there had been no loss except in one case where the farm had been unlet for a time owing to the death of the tenant; there was no kind of tillage for which heavy land was suited, and for this reason the best lands in Roscommon were uncultivated; small holders and big graziers found stock more profitable, 58650.—Apparently in England this kind of land needed stern cultivation, which could not be adopted by men with less than 300 or 400 acres, 58650, 58664-71. 58673, 58680-2; some of the lands now being divided into small holdings were not in witness's opinion adapted to tillage; one, a farm of 317 acres, was not likely to be satisfactory, as the herd said that on the portions formerly allowed him, potatoes had been poor while the oats had not ripened; on the west end there was a large tract of very wet land; the landlord had advanced money for drainage on the same terms as the Board of Works would have done, and had asked witness' father to undertake the matter, which had been easily accomplished; before being drained the land had produced sweet herbage, but when there was no longer evaporation due to water lying on the moorland pan, there was nothing but a few inches of organic matter forming on the soil, 58760.

SUB-SOILING.

Sub-soiling, the only remedy, would be very expensive, 58760.—The cost per acre depended on the method used; witness' father had had the land broken into ridges, had taken every alternate place the full breadth of the ridge, throwing up any stuff there was over this moorland pan on the ridge, putting on manure and sowing potatoes; in the middle of the summer he had that dug up and broken, sub-soiling next year the unbroken parts; this had cost very little, but labour had been plentiful then; it was a troublesome process, needing care and economy, and though within the power of the small farmer who had strong help in his family, the land on which it was adopted should be very low-priced to compensate for the work entailed, 58761-3.

LAND SUITED FOR TILLAGE LEFT UNCULTIVATED AFTER DIVISION.

In May, 1906, the farm of Ballaghabaw Beg had been handed over to the Estates Commissioners; this contained 427 acres, 2 roods, 5 perches, the Government valuation being £386 15*s.*; this land, ancient pasture, had not been tilled within living memory, except on small portions which the grazier had given to herds for tillage and pigs; these parts had produced good crops, and as most of the soil was fairly dry, deep, and not too heavy or retentive, they would probably repay cultivation; the Estates Commissioners had immediately cut up this land into 24 or 25 acre divisions; a few small bits were set for potatoes, but practically no land was cultivated except that given to the former herds, and they tilled little or no more than the three acres, which was all that had been allowed them before for tillage, 58650-3, 58672-3.—One of these men now had 50 acres, on which he only kept his own beasts, and though both had enough capital for tillage, they apparently preferred stock-raising; it would probably be well if they cultivated one-fifth or one-sixth of their land; last year this had been impossible, because the farm had not been divided until the middle of May; most of the land had then been meadow; there was little of that now, but cattle and sheep were raised—the land being very good for these last, 58653-55, 58657-9, 58663, 58676.

CAPITAL NEEDED FOR STOCK, HOUSES, ETC.

Capital was needed for putting stock on land.—Witness had recommended two men with capital to the Estates Commissioners, but neither had been given holdings, 58655-6, 58661-2.—Two men with two good 25 acre holdings between them, were putting up good houses and offices, another man was building a house, and in one place there was a little shed; one man had already built a two-storied house, but he had no office; given out-houses it would be at least a year before people could obtain the manure necessary for tillage and probably it would take 2 or 3 years to know what a tenant would do with his holding, 58655, 58673, 58676-9.

BREAKING UP GRAZING LANDS.

The cutting up of land which was bad for tillage and rich grazing would mean an enormous waste; the land would be injured and there was much loss on the fencing; when once tilled, it could not be put back into grass for several years, but the length of time depended on how the land was treated when broken, 58655-6.—The division of the grass lands on the Carrigalt Estate had resulted in an improved state of things, but witness did not think there was much tillage there; division would be useful whenever done amongst adjoining owners, whether the land were used in grass or tillage, 58763.—There should be mixed grazing and tillage, land suited to grass being given to graziers, that suited for tillage to be divided amongst small holders, if this could be done conveniently without too much expense, 58691-4, 58697.—Expropriation of the grazier would mean an irreparable injury to the sheep and cattle trade in this part of the country; the exceptionally good class of animals here was due to men holding large quantities of land; the first improvement in the cattle of the district had been brought about by Dean French, who had held the Palace land near Elphin, and who for years had imported very fine shorthorn bulls; great care taken over sheep-breeding had produced the Roscommon sheep; Mr. Teefe used to bring 40 or 50 rams every year to Ballinasloe—splendid sheep for breeding and not pampered, but fit to put on ordinary grass; the graziers were men with plenty of capital, intelligence, and industry, and made the most of grass-lands, 58689, 58692, 58697.—There was some waste-grazing now due to the agitation, and this had been a bad year in Roscommon, but though the grass ranches could, if better managed, etc., be made to carry more than they did at present, they would not carry all the surplus stock which would be raised if there were a large division of land amongst small holders; the smaller amount of land would have to carry the greater number of stores, unless the English markets came to the rescue; at present there seemed to be a slump in yearling beasts; a certain quantity of not very young stores was taken to England now, but people preferred cattle forward in condition, and would not buy them poor except at wretched prices, 58695, 58698-704, 58707-13, 58716-18.

IMPROVEMENT OF GRASS-LANDS.

Grass lands might, however, be improved; one field was over 200 acres, and letting land in such large areas was a disadvantage here, because it more or less prevented the expenditure of sufficient capital on it, 58689-91, 58712.—Some people used a little slag, but the lands were top-dressed very little, and stores tended to exhaust the phosphates; for the last 20 or 30 years there had been no fertilising by blue gravel or marl, though this had had a better effect than liming; labour had been cheaper then—now it paid better to use artificial manures, 58695-6, 58704-6, 58714-15, 58720.—A great deal of land was used for stores both here and in County Meath, where instead of fattening cattle as formerly, they raised polly bullocks for the English market; more cattle might be fattened in Roscommon if the land were taken up well; for this purpose it should not be too heavily stocked in winter, as was now done, by small tenants with the result that it would not carry enough in summer; cattle did better on a large run where they found different sorts of pasture, than on small holdings, though much might be done on these with proper management, 58715, 59719, 58759-60.

FINISHING CATTLE.

There were not many farms in Roscommon where cattle were exactly finished, though this might be done if more time were allowed; they were put into fine condition, well skinned and ready for sale as soon as they came out, 58689.

DETERIORATION OF GRASS LANDS

Witness did not think the grass-lands were deteriorating or were less well managed than formerly; they might suffer a little if the landlord neglected his duty of cutting thistles and maintaining fences, but they could be brought back to their former condition with very little expense, 58721-8.—Grazing-rents had been steady on the property managed by witness up to 1894, when there had been a little slump in grazing for 3 years; a considerable reduction had then been given on the Ballaghabaw Farm—some, not much, on the others—and since then rents had been stationary, 58683-8.

IRWIN, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

GRASS RANCHES A MARKET FOR YOUNG STOCK OF SMALL HOLDERS.

A great many tenants in the Castlerea Union, with small holdings mostly adjoining bogs, kept a cow and a few calves which they fed with hay off the good lands during the winter solely to obtain manure for their moorland; these cattle were in such poor condition in spring as to be unsaleable, so they were brought to the grass lands in Roscommon, and sold at the end of six months; about 3,500 acres in the hands of the Congested Districts Board were now stocked with these cattle, shewing what a loss would be sustained by the people if deprived of these grass-lands, 58728-9, 58735.—It would be wise to give people grazing-lands adjoining their holdings, though not when 10 or 12 miles distant, as in this case; people with bog would not migrate, because pigs were the most profitable stock, and fuel was needed to cook their food; a large farm was being cut up by the Board, and certain emigrants home from America had said they would not take the whole of it if given them.—Nearly every one had upland on which they lived, 58730-43, 58750-5.

CATTLE DRIVING.

Cattle driving was done by small tenants living close to land they wished to possess; witness knew nothing about it, and could not say whether any of the people on the bogs joined in it; there was land hunger all over Ireland, 58744-9.

TURBARY.

The owner of the farm of Ballaghabaw said that none of them had a sod of turf on Sunday week; some people in South Park had no firing at all; this was a serious state of things; the turf was bad and cost 6*s.* a horse-crate; there was a large bog at Ballyglass on Mr. Mahon's estate, adjoining which the Board might buy, making a good pass into it so that the turf could be easily cut and carted home, and this would provide many with turf, though probably not everybody, if a larger population were brought into the country, 58763-4.—Turf would keep 2 or 3 years if properly ricked and covered on top.—It was an advantage to have a lot of old turf in case of a wet summer. Witness believed that the compressed peat industry would succeed, if capital and industry were put into it; there were many ways of doing it; Rev. Mr. Cobbold had taken out a patent for making compressed peat, and had been most successful.—The peat had been hard as yet and had burned splendidly.—Compressed peat was easily carried by rail or cart, and in that way could be brought cheaply to places where there was none.—A good cart of stone turf was very heavy for the horse, but the whitest turf did not weigh so much.—A horse could carry more if the weight were reduced, 58767-76.

WATER SUPPLY DIFFICULTY.

Water was another great difficulty, because it went underground, and the pumps by which a little surface water was obtained, were not satisfactory, 58766.

WALPOLE, Mr. W. J.

TILLAGE IN ROSCOMMON.

The deep, strong land of Roscommon had practically always been in grass; corn-laws, bounties, or high prices, such as had existed during the Napoleonic wars, might have resulted in a certain amount of tillage, but with the removal of this artificial stimulus, the land had returned to its natural use; strong clay land might be worked profitably in a fairly dry climate, but certainly not in that of Ireland; land which might once have been cultivated because of its nearness to markets, would now, with existing means of communication, be beaten down by land more distant but better suited for tillage, 58778, 58782-94.—

WALPOLE, Mr. W. J.—*continued.*

The ridges and furrows on these lands were not universal, and were found less on deep strong soil than on that of a different quality, 58792, 58827-8.—One reason for this temporary tillage must certainly have been that absence of means of transport had necessitated the growing of grain in Ireland; the world-wide competition which had come in with improved conditions, had doubtless ruined the producer of grain, as it had been disastrous to all Irish industries; the fact that land had once been tilled was not a conclusive argument in favour of cultivating it now; witness believed Roscommon people were not as incompetent as was represented, but that they had good reason for using their land as they did, 58829-33, 58866-9.—Certain farms had been cleared after the Famine, but this had not happened on the plains of Boyle, which had been at any rate the name of a pastoral district before that time.—The difficulties in regard to fuel and water had existed on the grass-lands then, as now, but these had nothing to do with any clearances, except that people without these conveniences had been less able to stand the strain of bad times, 58795-800.

FUEL AND WATER DIFFICULTY.

There was a considerable amount of lighter soil in Roscommon fit for mixed farming, but the difficulty in regard to fuel and water was a serious bar to the creation of small holdings out of grass-lands; even on the big farms, in dry seasons, people had to drive their cattle miles to water them, and if these farms were cut up, the difficulties of the small farmer would be very great; if the conditions as to fuel and water existing five miles round Strokestown obtained in other parts of the country, there would be no difficulty, 58788-82, 58802-9, 58826.

DISASTROUS EFFECT OF THE BREAKING UP OF GRASS-LANDS.

The wholesale appropriation of the grass-lands would be disastrous to the cattle-breeders who, in three counties, were the small farmers; these men fed their beasts till they were a year old, then put them out to grass for six months; some were then sold to the store-farmer; others were tied in and sold later as two-year olds; the bulk of the good well-fed stock was bought for shipping to Scotland.—The cattle were tied in and finished before the next summer, 58778A, 58810-11.—If the store-farmer were replaced by the breeder, the fattener, as in former days, would reap the profit, while the small farmer would be dependent on his corn, the price of which was now reduced by competition, 58778A.—The reduction in price of cattle in a place where these could not be made ready for shipping at an early age, would affect even the small holders near Strokestown; apart from price, if there were no grass-ranches, these men would have to restrict their production of cattle so as to enable them to feed them a little longer; they could not sell them younger as there would be no demand; it would be a decided disadvantage if people were forced, as in Donegal, to sell younger than now; if they could not get rid of their young stock at a reasonable age, they would have to keep fewer cows, which would mean fewer pigs, and pig-feeding was the most profitable branch of agricultural industry, 58812-16.—Under the present system cattle could be most profitably sold at about 18 months old; if badly treated, a beast could not be sold till he was three, but if well-treated he could be sold at two and a half years, 58885-7.

HOLDINGS NEAR STROKESTOWN.

The land about Strokestown was principally in small holdings, as it had been in the time of Arthur Young, who spoke of rundale; the greater part was in grass or meadow; a few holdings were 30 acres, others 10 or 5, the average might be 12 or 15; usually they were situated near bogs; many people tilled up to two acres, but seldom more, no matter if the holding were 15 or 60 acres; enlarging holdings, if done to relieve congestion, would not therefore result in more tillage, 58801-7, 58817-21.—The alteration in trade might force these people to cultivate more, but economic tillage—"horse tillage"—was a lost art in

Ireland; witness thought it would be well if this could be revived; most people had no horses, those who had used them for ploughing and harrowing; the others might plough if they had enlarged holdings, but it was hard to induce people on strong grass-lands to try tillage, 58821-5.—On these tillage-plots there was probably, as a rule, an acre of potatoes, used both for the family and for pig-feeding; cabbages were seldom sown outside gardens, but there would be turnips, perhaps half an acre, for winter feeding, and the rest would be oats; most of these were sold in Strokestown, though meal was made from some of them, 58847-53.—There was practically no export of oats; small farmers from the western part of the union bought, instead of growing oats themselves.—There was very little home-grown meal used now in families, 58853-7—Neither the rent nor poor-law valuation represented anything like the actual value of a farm where so much land had been reclaimed as in the congested districts of East Mayo and West Roscommon, as the valuation made sixty years ago was not a correct standard for the present day, 58778A.—Consolidating holdings up to £10 or £30,—much too high a standard—would mean letting land which was fairly good for tillage though poor for grass, go to waste, 58778A, 58845-6.—If the smaller-sized holding were properly striped, and there was at least a place for one cow—two if possible—and if the tenant could make the most of his land by good arterial drainage, there seemed no more hardship in his spending part of the year in England, than if he were a sailor or fisherman, while his children would be brought up under healthier conditions than prevailed in towns; the demand for unskilled labour was not likely to go down, and wages were not decreasing, 58778A.—Suitable grazing, even at a distance, would make the stock much more saleable than feeding them on the poor grass of an enlarged holding, 58778A.

Requisition of Commonage a better Remedy than Migration and Enlargement of Holdings.

Giving commonage would be a far cheaper method than migrating tenants; distance was not much of a difficulty; some people left their cattle altogether in charge of a herd or the owner of the grazing-land, and the Congested Districts Board had introduced a system this year by which on the owner of the beasts paying a small sum for insurance they undertook up to a certain sum to be responsible for the safety of the animals, 58778A, 58880-3.—The commonage acquired should be held either by the State or the Board; striping it would not be so practicable and there would be the difficulty of water-supply, 58882-4.—The willingness of people to migrate to the Balfe Estate, at Southpark, within 2 miles of Castlerea, and with fuel and water convenient, was no guide as to what would take place under other conditions; the £5 limit in the Act of 1903 should be raised to £10, 58778A.

Eleven Months' System,

Some of the non-residential grazing farms had been bought, some were held as statutory tenancies, many under yearly lettings or short leases, some on the 11 months' system, 58778A.—This last was not, in witness' opinion, nearly as prevalent as was made out in the press, and was often only a temporary expedient; the holders of 11 months' land were not so much the graziers who had been such for generations, but as a rule successful cattle-dealers and small farmers who had saved money by energy and good management, and found this a convenient way of extending their operations; if these were limited there would be a tendency to make such men send their capital out of Ireland, as it would be hard to better themselves at home, 58778, 58834-7, 58861-2.—The yearly tenancies were not often changed, and when they were, the landlord did not show much practical sympathy; the 11 months' system meant either change or a legal renewal at the end of the 11 months, 58858-65.—As to the possible treatment of these occupiers by landlords, though the former had no legal hold, there were recent precedents where it had been thought fair to give compensation for deprivation by the State of this temporary right; the State, apparently, acted on the just principle, that fair compensation should be given to any class or individual suffering loss through the carrying out of a general policy; if Government acquired an estate, it should only make small holdings of land suitable for tillage, and might reserve as compensation for disturbing the short lease-holder, grazier, or yearly tenant, a settled tenure on the lands only fit for grazing; the State would enlist the sympathy and co-operation of all classes for its policy, if a fair scheme of compensation could be relied on, 58873-9.—The claim of the grazier holding on a short lease was much stronger than that of the herd with his more insecure tenure, but the claim of the latter was recognised throughout the county; an instance had occurred on the Ballaghabaw Farm, 58878, 58888-92.

Willingness of Owners to Sell for a Fair Price.

Owners also who had land in their absolute control would be willing to sell at a fair price; not replying to circulars was no proof to the contrary; the State, by their passive action as regarded interference with the liberty of owners, had brought a certain amount of land into the market, and naturally owners did not wish to be troubled by inspectors, if the prices were insufficient; grass-lands held by statutory tenants could not be bought cheap enough to be re-sold at a price which would be at all just to the seller, 58778-8A.—It would not be unreasonable if the man refused to sell that he might not break an honourable understanding with yearly tenants who had held from him for many years, and whose occupation would be gone if the land were acquired by authority.—This reason, however, could not be urged universally, 58838-44.

Soiling System.

The Soiling system, suggested by some witnesses, would not suit this country, 58778A.

Sub-division.

The spread of education, the higher standard of living, and the willingness shown to emigrate, would prevent sub-division to any great extent in the agricultural parts of this county, 58778A.

Railway to Arigna Needed on Account of Scarcity of Fuel.

Lack of fuel would soon create a pressing problem for the whole of the district west of Strokestown, and that was a strong reason why Government should seriously consider the question of making the proposed railway to Arigna, where there was a coal-mine.—State assistance for railway communication was absolutely necessary, if the district was to hold its own as an agricultural community, 58871-3.

O'CONOR DON, THE.

See also p. 392.

Land Available in Roscommon: Compulsion Unnecessary.

There was a large quantity of grass-land available for division in Roscommon, and since giving evidence before the Commission, witness had communicated with 30 or 40 owners, a large number, though only a small proportion of the owners in the county, 58893-5, 58916, 58947.—As the result of his enquiries he had a list of about 12,000 acres which could be purchased from 21 owners, 58895, 58901.—A small proportion of the 12,000 acres might have to be struck out but since the list was made other replies had come and another 1,000 acres were available, 58901, 58944.—Owners of about 300 acres had refused absolutely to sell; they were smaller owners, 58938.—Under these circumstances compulsion was clearly unnecessary, 58895.—Only a few small owners wanted excessive prices and it was not worth while to compel them, 58947A.—And if

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

these 12,000 acres were taken now witness did not doubt that 40,000 could be obtained later, 58948.—The owners in question were willing to have their lands inspected, 58895, 58916.—But they made it a condition that their names should not be disclosed, 58895, 58897, 58942.

Class and Situation of Land.

The lands were all substantial grass lands, 58895.—Specially selected by the Board as suitable and where there were grazier tenants, terms could be arranged, 58946.—The lands were situated for the most part between Ballenagare, Castlerea, and Roscommon, 58947.

Terms Asked.

The terms proposed by the various owners differed widely, running from 20 years' purchase to capitalisation of net receipts at 3½ per cent., very few asking more than the latter terms, 58897.—Many owners said that the whole estate must be taken or none, 58898.—No. 3 wanted 28 years' purchase, No. 4, 20 years' purchase and bonus, the large difference being due to the fact that No. 3 was let at a low, No. 4 at a very high rent, 58898-9.—Small owners, shopkeepers, and so on, usually expected higher prices than large owners, 58899, 58900.—Nos. 5 and 7 were offering land to one of the purchasing bodies: No. 8 had offered to the Board some time ago but got no answer, 58899-900.—The Board had been short of money and might now be able to buy what they had before refused, 58900.—Major C. Constable (No. 9) said the price offered him would leave him nothing at all; others were negotiating; some asked lump sums, one a "fair price"; all owned tenanted land which would have to be taken as well, 58900-1.—The figures quoted were rough, 58944.—Some of the terms asked were high but in the majority of cases they were reasonable and probably the others would come down, 58945, 58947.—Owners as a whole would accept the average price of 2 years ago, during the last 2 years the Estates Commissioners and the Board had been short of money and not anxious to buy unless very cheaply, 58949-50.

Delay in Payment and Uncertainty as to Purchase, the Great Difficulties.

Nearly all the owners said they could not sell unless paid in a reasonable time; it was impossible to sell if they had to wait 4 or 5 or 8 years; one of the few who had refused to sell did so because he could not afford to wait, 58901, 58905, 58937, 58939-43.—The owner did not know what to do with untenanted land during the interval; if it were let on a yearly tenancy the tenant must have the statutory notice, 58902-4.—The Board's procedure was to send down a valuer and negotiate for some time, then the matter was hung up indefinitely; in fact there was no money and if Government was to raise no more than £5,000,000, they could not pay before 8 years, 58907, 58912.—The uncertainty was another objection; it was not fair to hand back the land when the negotiations had been going on perhaps for years, 58907-9, 58916.—The payment of interest during the interval between purchase and payment would not suffice unless mortgages, etc., were taken into account, 58910-1.—Many more owners would sell if these delays and uncertainties were done away with, 58914-6.—Government were communicating with a much larger number of owners but the replies they got were less favourable than those sent to witness, because there was this fear of delay in payment, 58917-8.

Occupation Interest in Untenanted Land.

In regard to the occupation interest of land in landlord's hands, it was admitted that there were two interests when the land was tenanted; the landlord originally had the whole fee simple; out of that tenant's interest had been carved by statute and where no such interest had to be carved out, landlord should get a larger price, 58918-20, 58925.—The fact that the legislature was not considering the landlords did not affect the question; in defining tenant's interest they had necessarily defined the landlord's interest, 58921-4.

O'CONOR DON, The—*continued.*

—The fines paid for occupation interest shewed that it had a market value even when not legal, 58924-5.

Suck Drainage Proposals.

The proposal put forward by Mr. Hayden and Mr. Fitzgibbon in regard to the Suck Drainage was moderate and reasonable and could be accomplished without much legislation even by adding the unredeemed portion of the charge to the purchase money and then making the landlord redeem it out of the purchase money, an extension of the period of repayment to 68 years would be secured.—No expense was involved, collection expenses would be saved and the tenants would much prefer to make all their payments together; maintenance was another matter.—The landlord would not be affected and would not object, 58925-30.

Railway to Strokestown Needed.

Some little time ago there had been a great deal of correspondence about a railway from the Sligo line to Strokestown, which was a necessity if the land was to be divided into small holdings and the line need not be very expensive.—There were 2 or 3 schemes and the line had only just missed being made, 58930-5.

BRADY, Mr. THOMAS.

Cloonaquin Division.

Part of Cloonaquin division had been sold 10 years ago to the Land Commission and 3 years ago the Board bought the grazing portion; the tenants were all small holders, only a few having valuations over £20 and this grazing land should be used to enlarge their holdings; the Board in reply to tenant's application had said they were considering the case, 58951-9.

EGAN, Mr. MATTHEW.

Condition of Workingmen in Elphin.

The workingmen (agricultural labourers) of Elphin claimed that if grass lands were divided they should be preferred to sons of tenants, 58960-2.—Such men would do more tillage and the land would pay better than under pasture, 58963-4.—And the division of the land would provide employment, which was now almost impossible to get in the district, 58971-2.—This claim was made on behalf of labourers in towns, 58973-5.—A number of labourers had applied for labourers' cottages, but there were many difficulties, 58968.—More cottages should be erected, but in some places planting was preferred, and in others a labourer holding an acre of land was opposed as being a farmer, 58976, 58981-7.—The adoption of direct labour on the roads had done something to provide employment; the system should be extended, 58976-80.

O'ROURKE, Mr. TIMOTHY.

Clooneyquin Division.

A number of non-scheduled townlands in the Clooneyquin division required to be dealt with as congested, in fact the whole union should be scheduled; there were 94 small holdings, valuation £5 to £10, very few having turf; the tenants had already bought under the Ashbourne Act, and if the French estate, purchased by the Board, were not divided among them there was no other land for the purpose near them, 58997-8.—Foxlors' farm, of 200 acres, now offered to the Board, would supply all the tenants with turf; witness had written and spoken to Mr. Doran, who had sent down valuers, 58998-9000.—The price under the Ashbourne Act was 20 years' purchase; it would now be 24½, 59000.

O'ROURKE, Mr. TIMOTHY—*continued.*

ELPHIN, ROSSMORE, CREGGA, AND ANNAGHMORE EAST DIVISIONS.

In Elphin and Rossmore divisions there was land enough at present held on the 11 months' system to supply a large number of small tenants; in Cregga, Mrs. G. P. Mahon owned a farm of 400 acres which would make good tillage land for small holders; in Annaghmore East the holdings were small and uneconomic, and the land was in great need of drainage and improvement; in Rossmore there were several untenanted farms and a number of small tenants needing more land; the Board should buy up these places and treat them as they had done the Dillon estate which was a credit to them, 59000.

TRIBUTE TO BOARD'S OFFICIALS.

The Congested Districts Board should be continued, for their officials, especially Mr. H. Doran, were superior and painstaking; Mr. Doran was the best official in Ireland, and there should be no amalgamation of the Board with the Estates Commissioners, or the Department, unless he continued to be the chief officer.—The Board needed more money and ought to have it, 59000-1.

TILLAGE.

Witness's 135 acres were partly tilled; it would be more profitable to till more if he could get labour, 58991-5, 59001.—All small tenants should till more, 59001.

KEAVENEY, Mr. JOHN.

BOYLE NO. 1. RURAL DISTRICT.

The number of acres—9,257—given in Mr. Ginnell's Blue Book in regard to Boyle No. 1. Rural District was not quite accurate, as it included some mountain-land; five divisions were scheduled and the average valuation was £3 11*s.* 8*d.*—The remaining 16 divisions should also be scheduled, for though they contained ranches which raised the valuation above the limit, the congestion in them was as acute as in any of the others, 59004.—All the grass-lands could probably be tilled, 59016.

ARIGNA DISTRICT; RAILWAY NEEDED TO DEVELOP MINING INDUSTRY.

There was little land in the Arigna district for the relief of congestion, but experts of the first standing had said there were most valuable minerals, only needing development.—A number of men were employed in working these, but the industry could be greatly extended if help were given in making a small railway, to connect with the line two and a half or three miles from where the richest minerals were.—The Congested Districts Board, which had done nothing in the scheduled divisions, might assist.—The only relief possible for the extreme northern part was the opening up of its industries, 59004.

MIGRATION.

The other remedy for congestion lay in migrating at least half the people of the district to lands available for distribution, 59004.

ROSCOMMON AS A SHEEP-COUNTRY.

Witness believed that Roscommon as a whole was a good sheep country, but this particular part was not, 59004.—There might be a woollen factory in the south of Roscommon, but there was none here, 59005.

NECESSITY FOR IMPROVED ROADS.

From time immemorial these congested districts had been unrepresented under the Grand Jury System, and were consequently in such bad condition that it was impossible to cart what little produce was yielded by the farms, 59007.—One road was not more than six feet wide, and was so hilly that a cart must be empty in order to reach certain places, 59007.—One of the chief inconveniences was that lime could only be brought on the backs of donkeys, 59007.—Five or six hundred farmers lived in the district, and the Board had done nothing to improve these roads, though an attempt had been made since these new bodies had been in existence, 59007.—Any effort made in connection with them created some opposition from ratepayers, but this was a grievance needing the Board's attention, 59007.—Prosperity could not be looked for, if the ranches remained in their present condition, and the Commission should result in something beng done for the land, which was and would continue to be Ireland's most valuable asset, 59007.

KEAVENEY, Mr. JOHN—*continued.*

COMPLAINT THAT IN FIXING RENTS NO PRINCIPLE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE LAND COMMISSION.

The basis on which rents were fixed by the Land Commission was unjust to the tenants. The agent of the Countess of Kingston's estate, J. Garrett Tatlow, had, apparently on his own responsibility, raised the rents on certain holdings.—The people had, however, rebelled, and by far the best lands had not been rackrented, yet those tenants on both townlands—Infarnagh and Greenaleevagh—had fared equally well under the Land Commission, 59008-9, 59011, 59032, 59034.—There were ten tenants on the rackrented lands, and in 1873 their total rent had been raised from £44 12*s.* 2*d.* to £93 9*s.* 8*d.*; after the Land Act of 1881, this had been brought down to £74 15*s.* 8*d.*—the first term rent, and later to £55 7*s.* 2*d.*—the second term rent; so that the present rent, after two judicial fixations was still £10 higher than when voluntarily fixed by the landlords in 1873.—The sudden rise in that year could only be attributed to greed for money, as the estate had not changed hands: the same might be said of all landlords in Ireland, 59009-14.—Since 1873, £1,247 18*s.* rackrent had been taken off this one townland, 20 or 30 acres of which would not feed a cow; anything on it was due to the energy of the tenants; unless they gave special attention to the land it produced nothing, and they certainly did not extract enough to pay their rent and so forth, but had to depend on migratory labour or on sums sent by relations, 59014, 59031, 59033.

The terms of sale now offered were 4*s.* in the £ on second term rents, and if these were accepted, the landlord's bonus must be added, and the tenants would have to pay for the next 68½ years practically the same as in 1873; on the next townland, after the Land Act of 1881, the landlord had voluntarily reduced the total rent from £42 to £34 5*s.* 3*d.*, and this had remained the same; two of the eight tenants had refused the 3*s.* offer and had gone into Court since 1896, obtaining a reduction on second term rents; this shewed that the tenants on the first townland would have been entitled to a reduction if they had not been rackrented at all, so that if they bought, £2,000 odd should be taken off the price, 59010-11, 59014-22, 59029.—The landlord had already 20 years purchase too much, but refused to take less than 27 years'—*i.e.*, 24 and the bonus.—If the rent were reduced to what it had been in 1873, the tenants would accept the terms offered, and even dispense with the 8*s.* in the £ reduction which had been given all over Ireland.—It would be a great boon to be a purchaser, 59022, 59028-30.—In cases like the above there should be both inspection and supervision by a responsible official, as there was a general tendency in Ireland to make improvident bargains.—The land-agent, assuming the tenants would be willing to buy, had stated that he would have nothing to do with the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, as they would treat him unjustly, 59022, 59024-6, 59028.—Witness had not known a sale carried through, where consideration had been given for sums paid under a rack-renting system, but if these were not taken into account, a serious question would arise for the State and people; there was no sense in talking about "net income" when this could not be calculated in cases like that cited; the past experience should be considered as there was no reason to suppose people would be in a better position during the next 25 years.—When landlords had acted as described above, the whole matter should be sifted, 59023-4.—The tenants did not hope to receive all the money due to them, 59027.

SHARKEY, Mr. JAMES.

BOYLE NO. 1. DISTRICT.

A few divisions of Boyle No. 1. District were scheduled, but practically the whole was congested,

SHARKEY, Mr. JAMES—*continued.*

from Strokestown to the mines of Arigna.—There was any amount of grass-land just beyond Strokestown, 59035-7.

Need for Acquisition of Grass-lands.

There was urgent need for the redistribution of land in the County of Roscommon; near Elphin, within two miles of Boyle No. 1. District, were grass-lands which should be acquired; witness did not know whether the people of the district would object to these being given to outsiders rather than to sons of tenants, but to relieve congestion it was necessary to go outside the congested area, 59035, 59038-9.

Migration.

Some people should be migrated and their lands used to enlarge the holdings of the rest; the abandonment of grass-lands had been due primarily to pressure put on the tenants; the difficulty of obtaining fuel and water being only a secondary cause; control might be acquired through the Board, over a certain amount of bog within reasonable distance, which some public authority could distribute; before migrating, a man should seriously consider the question of fuel, but he should take some risk; he would probably not go unless convinced of the advantage of doing so, and isolated cases should be dealt with separately; they did not affect the general principle that migration would be beneficial, 59040-9.

Reasons for lack of Tillage in Roscommon.

Witness considered that all the untenanted lands of Roscommon were fertile and fit for tillage, particularly for the first crops; potatoes were very good.—He believed these lands had once been cultivated, but the general opinion was that they had been allowed to go to grass in the interest of graziers, the small farmers having been driven away by landlord's oppression and rack rents, 59050-6.—Witness would have every hope of succeeding on a 40 acre farm, if he could stock at least half, and keep parts in meadow and tillage.—The only reasonable way apparently of obtaining the necessary capital to work these lands was by a cheap Government loan.—The tendency of migrants and others to keep their land in grass might be partly due to the difficulties which arose when enterprise was first started, but people would certainly go in for tillage when they found out its advantages, 59057-60, 59070, 59084.

Need for Encouraging Tillage.

No definite rule could be laid down as to how much tillage might be demanded by the Estates Commissioners or the Board.—There should be some guarantee that the improvements aimed at by them should be carried out, but when a man was convinced of the advantages of these, compulsion ought not to be needed; tillage to some extent was essential and should be encouraged, but the fact of their being so little in the country was due to long-continued misrule; the laws and system of Government had been such as to oblige people to emigrate and labour had become more extinct; farmers had done their best with the spade, not five per cent. being able to afford any other implements; the bad lands were tilled by small farmers who could not maintain themselves otherwise, and there was no ground for saying these men could not cultivate better lands if they had them, 59061-70, 59077-8.—Witness had 44 acres of both coarse and arable land and could only keep 2½ acres in tillage, owing to scarcity of labour and his inability to buy machinery; occasionally he was helped on his farm by the young son of a neighbour, but small farmers could not give the constant work or wages necessary to induce men, dependent on labour, to stay in the country, 59071-6.

Need for Small Holdings, Prospects of Success, Etc.

A man should have a holding of 20 Irish acres to maintain himself properly; the country should be dotted over with small farms, and if people found they could live on these with comparative comfort, they would, by degrees, become less anxious to emigrate; industries, too, would probably follow in the wake of successful farming; in Buenos Ayres Government fostered agriculture by starting industries to employ people when not needed on their farms, and closed them during the harvest seasons; prosperity in the country would spread to the towns, population would grow, and the need for labour would, to some extent, be supplied; there should be no difficulty in keeping a man on the land when he was successful there, 59079-82, 59085-95.

Need for Drainage and an Improved System of Farming.

Both labour and manure were useless on insufficiently trained land; the people were too poor to attend to this on their own account, but the Government or some public body should see that the main rivers or outlets were drained at the expense of the State, the tenants being given a reasonable sum at a low rate of interest to encourage them to drain and improve their land; lack of drainage caused serious loss, calves dying from a disease believed to be the result of eating certain herbs produced by wet land; the general system of farming needed changing, and though the Board of Agriculture was doing something in that direction, they had not reached the root of the matter, 59082, 59096.

Lack of Roads.

The District Council had to face a difficult problem in regard to the lack of roads, as the heavily-taxed ratepayers could not face much additional expenditure, 59096.

DOYLE, Mr. JOHN J.

Valuation of Holdings of Carrick-on-Shannon.

In the 10 divisions of Carrick-on-Shannon, No. 2 Rural District, there were 143 holdings valued under £4; 701 under £12; 306 under £40; 63 under £100; 19 under £200; 4 under £400; and 4 over £400, 59099-100.

Need for a Bridge at Hartly.

North and South Toomagh should be connected by a bridge over the Shannon at Hartly to enable about 200 families to take their produce to market more easily, 59098-9.

Claims of Tenant's Sons Prior to those of Congests.

Tenant's sons now forced to migrate should be put on the 3,000 odd acres now held by one man, even if there were no congestion; those with uneconomic holdings had not a prior claim; problems of the future must be settled by the people concerned; any young Roscommon man could live on 20 acres of land, without any capital, a spade and shovel being the only tools needed, 59101-6, 59110-14.

Tillage.

Tillage paid better than grass, but lands could not be cultivated when tenants had been evicted.—Witness tilled by rotation only 6 acres, because the remaining 63 were incapable of cultivation, 59107-9, 59115-21.

BOWEN, Mr. EDWARD F.

The Needs of Local People should be considered before those of Congests.

A great many occupiers in the district between Ballinagare and Ballinarneen, paid a high rent for grazing their cattle on neighbouring farms; sometimes they obtained conacre hay there as well; there was grave danger of serious injury being done to these people by the Board depriving them of this means of living, for the sake of migrants; sufficient land should be reserved for them, and grass farms could be administered for the present by a central authority for the use of small holders; this could be done cheaply and would be a great boon; if the experiment failed, the farms could be divided later; the

Board should be empowered to deal with men over £5 valuation both on properties they had bought and on neighbouring estates; it mattered little, however, whether a man were just over or under that valuation, if those lands were to be given to Migrants, 59124-35, 59138, 59140, 59221.—Witness would not be satisfied with a £10 valuation limit, and did not think valuation a fair standard for determining what was and was not economic, 59135-9, 59142.

GRAZING *v.* TILLAGE.

The tendency shown recently to let land go into grass was largely due to scarcity of labour, though climate and foreign competition were also factors; Certain lands in Roscommon would be better tilled, and these should be broken up into small holdings and given to men to cultivate them themselves, 59142-5, 59166-9, 59219-20, 59222-4.—Generally speaking, land in Wexford was being constantly broken up, because it would not stay in grass, and the small farmers had been tillers for generations, but the soil there was different from that in Roscommon; even in Wexford, land capable of staying in grass was not broken up, and the same could be said of tillage lands in the north of Ireland; some grass lands in Roscommon might be deteriorating from bad treatment, but tilled lands would have fared worse, and drainage, not cultivation, was the remedy for rushes; if old grass lands in Roscommon were tilled and then needed for grass, it would probably take 50 years to bring them back to their present state; witness did not believe they would be broken up to any extent, as they were more profitable in grass, 59142, 59170-9, 59196-200.—Many of these grass lands had once been under tillage, 59242-3.

EFFECT ON THE CATTLE TRADE OF THE RE-DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS.

The Board should carry out their policy of cutting up grass lands on the assumption that these would remain in grass after division; a tillage farm might be 25 acres, but a grass farm should be from 30 or 40, though many people lived on less; the farms, too, should be given to a different class of men, as a practical knowledge of cattle was necessary to a grazier's success, 59142, 59201-10.—The doing away with big grass farms would deprive the small western peasant of a market for his beasts, and the repayment of millions of purchase money would be jeopardised; this latter evil might be substantially remedied by the State re-adjusting annuities, but the reduction would have to be very big, and the step would be a serious one, and would not save the man from ruin, 59142, 59146-50, 59212-3, 59238.—The elimination of the big grazier would certainly upset the cattle trade, and lower the price of the poor man's young stock; four men on a hundred acre farm could not be as successful as one; many more beasts would be put on the land, and while the supply would be nearly doubled the market would disappear; the grazier was a buyer, while the small man would simply be a producer, not a purchaser of the 10 acre man's stock; one hundred acres might now carry 50 cattle, but the small man would have a different class of beasts, not one-and-a-half-year-olds, but cows and calves which he could not possibly keep on his 30 acres until ready to be sent direct to the Leinstermen or shippers, 59212-8, 59225-41.

MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE.

The Board had done an immense amount of useful work, particularly in regard to drainage, but much money would be wasted, unless they were given powers to compel people to maintain the drains and other improvements made; Lord de Freyne had spent £6,000 on drains which had soon become useless, because not maintained; possibly a man's being allowed to keep his holding could be made conditional on good husbandry, but as this might be resented and enforcement would be difficult, it might be better to summon and fine him; there was absolute necessity for continued supervision by the authority that had effected the sale, and drainage should be inspected at least once a year, 59142, 59154-62.—A man could compel his neighbour to keep up his fence as this was necessary to prevent cattle straying, but the question of the maintenance of arterial drainage could not be treated in the same way, as it would be the cause of constant quarrels, and the work would probably not be done well; it would be better to have some authority—preferably the Parish Committee—to make special laws, 59142, 59151, 59180-8.—The Parish Committees should be widely extended, and the enforcement of the maintenance of drainage put in their hands; this would largely increase their powers; The official character thus given them might possibly interefere with their work in other directions, 59142, 59151-3.

CUTTING DOWN TREES.

Witness knew a great deal of drainage was done by the ruthless cutting down of trees, but did not see how tenant purchasers could be prevented doing this as they were doing it except by a provision making it obligatory to first contain the consent of the authorities; he knew of no case where the landlord had cut down trees before selling, though possibly this had occurred, 59164-5, 15189-95.

ACQUISITION OF LAND, PRICE.

A large amount of land could be obtained by the Board, without compulsion, if a fair price were given. net income, capitalised at 3½ per cent., would in many cases be a fair basis; the Board sometimes applied for only the best bits of land, leaving the inferior parts on the owner's hands: this was strongly objected to, and was neither reasonable nor just, 59142.

WHITE, Mr. EDWARD.

OBJECTS AND WORK OF THE IRISH GAME PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

The Irish Game Protection Association was a purely philanthropic society, and its members were drawn from every class; its object was the protection of Irish game, now in danger of extinction; also, if possible, its increase; the Association worked in the interests of sportsmen, and of the nation at large; it tried to bring before tenant purchasers the necessity of combination and the monetary advantages resulting to themselves from game preservation; it gave them help and encouragement when, as often happened they asked for advice; it recognised the necessity of enlisting the support of owners and occupiers of land, and had to encourage a general conception of the importance of game and fish as an element in the national prosperity; in this connection the subject deserved the attention of the Commission, 59244-9, 59262, 59276-80, 59287, 59291-2, 59295, 59301.—The Association had prepared and distributed copies of the "Epitome of the Game Laws," and literature setting forth the value of game to owners and occupiers of land, and had prepared a memorandum on the importance of united action of the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners to disseminate amongst tenant-purchasers who had acquired sporting-rights; it had also had a form of deed drawn up by eminent counsel, copies of which had been supplied to both bodies, and such a deed should be signed by the tenants, 59249, 59290, 59302.—Father Kelly, of Innisboffin, had unintentionally given a wrong impression when referring in his evidence to an interview between the Association and the Board; the representatives of the former had only suggested that the tenants would be benefited by owning sporting rights if they combined for the protection of these; the importance of combination had also been chiefly insisted upon in a previous interview with the Estates Commissioners; the Association held strongly that in the accomplishment of sales through either of these bodies, steps should be taken to ensure united action on the part of tenants for the protection of game; a trusteeship should be formed by the purchasing body, the tenants signing deeds like those referred to above, combining to appoint trustees; on the Dillon Estate, bought by the Board, a combination had been formed, and three members of the Committee of the Association had gladly rented the shooting for-

WHITE, Mr. EDWARD—*continued.*

£50, but the value of this had been practically destroyed by the refusal of three men in the centre of the property to join the others, 59249, 59261-6, 59286, 59302.—The transference of game rights was not a necessary consequence of the transference of land, but the old proprietor could only keep them effectively if he had the people's good-will, 59298-300.—Since its formation in 1891, the Association had done the work of Government in prosecuting poachers and people shooting without licenses, and its efforts had prevented the extermination of game in many districts, 59249.

Revenue Derived from Game and Gun Licences in Ireland should be used for the Benefit of that Country.

People who had shot game, though only possessng a 10*s.* gun licence, were now taking out game certificates to avoid prosecution, and the increase of revenue derived by Government from licences and game certificates since the formation of the Association in 1891 amounted to £300,000; in the last year the increase had been about £4,000 over the figures of 1891; this was due to the efforts of the Association's inspectors, the repeal of the Arms Act having taken place since March 31st, could not have made any difference, 59249-60.—The enormous amount paid for game and gun licences, £23,000 last year, went into the English exchequer, Ireland, apparently, receiving no return in game preservation; money derived in this way from a particular county should be used for the benefit of that county, and this would tend to encourage a general appreciation of the value of game and fishing, and a recognition of the fact that people should not be allowed to break the law regarding licences, 59249-52, 59272-5, 59281-5.

Apathy of Government in the Matter of Game Protection in Ireland.

It was notorious that the Excise officers neglected the duty of enforcing the game laws, not liking the trouble of going on to the mountains; in England and Scotland the police were encouraged by superior officers to report men shooting without licences, but in Ireland they received no such encouragement, and left the matter alone; it was a pity they were not even allowed to enforce the Wild Birds' Protection Act, but this would not matter if Government did its duty and increased the number of Excise officers, instructing the existing staff to bestir themselves, 59249, 59267-8.—Three classes of tenants were affected by the game question: (1) the many large purchasing tenants of Leinster, (2) smaller people in the midlands, (3) men in the West who were paid well for preserving game on their own land; the first and third classes disliked poachers, the second was apathetic and needed rousing,—all three were neglected by Government; Many people complained of poachers, who did serious damage to fences, coverts, etc., apart from the question of game, 59249, 59275.

Smallness of the New Holdings.

The new holdings were too small for people to farm out the shooting, whereas before, no landholders had been unable to do this, 59303-5.

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CASSIDY, Mr. MICHAEL.

Cattle Raising—Improved Methods Needed.

Ireland would be much richer if the big ranches were divided into small holdings of, say, from 20 to 50 acres of good to fair land; a good proportion would have to be kept in tillage for the growing of green roots, etc., for fattening cattle; the stock suffered greatly from lack of good winter feeding, and

CASSIDY, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

Ireland's loss in this respect was the gain of farmers in England and Scotland; it was quite common for small holders in these countries to make a 20 to 24 months old heifer worth £20; Mr. James Shiel (Longniddrie, Haddington), had for years made 20 months old cattle fetch £27 each; this was done by force feeding with roots, oil cake, and grain for the last six months; in Mayo and Sligo cattle were kept till they were four or five years old and sold as low as from £6 to £8, though fattened on large ranches in Meath, Westmeath, County Dublin, and some of the best pastures of Roscommon, and on farms all over Ireland; instead of starving their cattle and selling them at such low prices the owners could be taught that by growing winter feeding, putting cattle sheds on their holdings and improvng the breeds, to make cattle at 2 years old worth at least £18; they should be fed to beef, of which a regular supply could be kept up all the year round by growing a few acres of Italian grass; by manuring it 3 or 4 cuttings could be obtained from the grass every year, and the cattle could be stall-fed all the time; in the hill parts of Scotland, the best grades of cattle, chiefly polled Angus breeds, were raised on the worst lands, £20 being a common price for 2 year olds of the best class; forty calves had been sold at Brechin Fair as year-olds, half of which had been fed in Ireland, on hay, half in Scotland on cut chaff, treacle, straw, turnips, and about 2 lbs. of cotton cake; the expense of feeding the former had probably nearly equalled that of keeping the latter, viz., 2*s.* 3*d.* per week, and strange to say, as a matter of live weight for money, the Scotch wintered had cost less per cwt. than the others, 59308, 59354.—A bullock weighing 10 cwt. in November would by May lose 2 cwt. of flesh—the most valuable part of him,—if put out all winter and fed on hay as was done in the west of Ireland; it would take 4 months to repair a waste never allowed by small Scotch farmers on the worst lands; they kept increasing the weight of their cattle which they had reared from calves, so that they matured much more quickly than in Ireland; cut grass was the food in summer; the big farmer in Scotland did not breed cattle, and bought from Ireland chiefly for fattening purposes, 59308-9, 59313-4, 59337-8, 59345-7.—Stock could be reared best on small holdings, but the cattle should be fattened, and the farm fed with the manure thus made, and only the producer of the stock benefited.—Irish beef could then oust that of America from the best markets, owing to the demand for beef of early maturity, 59309. There was no danger of the price of stock declining by the elimination of the grazier, for the small farmer would be taught to turn his cattle out at two and two-and-a-half years old; people would soon adopt the stall-feeding system when they saw its advantages, but they must first be given the land, 59314-16, 59367. —Witness did only a little in-feeding himself on his 50 or 60 acre farm, having 6 or 7 acres of green crops, and he did not breed many cattle, but bought them as stores, and he was chiefly engaged in the shipping business, 59348-53.

Land Suitable for Tillage.

A good deal of tillage would be needed to grow the green food for winter feeding, but though hardly anything was tilled in Roscommon except bogs and bad land, most of the land there and in Connaught generally was fit for cultivation; only suitable land should be tilled; when the ranches were divided each man should be given both tillage and pasture land, and as the two were intermixed, this should not be difficult, 59317-31, 59357, 59361, 59374-5.—There was enough tillage land in Donegal to enable people to in-feed cattle and keep them until ready for killing, 59332-7, 59374-5.—There were not enough cattle raised in the west of Ireland: hundreds came every season from the northern counties to be sold in Mayo, Galway, and Roscommon, 59336.

Buildings Needed—Cost, etc.

Some of the Scotch holdings were 100 acres, part mountain, part tillage and pasturage, and the buildings might be worth £300 or £400, so that considerable loans would be needed to establish the system in Ireland; shelter, sheds, roots, and artificial feeding were necessary; a Roscommon man on a 50 acre farm should start with £500 or £600, though men had succeeded with less, 59309, 59338-45, 59356.

CASSIDY, Mr. MICHAEL—*continued.*

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING NEEDED.

Witness did not believe that if grass-lands were broken up in Connaught, people would only breed cattle, though this would be necessary to some extent; they should till part of their farms,—in some cases one-third, but how much, depended on the quality of the land; they would need some training in Connaught, where land had so long been out of cultivation; Government might subsidise a model farm in every county, and as people would soon learn what was to their advantage, the policy of cutting up grass lands should be carried out as quickly as possible, 59312, 59365-7.—It was very important to have rotation-grass as in Scotland, and the fact that small holders in Ireland did not sow it, shewed a want of elementary knowledge of agriculture, 59358-62.—Danish butter commanded a better price in England and Scotland than did Irish, because, according to provision merchants, people grew accustomed to it as Denmark could supply it all the year round, being a tillage country where roots were grown for winter feeding; dairying succeeded best on small holdings, but rotation grass and green crops were necessary if butter were to be obtained in winter in Ireland, 59309, 59368-70.—The small farmer was obliged to sell yearlings which were not as forward as they should be, so he should first be taught the importance of improving these and of sowing rotation grass; it was most desirable that the Department of Agriculture should promote this education; every district might form a committee of its own for this purpose, 59358-64, 59368-72.

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT GIVEN BY DIVISION OF GRASS-LANDS.

Division of the grazing ranches into small agricultural farms would employ twice as many people as were employed at present, and this would benefit shopkeepers and everyone else, while people who generally had to work at the poorest trades in the large towns of Great Britain, would be kept at home by a healthy occupation, 59309, 59354-5.

BEIRNE, Mr. DANIEL.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS IN CROGHAN DIVISION.

The Croghan Division was fairly typical of the district between Eastersnow and Elphin, Carrick-on-Shannon, and Frenchpark, and coincided pretty well with Mr. Lloyd's Croghan Estate; there were 41 holdings under £5 valuation; 43 between £5 and £10; 25 between £10 and £15; 22 between £15 and £25; 11 between £25 and £50; 3 between £50 and £100; 6 over £100, 59377.

DIVISION OF GRASS-LANDS, ENCOURAGEMENT OF TILLAGE, AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES ADVOCATED.

On the boundary of the division were 615 acres of non-residential grass-lands which should be divided amongst the Lloyd Estate tenants.—Allotees should be obliged to till a good proportion of their land.—No serious effort had been made as yet to educate the people in the best methods of farming, and a great responsibility rested with the Department.—Substantial premiums should be given to encourage more and better tillage, but though agricultural activity might thus receive an impetus, Ireland would continue to be behind other countries unless her industries, like theirs, were fostered and encouraged by Government. The Department had been a great disappointment in this respect, having refused to help to start a co-operative bacon-curing factory in Boyle; such treatment would make the establishment of pioneer industries impossible, 59377.

DRAINAGE NEEDED.

Public money would be well spent on a scheme of main drainage around Croghan, 59377.

RAILWAY NEEDED.

A connecting railway between Boyle and Roscommon town was much needed, as Croghan district was practically disfranchised for the County Council and Technical Committee owing to the difficulty and expense of going to Roscommon, 59377.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS NEEDED.

Agricultural Banks were a need of the times.—Government was responsible for the Irish problem and a re-fund of the large balance due for over-taxation should be made for public works, developments and industrial enterprises, 59377.

FEELY, Mr. JOSEPH.

REFUSAL OF LISCOR LANDLORDS TO SELL TO THE ESTATES COMMISSIONERS OR THE BOARD.

Liscor was a congested division: the holdings were miserably small and a great deal of improvement was needed on the estate.—The tenants had decided to buy either through the Estates Commissioners or the Board, having heard from Sir Antony MacDonnell that they could thus be relieved on out-side farms and the division could be scheduled as congested.—Mr. Bowen and Mr. White would not, however, sell to either of these bodies, and they claimed 27 years' purchase on second term rents, 59378-81.

DRURY, Mr. JOHN.

EQUALISATION OF RATES ON HOUSE PROPERTY AND UNTENANTED LAND ADVOCATED.

The rating question did not receive due attention, and congested districts would be helped appreciably if legislation could be introduced changing the principle which came in with the Act of 1898; in the townland of Tevenagh, 256 statute acres, the valuation of house property or "other hereditaments" was £27 10*s.*, that of land £76 15*s.*, making a total of £104 5*s.*, while on Keelogues farm, 140 acres, the land valuation was £104, that of the other hereditaments 10*s.*; in one case the 19 tenants paid £13 7*s.* 1½*d.* in rates, while the non-residential occupier paid £11 6*s.* 8*d.* on a like valuation; this difference of £2 0*s.* 5½*d.* was due to the fact that the rate on houses was 3*s.* 8*d.*, and on land 2*s.* 2*d.*; the poor man had built his house and offices with labour and capital and if he improved them, was taxed on increased valuation due to his labour; he was naturally reluctant to bring a tax on himself.—The 11 months' occupier should not get the benefit of the agricultural grant in a case of this kind, 59382-4; the rates paid by non-residential occupiers should equal those paid by poor tenants on house property, *i.e.*, at the current rate in Roscommon, 3*s.* 8*d.* in the £; there was now a premium on the existence of large farms, and if the rates on these were higher, the owners might be more willing to sell to the Estates Commissioners or the Board, 59384.

SELECTION OF MIGRANTS; SALE OF HOLDINGS BY TENANT-PURCHASERS.

When the Commissioners or Board were choosing tenants to put on untenanted land, they should be careful to see that these were *bonâ fide* farmers, or at least men living mainly by agriculture, as people might get possession of land simply that they might sell out at a profit.—The Estates Commissioners' inspector had given a holding, or land close to the township, to a man who was not a farmer and who had sold his interest two years later to another tenant; the tenant farmer should be considered before men who lived by trade or some other means, 59384-8, 59390.—The selling authority kept some control as long as the annuity was due, and said who was to be the successor, but they did not object to a tenant disposing his interest; where he had spent money on improvements he should be compensated if he wished to relinquish his right as tenant, but he should be prevented by law from selling his interest before a certain term of years, on property which had not cost him a penny, 59389-93.

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE OF VOL. XI.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY.

See also pp. 1, 410, 495, *and* 611.

Classification of Estates bought by the Board under Act of 1903, which had been treated and prepared for sale—According to amount of loss on improvements.

Particulars had been prepared of the actual loss incurred by the Board in treating estates bought under the Act of 1903, 59394.—These estates were classified as follows:—Class A.—Poor tenanted estates on some of which there was a small proportion of untenanted land available for migration and enlargement of holdings; Class B.—Very poor tenanted estates on which there was practically no agricultural land available for these purposes; Class C.—Estates comprised wholly or mainly of untenanted land used chiefly for migration; the total purchase price of A., B., and C. was £317,639, the total expenditure on improvements £81,249, and the total net loss £41,152, 59561.—The total poor law valuation £12,457, and the total area 53,627 acres, of which 10,558 acres were untenanted, and 43,096 acres were tenanted, 59394-8, 59400-2, 59561, 59640, 59828.—Class A., represented by the Dillon and De Freyne Estates, comprised 76·1 of the gross purchase money, and though the improvement had been substantial, the percentage of loss had only been 9·4 of the cost price of the estates, 59561.—Class B., represented by the Carna, Erris, and Connemara Estates, and those about Mallaranny, comprised 15·6 per cent. of the gross purchase money; the only improvements effected had been improvement of dwellings, re-arrangement of holdings, and the making of roads and drains; the number of economic holdings had not been materially increased, 59562.—Improvements had not been considered sufficiently directly reproductive for any appreciable portion of the outlay to be charged to the sale prices of holdings, so that the percentage of loss had been 21·6 per cent. of the cost price of the estates, 59572.—Class C. comprised only 8·3 per cent. of the gross purchase money; its total area was 3,000 acres of grass land, and the loss 28·8 per cent., 59562, 59572.—The average loss on A., B., and C. together was 12·9 per cent., 59577, 59708, 59764, 59810, 59837, 59941, 59948.

Typical Character of Estates Classified.

Improvements had been effected as economically as was consistent with efficiency, and as the above were average estates, the result of the operations, though not an absolute guide, should afford the safest available information on which to estimate the loss likely to be involved in the treatment of similar properties, 59405, 59574, 59644, 59655, 59678, 59681, 59834, 59943, 59945.

Effect which the granting of Compulsory Powers would have on percentage of loss.

It was, however, most important to analyse the character of the above estates; 75 per cent. consisted of properties needing improvement, but responding to treatment like the Dillon Estate. The Board had done their best for A, but sufficient relief had not been given. They had not been able to acquire the lands best suited for migration purposes, and consequently very few people had migrated. A number of Dillon Estate tenants would go if lands could be acquired near at hand. Granted compulsory powers, greater improvements could be effected in future, and the 9 per cent. loss on A would be increased, 59575-91, 59705, 59837, 59843-4.—It was not likely that in practice all the tenants of an estate could be provided with economic holdings. The arrangements on Colonel Smith's estate in Erris and on the Madden Estate had approached the ideal, and the loss had been 25·4 and 24 per cent. respectively, 79704-8.—The Dillon Estate had, owing to favourable circumstances, been treated without loss, which fact had reduced the average percentage of loss to 6 per cent. If the Dillon Estate had to be bought to-day, improvements like those effected would, by themselves, mean a loss of 10 per cent., and this would be at least doubled if really satisfactory treatment were given. This would be the case on all such estates unless they happened to contain a large area of grass land, 59592-8, 59672-6, 59696-9.

Low percentage of loss when Untenanted Land was in the ambit of the Estate.

The Armstrong Estate was a fair illustration of the result of operations in favourable circumstances. Few new houses had been required, and the untenanted land, though not near the tenanted, had been within the ambit of the estate. Had it been at any distance the actual net loss of 15 per cent. would have been greatly increased, perhaps doubled. The land might have cost even less—the increased expenditure would have been on building, fencing, and road-making. Advances on the sale price of holdings had been taken into account when estimating the 15 per cent. loss, but not loans, 59598-615.—Assuming what was unlikely—that fifty families would have migrated, the net loss would have been at least £100 per family, although a certain proportion of the expenditure would have been put on the annuity, 59598-619.

Proportion of B Estates which should be bought, and treatment which should be given.

If a million's worth of land were bought annually, it would not be advisable to buy more than 10 per cent. of the B class; the area of these estates was not indicated by the percentage, *e.g.*, the Berridge Estate, though very large, was not worth much; congestion on these properties could not be much relieved by migration; the majority were remote from grass areas, and a considerable number of occupiers objected to migration, and in any case were quite unfit for it at present; B estates were the worst class, and would probably remain bad no matter what the Board did for them; for this reason the Board had rather avoided the purchase of B in remote districts, 59822-4, 59826, 59828, 59835, 59837-41, 59848-9, 59961.—The standard of comfort of one-half the population of the congested districts could only be appreciably raised by the provision of industrial employment, 59827.—All maritime districts were of Class B, and the development of fishing would keep these. Even if this could not be done to a satisfactory extent, the conditions of life of the population could be much ameliorated, 59827.—Few would probably argue that emigration should be facilitated (though a large number of people would be willing to go), but if the peasants were given decent homes with turbary for fuel, grazing for a couple of cows, and space for fowls, they would, though poor, lead good and happy lives, and would be a valuable asset to Ireland if she could employ them as labourers; if not they would be useful as migratory labourers, 59849-50.—In this last case the conditions under which they travelled and their housing in England should be supervised, 59852.—Lands should be striped and money freely spent on improving houses, as nothing seemed to have a more elevating effect on the habits of a peasant's family than the possession of a good house and surroundings, 59828.—The Board only put up new houses for the people they moved in striping, the peasants themselves building four times as many houses with grants given under the Houses Improvements Scheme and the Parish Committee Schemes, 59842.—

Smaller sums were given for substantial improvements to existing houses, carried out in accordance with the Board's specifications, and sometimes a sum was added to the sale price of the holding and repaid in the annuity; buying an estate to stripe, improve, and re-sell to the tenants would by no means make future migration more difficult; the vacated holdings could easily be amalgamated with the adjoining striped holdings; in such cases the better house was always chosen for retention, 59842-5, 59851-2.

Advantages of increased Migration; Cost to be borne by the State, proposed.

The more migration work done by the Board the more radical and effective was their treatment; the country really received good value for the expenditure involved as compared with the loss entailed by treating estates without substantially improving them. A special grant should be given by the State to meet the loss on increased migration; at present the only portion of the Board's funds not derived from Irish sources was the annual Parliamentary Grant of £20,000, 59765-8.

Purchase of one-third Untenanted Land proposed; increased loss which would be entailed.

Witness recommended that Class C should in future comprise one-third of the estates purchased, 59632.—Then the loss, calculated in the same proportion as it had actually been on this class, would, roughly speaking, raise the loss on the entire group of estates from 12·9 to 17·2 per cent., because untenanted land cost most to try and prepare for migrants, 59632.—If congestion were only to be relieved by enlargement of holdings, a large amount of grass land should have to be bought in order to assist the worst estates, 59645, 59648-50, 59688-92, 59705, 59781.—C was only a loss, because it was needed for A and B, and as a matter of account the actual loss could be debited to the estates benefited, 59640-4.—Class C should be used chiefly for the amelioration of A, as more satisfactory results would be obtained there than in B, 59835-7, 59846-7.

Cost of Migration; Considerations affecting question of future loss.

The tenants in these groups had all paid at least two years' full rent, and the untenanted land had been sold at the average price paid by the Board, viz., twenty-seven years' purchase of the estimated annual value, or 29·5 years' purchase of the poor-law valuation, 59692, 59798.—This last was misleading as a standard of value, because a bog valued at 3*d.* might be bought cheap at £4 per acre if situated near a densely populated district. If the Board were to charge the same interest as the Estates Commissioners, and the revenue of the land while on hands were substantially reduced, the 17·2 per cent. loss would be increased in proportion, 59796-804, 59856-9, 60026-7.—The goodwill of his old holding was credited to a migrant in the price of his new holding, he paying the twenty-seven years purchase only for the extra amount of land acquired *plus* something for the new buildings erected. (The minimum desirable accommodation for a family cost £110, the annual value of the new land being seldom less than £15. This would, roughly, represent a capital sum of £40, while the Board, having spent, say, £120 on buildings, would lose £80 on the transaction). The occupation interest of the vacated holding would be charged to the incoming tenant *plus* the fee-simple. If the house was not of much value, little or nothing was allowed for it. A bad house was knocked down, but if fairly good, the new occupier paid a separate rent for it, while his old house was, if necessary, demolished, 59620-32, 59769-73.—Though migration had before entailed an average loss of only 25 or 26 per cent., it was not likely in future to be less than 30 per cent. The cost price at twenty-seven years of the estimated fair value of a £15 holding was £405. The cost of buildings, as the Board knew by experience, had risen to £130, that of roads to £20, and of fences to £20 owing to scarcity of labour, making the total cost £575. Calculating the sale price on an annuity of 85 per cent. of the £15 annual value, *i.e.*, £12 16*s.*, the total cost was £294, entailing a loss of £181. By deducting the average value of the occupation interest of the vacated holding—viz., £35—the loss was reduced to £146, and still further to £94, or 23·2 per cent., if a £2 rent were paid for buildings, making the gross fair rent £17, 59761-4, 59768, 59781, 59948-9, 59968, 60003.—The annuity of a migrant's holding should not exceed 85 per cent. of the fair letting value, including buildings, and it would be better if these could be excluded. This could not be done without increased loss, unless bigger men would migrate. The larger the occupation interest of the vacated holding, the smaller the loss involved. Moreover small surrendered holdings allowed but a small enlargement of adjacent holdings. It was, however, doubtful, judging by recent experience, if bigger men would migrate, and there were not many of them in Class A. The acquisition of an adequate amount of grass land near the estate treated would lessen the difficulty, but the effect of the migration of larger men would probably not counterbalance the loss entailed by the increased cost of labour, 59710, 59764, 59768, 59965-72.

Increased Loss to be anticipated if too high a Price were paid for the Occupation Interest in Untenanted Land.

It seemed likely that the Board would seek to acquire a far larger proportion of non-residential tenanted holdings than hitherto; if they had to pay more for these than for land in the owner's possession they would not be able to sell the holdings created at annuities not exceeding the 85 per cent. of the fair rent without incurring a far larger loss than the 30 per cent. of the cost price of the land alone of the migrant's holding; there seemed no real reason why a larger price should be paid for land jointly owned by two persons (tenant and landlord) than for land occupied by one, 59710.—The land was valued on an estimate of the revenue it was capable of yielding when properly managed, and the buildings were valued separately; the number of owners had nothing to do with the question, 59715-6.—Untenanted land sometimes fetched an excessive price in the open market when the State provided money for the purchase of the fee-simple; otherwise not; in any case a prudent buyer would have regard to the instability of a competitive rental; grazing rents in Mayo and Roscommon had fallen considerably, so that the undivided interest was not so valuable as might appear, 59710-41, 59856-7, 60026-7.

Expenses which should be Charged to Administration.

It should be pointed out that the loss on estates bought under the Act of 1903 included cost of surveyors, paymasters, and clerks of works. The Estates Commissioners charged all such expenses, except the wages of gangers, to administration, to be included in the vote for the Land Commission, and the Board should do likewise, 59859-61.

Reduction in Percentage of Loss if Board's Area of Operations were to include the whole of the Congested Districts Counties.

The Board, acting on a right principle, had bought only estates needing treatment. Probably about one-fourth of the land in Connaught—*i.e.*, estates and sections of estates—could be passed for direct sale, and if these were included in the area of the Board's operations the percentage of loss would be reduced by perhaps one-fourth; also the proportions of A, B, and C would be changed, 59403-9, 59412, 59636, 59644-68, 59683 59861, 59863, 59942, 59946-7.—The remaining three-fourths did not include any estates on the verge of being economic, though there were some in Class A which had not needed much treatment—*e.g.*, the Colles-Sandes Estate, costing £71,000, on which the loss had only been 2·8 per cent. If, which was unlikely, there should prove to be a larger proportion of such estates in A the percentage of loss on the entire would be reduced. This would, however, be counterbalanced to some extent by the increased expenditure on estates like Lord Dillon's, 59677-82, 59684-5, 59947.

Proportion in which the Three Classes of Estates should be Bought if the Board were to Deal with £1,000,000 worth of Land Annually.

If the Board dealt yearly with £1,000,000 worth of land, of which one-third were of C Class and one-tenth of B Class, the loss on the two, counted as 30 and 20 per cent. respectively, would be £120,000; if the total loss were limited to this sum 75 per cent. of A, tenanted estates, would have to be dealt with without any loss. The limit, however, should be at least 15 per cent. to allow for a loss of 5 or 6 per cent. on A. This last figure had been brought down from 9 per cent. because if the whole county were dealt with there would be a larger proportion of estates of better quality in A than was shown in the schedule, 59819-21, 59942-3, 59947.—In practice it would not be possible to preserve the exact proportions of A. B, C, though if, as seemed probable, as much as one-third of C could not be acquired, more of B could be bought, and in that way the loss on the gross output kept within a fixed average. This, however, was uncertain, for the Board should in future buy blocks of estates, and there might be an excess of A over B or of C over the others. If there were at any time an accumulation of B the purchase of A and C would have to cease for a while, and the output would be less. There should not be more than £1,000,000 worth of C in hand at any time. If the annual grant to be made to the Board were based on an average net loss it would be necessary to allow them a reasonable discretion in the selection and grouping of estates, so as to keep the total of the varying losses within the estimate. It would be objectionable to fix the grant on a varying percentage of loss; it would be preferable to have an annual grant fixed by a new Act placed at their disposal to be applied at their discretion, subject to the general understanding that they would sell annually about £1,000,000 worth of estates, 59705, 59819, 59829-32, 59855, 59861, 59883-91.—The Commission should make it perfectly clear in their recommendation that very variable losses were necessarily incurred in dealing with different classes of estates and that the percentage named by them was the average for all classes, so as to prevent people from clamouring for the average percentage of loss in the treatment of each estate, 59889-93.

Power for the Board to Exclude Estates or Portions of Estates not Requiring Treatment.

It should rest with the Board to exclude from purchase estates or portions of estates which could be sold without special treatment, 59819, 59855.—They would have any large property offered them inspected, and if a substantial portion either did not need or was incapable of improvement, it should be certified as a separate estate to be sold direct (as its purchase by the Board would lead to great dissatisfaction, and hamper the work of reform on other properties), 59412-3, 59415.—Landlords and tenants would probably easily come to terms over the good part of the estate when they understood the reason for splitting up the property. Tenants would not wish their holdings to be bought by the Board and held for a couple of years when no money would be spent on them eventually, 59146, 59438.—In the few cases where landlords and tenants had come to terms before approaching the Board the difficulty of dealing with estates had been increased. There was a general desire amongst West of Ireland landlords to do it, and tenants were so anxious for the Board to buy and improve that they agreed to give too high a price. The landlord should first notify the Board of his intention to sell, whereupon the Board would inspect, and in many cases would be able at once to declare the estate one which could be sold direct. The Board would not arrange the price, but the landlord would negotiate direct as at present, 59432-6, 59456, 59468-9, 59480-1.—If inspection showed that a portion needed treatment the Board should not tell the landlord to arrange as he could with his tenants about it, for many estates were mortgaged or liable to family charges on the entire. The two sections should be declared simultaneously—one to be bought by the Board, the other direct—at a price arranged before the issue of the certificate, 59429, 59432-7, 59440, 59455-6, 59460, 59468-9, 59491-2.—There would be no difficulty about inspection, but it must take place before the question of splitting up an estate could be determined, 59474.

Maps Required.

A landlord proposing to sell to the Board would have to lodge a map showing the actual holdings, as he had to do now for the Estates Commissioners. At present the Board only required him to show the boundary of his tenanted and untenanted land. Several properties were in such a state of rundale that only highly-skilled surveyors could have mapped them out extensively, and this would have meant considerable expense, 59417, 60246.

Effect on Price of Separation of Estate into two Portions.

A bargain such as that contemplated above should not affect the total price. The land excluded from treatment should always be sold higher than the other, and though owners might ask too much, tenants were able to form a standard of prices, 59418-21.—Negotiations should be subsequent to inspection, but in any case the Board would not be justified in refusing a certificate, though compulsory powers should be used later if necessary; it was for the Estates Commissioners to approve the price in cases of direct sale, and to have the non-zone cases inspected; the Board's inspector could, when inspecting ascertain what the tenants were prepared to give, and could then, if invited by both parties, act as a friendly negotiator in regard to the direct sale; it would not be his duty to fix the price, but he might have to report that prices were such as the holdings were security for, or that they were within the zones, 59421-2, 59429-30, 59437, 59482, 59493-4.—It would probably be advisable not to issue the certificate until the price had been arranged for both sections of the estate; the aggregate price might be settled if the Board were not obliged to buy the good section, 59427-8, 59442-4, 59501.

Proportion of Congestion which should Exclude an Estate or Portion of an Estate from Direct Sale.

It would not be desirable to fix any proportion of congestion which would decide the Board to withhold the certificate; if ten out of a hundred tenants needed holdings rearranged they should be dealt with; any part of the estate not needing treatment should be excluded from purchase, or, in a case like the above, there would be a large transaction for small results; an estate with four or five scattered holdings needing improvement should pass direct; on a mixed estate the holdings were usually clustered together, and such a section with four or five tenants should be scheduled as congested, and treated; the Board could do this, and lose the ten per cent.; at present, though such a townland went through the agency of the Estates Commissioners, it did not actually pass into their possession, 59483-8, 59503-6.

Powers of the Board in regard to Direct Sales. Board should have same Powers as Estates Commissioners.

Most landlords would probably, if they could, make the sale conditional on the entire estate being bought. The Board would risk nothing by doing this, but their administration would be encumbered, and there would be delay and expense, 59445-51, 59502, 59507.—It was possible to fit part of an estate for sale more quickly than the rest, but the Board could not sell land until they had paid for it. This difficulty could be met by giving the Board the same powers as were conferred on the Estates Commissioners by Section 6 of Act of 1903, when part of an estate was to be sold direct, of having the sale agreements executed by landlord and tenants, the Estates Commissioners being responsible for the total price agreed upon. The inspector might arrange that a certain number of tenants should buy direct at, say, £10,000, while the Board should buy the rest at, say, £40,000; if the landlord agreed he would receive both sums, in each case *plus* the bonus, the Board securing that the tenants would agree to, and pay, the price. This would be easy in practice, and on further consideration, witness believed it would be the best plan. First the Board would value, and after negotiating with the tenants, make up the gross price, asking the landlord to accept it on condition that three-fourths of the tenants signed undertakings to pay the prices making up the offer. Tenants whose holdings were not to be improved were always willing to buy without delay, 59458-60, 59472-3, 59489, 59503, 59506, 59514-6, 59525, 59864-8, 59875, 60241-2.—Economic and uneconomic holdings running side by side would sometimes have to be dealt with together in order to carry out drainage, road-making, and the apportionment of turbary. There might be a bog centre affecting the whole estate, and the plan sketched out above had been suggested as a solution of this difficulty, 59411, 59494-8, 59500-1.—The Estates Commissioners' practice was to make all tenants sign agreements, even those whose holdings were to be affected, but the Board would not do this; if a man with surplus turbary signed an agreement to buy his holding without any reservation he would not allow that turbary to be allotted to other tenants, 59865, 59876-82.—If the owner of an estate needing treatment in any portion were dissatisfied with the gross price it would be the Board's duty to buy the whole property compulsorily. Estates with grass lands should be included in the above category, 59499, 59869-74.—Making Section 6 of Act of 1903 applicable to the Board would encumber their administration to some extent, but the only expense involved would be that now incurred by the Estates Commissioners in regard to the preparation and lodging of maps and agreements in cases of direct sale. The State would lose nothing, as the money for estates to be passed direct would have to come from the Land Purchase Fund, no matter who was the purchasing authority, 59448-51, 59508-12, 59554-7.—The undertakings might still be lodged with the Estates Commissioners, who in any case would have to deal eventually with the vesting. They would inspect as to boundaries and security of non-zone holdings on the normal section, as they now did on the whole of an estate. The Board's responsibility would end when the agreements had been obtained from vendor and tenants, these being subject, as in all cases of direct sale, to the approval of the Estates Commissioners. At present the Board's valuers were not from the Land Commission, except in respect of untenanted lands and holdings not subject to judicial tenancies, and then they only inspected for occupation. If, however, the Board employed them in the first instance a firm offer could be made to the landlord, for the Estates Commissioners probably could not offer the price unless the zone limits were abolished. The judgment of the Land Commission valuers should in any case be accepted as final, as it would be based on practical knowledge, whereas the Estates Commissioners would not have seen the holding in question, 59529-39, 59541-6.—No matter what was done estates needing treatment would have to be separated from others by somebody, 59548.

Guarantee Question.

The Board up to the present had been obliged to guarantee against default of annuities on all the sales. That guarantee should not be applied to the larger volume of work proposed, because, being an accumulating liability, it would seriously affect the Board's position in a few years, 59540-1.

Cost of Inspection under proposed New Scheme.

Witness believed inspection cost a good deal in scattered cases, but £10,000 would probably well cover the outlay which the Board would have to meet under the scheme suggested, 59536, 59557-9.—Transactions in regard to direct sales should not be included in the £1,000,000 which had been proposed as the Board's income for land purchase, or it would take about 25 years to pass the 17 to 30 millions worth of property to be dealt with, 59454, 59507, 59513, 59517-20, 59547, 59549-52.

It should be possible to exceed £1,000,000 a year in exceptional cases.

In any case it would be well if legislation were to provide for dealing with a larger output of estates needing treatment when the owners willing to sell and the tenants willing to buy represented property of value in excess of the proposed million a year. Otherwise there would probably be great dissatisfaction over the delay which would necessarily be incurred over the transfer of property, 59855.

Amount of Land which the Board should have in hands in order to turn out a million's Worth Annually.

If the Board turned out a million's worth of land a year they should hold nearly three millions' worth. The tenanted land would, on an average, be under treatment for two years. They should if possible have about a million's worth of untenanted land, as stock in hands, so as to give migrants a larger choice, only selling and buying one-third each year, 60008-10.

Means of obtaining Information as to Amount of Grass Lands available.

The only information of any value which could be obtained as to the amount of grass land available for migration had already been furnished to the Commission under the heading "Non-residential Holdings."* As to the number of years it would take to absorb all the grass lands of the eight counties, the estimate supplied by witness gave full information. It was an outside estimate, giving the poor law valuation and the acreage, 59773-6, 60004-7.

Re-organisation of Staff Required—Cost, &c.

The present outdoor staff cost between £18,000 and £20,000; the indoor staff £9,000 or £10,000, the total cost, including office expenses, being £31,000 or £32,000. The staff, now up to its full strength, would be able to deal with about £300,000 worth of property per year if in future they were allowed to proceed without interruption and delay. The amount of additional land which it was proposed to deal with would not proportionately increase the amount of work which would be done by the superior officers, but the staff should be reorganised; the outdoor staff should be trebled, because land should be turned out more rapidly, and much time would be taken up inspecting estates and negotiating for purchase. From £50,000 to £60,000 would be needed, including expenses of clerks of works, surveyors, and inspectors, now charged to estates. The indoor staff would not need a proportionate increase, 60011-23, 60052-5.—The staff should be reorganised. Instead of four inspectors and five assistants there should be nine inspectors—one in each county or other defined area; in some counties two would probably be needed. The inspector's duty would be to do in his district very much what witness tried to do over the whole area. There would be a chief inspector to supervise the others, and each of these last would direct and train men to carry out the detailed work, 60027-9, 60055-6.—An enormous staff would not be required for splitting up an estate into one section which needed and one which did not need treatment. The revision of maps for the good portion would be a small matter; while the expense of mapping the other part would, as stated, fall on the landlord, 59417, 60242-6.

Procedure now followed by the Board in regard to Land Purchase.

Proposals to sell to the Board were always sent through the Secretary. Witness then submitted a short report to the Board as to the advisability or otherwise of buying. If the estate seemed suitable he asked authority to inspect it; then, having inspected and valued, classifying the rental and so forth, he reported to the Board, naming a maximum price they might offer, and giving an estimate as to the cost of re-arrangement; the offer if issued was prepared by the solicitor, and sent through the Secretary; the Board did not as a rule make a second offer, and their offer was always conditional on verification of the particulars supplied them; subsequent negotiations, up to the stage of purchase, were in the hands of witness and of his staff and assistants; the legal steps of the purchase were carried out by solicitors; meanwhile witness gave the Board a detailed estimate of the receipts and expenditure for the period from purchase to resale; witness could not exceed the limits laid down in the estimate and approved by the Board without authority from the Board; the work of re-arrangement was carried out by the Board's clerk of works and superintended by the inspectors and assistants, 60032-51.

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* See Appendix to The Eleventh Report of the Commission [Cd. 4089, 1908] pp. 48–9.

UNCOMPLETED SALES.

If the Board were to operate in congested areas now in the hands of the Estates Commissioners some difficulty would arise in regard to uncompleted sales. The Estates Commissioners might hand over all originating requests and applications in respect of such estates to the Board to deal with, the Board deciding whether to certify the properties as fit to be passed by direct sale. If the estate had not been declared by the Estates Commissioners no agreement would have been entered into with the tenants. The landlord however, might reasonably object to the Board's reviewing the price proposed for holdings not within the zone conditions, he having lodged an agreement on the understanding that the Estates Commissioners alone could fulfil that function, 60233-9.

IMPENDING REVISION OF BONUS—EFFECT ON RATE SALES TO ESTATES COMMISSIONERS, THE BOARD BEING RESTRICTED FROM PURCHASE PENDING REPORT OF PRESENT COMMISSION.

Anticipating a change in the bonus adverse to their interests, landlords were anxious to sell as quickly as possible, and to get on the list for the payment of purchase money; according to Mr. Callan's figures nearly one-half of the holdings in counties containing congestion were either sold or had been offered for sale, and probably a very large proportion of the remaining half would be offered to the Estates Commissioners within the next three or four months; a considerable area of the non-economic and intermixed holdings could then be vested, and the problem of dealing with vested congestion would be much enlarged. Several Mayo landlords had lately approached witness, only to be told that the Board was debarred from purchasing at present, 60247-9.—On receiving this answer, Lord Arran's agent had at once arranged with the tenants on the following terms:—All the untenanted land on the estate would be given to tenants or their sons; other estates containing untenanted lands would be sold on the same conditions, and these estates would be bought at once, as owners would get nearly their own price from tenants on such terms, 60253.—A landlord had no right to force such an agreement on the Estates Commissioners, but the tenants themselves would insist on having the land regardless of the law, 60255-6.—If the sales of estates continued and the Board were debarred from buying the idea of forming a new Congested Districts Board should be abandoned, 60257-8.

WITHDRAWAL OF ALL POWER FROM BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS TO GIVE LAND TO SONS OF TENANTS PROPOSED.

The Estates Commissioners had given fifteen out of seventeen new holdings near Castlerea to sons of tenants, 59911.—They had only done their duty under the Act of 1903, but their action made the work of migration on adjacent lands much more difficult both for themselves and for the Board, 59914.—Landholders openly stated that their sons had the first claim to holdings; the Estates Commissioners had given holdings near Castlerea to sons of tenants on the Dillon and De Freyne Estates bought by the Board; the Board had only given four holdings to sons of tenants; the law should not only be altered in regard to the Estates Commissioners, but the Board's power of giving surplus land to sons of tenants should also be withdrawn, or it would be impossible to carry out migration on a large scale; at present the agitation which had arisen since the Act of 1903 was very effective in preventing people from migrating, but in face of it, the desire to migrate had increased; witness would not buy large blocks of land without knowing that the land acquired was passing satisfactorily to people who had surrendered land for the relief of congestion, 59908-33, 59977-8.

RE-SALE BY TENANT PURCHASERS—PRE-EMPTION QUESTION, &C.

The Board had done enough for their migrants, but they should be further helped by being given agricultural education and direction when put on their new holdings, 59853-5.—None of the Board's migrants had sold, and they were not likely to do so unless they failed from some cause, in which case a man ought to sell his interest; he would probably be replaced by a better man, and this would increase the security. The State was justified in losing so much in order to have a holding formed to be occupied by an industrious family for the benefit of the country, and in order to relieve congestion. It did not concern the State if a man sold within a month. A smaller loss would have been incurred by emigration, but no one advocated wholesale emigration as a desirable remedy for congestion, 59774-81.—It would not be unfair if the State refused to sanction a sale unless the loss previously entailed by migrating the holder were repaid, but there would be less inducement to migrate, 60003.—Legislation restricting an occupier from mortgaging his holding would not interfere with his credit, as this, in the case of a small holder, was largely regulated by his personal character and reputation. The proportion of small holdings sold for debts was very small, 60002.—When holdings in counties containing congested districts were put up for sale the Board should have the right of pre-emption, 60031.

COMPULSORY POWERS NEEDED IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE LARGE BLOCKS OF LAND.

The ground for the claim for compulsory powers was based upon the necessity of the Board's dealing with large blocks of districts. Granted these powers, the Board should operate in all the counties at the same time. They would be regulated in their mode of starting by the particular district in which they started, and by the estates offered them at the beginning of their operations. There should be a list, say, of ten centres in Mayo, with ten resident officers, each of whom would begin with one estate, widening the field of operations until the whole country was covered. When the Board began working in a centre where the landlord had offered to sell, and they made no trouble, conditions being favourable, the adjoining landlords almost invariably offered, and the area was gradually enlarged. Landlords seldom objected to a discreet inquiry as to their willingness to sell. Compulsion should not be resorted to hastily, and should only be used when a landlord refused to sell an estate either tenanted or untenanted which it was desirable to acquire. Satisfactory progress would probably be made in negotiations if the Board proceeded quietly, 59951-6.

PRICE REQUIRED TO GIVE LANDLORD HIS NET INCOME—EFFECT OF RATE OF INTEREST.

The Board since 1903 had paid 27⅔ years' purchase for grass land. This price, *plus* the bonus, would not give a man his net income on the 3½ per cent. basis. To do this it might be necessary to give as much as 35 years' purchase of the agricultural rent of the very good grass lands, because the rents obtainable for this for accommodation purposes were far in excess of their agricultural value. This, the very best land, was the last which the Board would seek to acquire, or if they did buy it they would keep it for grazing, as it was much needed for this purpose in poor districts. In this case it would probably return what had been given for it. The Board's operations would diminish the demand as well as the supply of this land, for if the poorer land were taken from graziers they would no longer want grass lands for accommodation purposes, 59783-97, 59804-7.—No landlord would refuse to exchange his income from untenanted land for an investment at four per cent., as it could be proved that the majority of grazing rents in the West of Ireland had fallen considerably in the last twenty years, 59741, 59808.—Inferior land had deteriorated largely because store cattle had been fed on it continuously, while no manure had been put into it; the very best land had suffered least, but all kinds of grass lands had depreciated very much; for the last ten years not so much, and for the last five years still less. In several places the grazing rental had been stationary, but there had been no rise; a truer test of the letting value of grass lands would be furnished by the last five than by the last ten years, 59808-18.

POWERS OF PRE-EMPTION, RESUMPTION, DETERMINING FUTURE TENANCIES, &c.

The Board had sometimes acquired tenanted holdings by voluntary agreement; sometimes they had served notice to pre-empt, having been advised in several cases to pay the excessive prices offered when inquiry had shown the intending purchaser to be a *bona fide* one; a tenant holding under a judicial tenancy could not complete the sale of the tenant-right without first serving the landlord with a notice of his intention to sell and of the terms of sale. Holdings were not often sold by auction; the landlord would make an offer, and if he and the tenant failed to come to terms the Land Commission, after hearing both sides, would fix the price at which the landlord would pre-empt; in cases of resumption by the Board the prices had usually been arranged without going before the Land Commission, though in a few cases they had had to go into court, 59742-5.—An ordinary landlord could not resume possession of holdings for the enlargement of his demesne or for taking sites for the extension of a town; while the Act of 1903 empowered the Board to do so for the purpose of migration and the enlargement of holdings, as well as for the purposes above specified in the Act of 1881, 59747.—Witness did not think the Estates Commissioners had the Board's extended powers of resumption. Notice for resumption might be served at any time, and a year's notice was not necessary, as it usually was in the case of determining a future tenancy. Any landlord could do that by serving notice to quit, and the Board had done so in several cases, but had had to give compensation in accordance with the scale laid down by the Act of 1881. This was fixed according to the rent payable and the number of years' purchase the tenant was to get for disturbance, 59751-3.—He was also paid for the unexhausted value of his improvements; this was always settled by the County Court Judge; there had evidently been some mistake in the drafting of the Act, for the Board had no power of resuming possession of a present yearly tenancy. They had first to serve notice on the tenant to have a fair rent fixed, and then serve the resumption notice. There had lately been several such cases, 59759-61.

MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

The Board had spent a great deal on main drainage and accommodation roads with most satisfactory results, but as there was no provision for the maintenance of these drains and roads, they would probably before twenty years be almost as bad as before, 59980.—The Board never made either a drain or a road for the benefit of one holding. The County or District Council should be made responsible for the maintenance of the arterial drainage, with power to levy a rate on the holdings benefited. It was very important that there should be a central official authority to make the County Councils do their duty in this respect, 59984-5.—The Board had contributed thousands of pounds towards roads which could not be dealt with by the county, but they had also made many accommodation roads for access to detached parts of holdings, bogs, etc., and it would not be fair to require the people who did not use these roads to pay for them. Possibly the Department of Agriculture could make some small contribution towards the upkeep of these roads in the interests of agricultural development, 59991-3, 59999.—The new Board should have compulsory powers to call on the people accommodated by a particular road to repair it if necessary, and in the event of their failing to do this, to make a levy for the cost of having it put into proper condition. There was not much danger of houses being allowed to go out of repair, 60001.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES: BOARD'S HOUSES—IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME DID NOT OVERLAP WORK OF COMMISSION.

The purchase of land in blocks would not do away with the need for Parish Committees, because the Board would wish to deal with estates quickly in two or three years, and they could not in that time ensure all the houses being improved. The conditions which the Board while dealing with an estate offered for the improvement of the houses were far more favourable than those offered by the Parish Committees, and though a fair number of people took advantage of this, very many could not be induced to carry out desirable improvements while the Board could employ them at full wages, 59895-902.—They were engaged when at home in road-making and drainage in the summer, and at fencing, etc., in the winter. In spite of the Board's efforts a very large proportion of bad houses remained on many estates, 59905.—In the idle time of the year people worked under the Parish Committee schemes, and the House Improvement scheme in most of the poor districts was too slow to allow of its being withdrawn on sale of the estate. No one with a holding on an estate being treated by the Board could get a grant under the schemes, so there was no over-lapping. In any case the Parish Committee's work extended over the whole congested area, and was not confined to estates bought by the Board, 59905-7.

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See also p. 23.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION.

The cost of the Board's administration, including estates, fisheries and everything, amounted for the present year to £36,000. The share of this attributable to the estates business was about £25,000, made up as follows:—Outdoor staff and expenses = about £10,000; indoor staff and office expenses = (roughly estimated), £12,100; law staff and expenses = £4,000. This last figure was unusually high, due to some of the charges for previous years having been paid this year; the normal amount would be at least £2,500, 60259-70, 60296, 60300.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN STAFF, ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE, ETC.

In the Estates Branch there were 16 temporary clerks and witness proposed adding 16 more in order to deal with the trebled amount of work it was proposed to entrust to the Board. There was no reason to suppose that the other estates would be less trouble than those already treated; witness understood that estates to be passed for direct sale were not to be included in the million's worth of land on which expenditure was being calculated; the head of the branch was the only permanent civil servant; he was chief clerk and senior man in the office next to the Secretary and Assistant-Secretary and drew a salary of £500 a year. The salaries of the temporary clerks ranged from 25*s.* a week to £200 a year, 60264-75.—For the first few months they had 25*s.* a week, and if efficient, their salary was gradually increased. As a rule the maximum salary was about £150, but there were one or two temporary

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clerks, who had been in the office 12 years or more, receiving £200. The clerical staff was paid at a lower rate in the aggregate than any department of the Civil Service in Ireland. It had not been proposed to increase the salaries; they had been estimated at £100 a year each, which would allow for some increments. The temporary clerks would like to be made permanent civil servants and given the right to pensions, 60276-9.—There would be an increase in the collection of rents corresponding to the increased number of estates it was proposed to deal with. The Land Commission did not collect the annuities until the holdings had been re-sold. There was an officer in charge of the rent branch of the outdoor staff, with a salary between £300 and £400, and a third-class clerk receiving £172. There were eleven temporary clerks, and witness proposed to add eleven more. The accounts branch did work in addition to that connected with estates. The present staff consisted of a bookkeeper, at from £350 to £400, two third-class clerks, one with £180, and one with £95, and eleven other clerks. Witness suggested adding twelve temporary clerks, involving an additional expenditure of £1,200 in salaries, 60287-91.—The correspondence branch and the stores branch should also be considerably increased. The work of the former was chiefly in connection with estates. The aggregate increase needed would be £14,600. This would cover the cost of office maintenance, printing, stationery, postage and telegrams. To this something should be added in order to increase the salaries of the men holding office, as an enlarged staff would entail more work. Then there were about half-a-dozen heads of branches who would naturally expect higher salaries for the same reason, 60291-95.—After consulting with Mr. O'Connor, witness had decided that the present law staff expenditure should be raised to £6,500. Experience had shown the advisability of making a rather liberal estimate, but £500 might be taken off and spent in increasing the above-mentioned salaries, 60296-304.

AMOUNT OF INTEREST PAID BY THE BOARD, LOANS WOULD BE NEEDED.

The Board were now paying an abnormal amount of interest—£9,000 on their estimate for the current year—chiefly because they had not yet repaid a sum of nearly £50,000, and this year they were paying instalments as well as interest. The above sum had been borrowed from the Board of Works, with the consent of the Treasury, out of the local loans fund, on the security of the Church Surplus Grant, for the improvement of estates, and to some extent also for other purposes, *e.g.*, Raiffeisen banks, agricultural loans and loans to tenants. If the Board had 3 millions' worth of property in hands it would be fair to assume that the amount they could borrow from the Board of Works would be £200,000—the enhanced value recoverable on that amount of land. Under the Treasury rules they could not borrow more than they would probably be able to recover out of the expenditure. The estimate had been based on past experience. The Board had no fund from which they could draw in order to meet the heavy expenditure entailed by estates when in hands. When they re-sold they could only recover a small portion of the outlay, losing the balance and the interest, 60305-12.—In cases of emergency, the Board had a statutory right under the Act of 1891 to draw a portion of the Church Surplus Grant of £1,500,000 if the Treasury approved. It would be quite allowable and doubtless advisable if this were done in the present circumstances, but it might be objectionable to borrow any large part of a sum of money which the Board had given as security. A considerable sum had been guaranteed to cover the purchase by tenant-purchasers in the Board's area, but since the last Act the whole sum was not in the contingent guarantee. The Treasury might, however, help in another way, viz., by giving a loan from the Board of Works. Borrowing from the Grant would mean paying interest at the rate of 2¾ instead of 3½ per cent. A great emergency had arisen, and if it were known that the Treasury would not advance the £25,000 asked for in the estimate, Mr. Doran should be wired to immediately to stop all the work being done on estates, as the Board would be bankrupt at the end of the month, 60313-33.

FLOATING CAPITAL WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED.

Mr. Doran assumed that there would continue to be delay in recovering the proceeds of estates on resale, and the Board would need some floating capital to tide them over this interval. Hitherto they had accumulated some floating capital by saving, but it had been insufficient, and there would be a £40,000 deficit at the end of this year. If Parliament gave the Board a sufficiently large income they might be able to save enough the first year to provide a floating capital. They had a surplus every year on their estimates. They never exceeded their income and had several times stopped Mr. Doran's work in order to avoid a deficit. The Board's work had been increasing too fast for their means; even if they had a surplus they would not have to surrender it to the Government, as did other departments. They only submitted their accounts to obtain the formal sanction of the Treasury, 60333-44.

LOSS ON ESTATES.

The adoption of Mr. Doran's proposal that the cost of Clerks of Works and Surveyors should in future be charged to administration, would, roughly speaking, bring his estimated loss on estates down to £125,000, *i.e.*, to 12½ instead of 15 per cent., 60345-9.

PROPOSED INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON PARISH COMMITTEES.

It had been suggested that the Board would like to increase the number and enlarge the grants of Parish Committees, raising the total expenditure in this direction from £12,000 to £20,000. If all Connaught were scheduled the Board would have to refuse to listen to the applications for grants, with which they would be besieged, 60356-9.—No allowance had been made in the estimate for agricultural development, and only 50 per cent. had been added, on a rough guess, for industrial development. When the Board had helped Foxford so liberally they had had plenty of funds, but since then they had not the means to encourage any such project, 60364-9.

EXPENDITURE ON FISHERIES.

The gross expenditure, direct and indirect, on fishing during the previous year—a normal one—had been £40,000, out of which £26,000 had been recovered. There should be more officers, and the Board should spend more on piers and perhaps on boats. They were now paying £3,900 for steamer services, £3,000 of which was the cost of the *Granuaile*. Witness had assumed in his estimate that the Board would not revive subsidies which had been withdrawn, although they might do this if they had the means, 60379-86.

TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL WORK FROM THE BOARD TO THE DEPARTMENT.

The Board would never have consented to the transfer of the agricultural work to the Department had they known that what they had been carrying on at a cost of £11,000 was to be practically extinguished by being reduced to £2,000. Parliament should have given a further grant, but the Department should not have accepted the transfer until they had the necessary money. Witness believed they were now expending up to £10,000, 60370-8.—Witness had no authority for his estimate; he merely wished to help the Commission to judge how Mr. Doran's proposals would work in with the income; the figures had been made up hastily, 60359, 60386.

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